



## 🌿 Value for December 🌿

### Kindness

As our month of Kindness draws to a close, we have been so proud of the children for showing so many ways to share their kindness. We have no doubt that their value of kindness will continue to shine over the Christmas period and into the New Year.

🌟🧑‍🎄🎄 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 🎄🧑‍🎄🌟



A huge thank you from all the teachers and staff for all the Christmas cards and presents that we have been given. We have all been overwhelmed and very touched by your generosity which is very much appreciated.

**THANK YOU!**

May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





## A Visit from Father Christmas



The children had fun yesterday when they were visited by a very special person!



Thank you Father Christmas

## 🎵 Christmas Choir 🎵 Visit to Bluebrook Residential Home

On Wednesday the Y2 Choir went to sing Christmas Songs at Bluebrooke Nursing Home. The children were an absolute credit to the school, walking to and from the venue so sensibly and also performing the songs with bucket loads of Christmas cheer! The Bluebrooke residents were really impressed with the children's performance and the staff were really proud. A fantastic way to celebrate the end of term.



[www.catshillfirst.co.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk)



01527 872913



[office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'



Wow, you all helped to raise a massive £379.50 in our Christmas Raffle, thank you, and the lucky winners are:-

- Nursery - Isabella, Ruby, Bodhi - RTY - Theo, Ella - RM - Lewis, Daniel, Colette
- 1P - Isla, Toby, Emmanuel, Ellie - 1R - Daisy, Frankie, Cosima
- 2F - Eddie, Max - 2FB - Orie, Noah
- 3S - Millie, Seb, Niamh, Logan E, Dottie - 3B - Freddie
- 4F - Mason, Elizabeth, Lucas, Lara, Evie - 4J - Kacie, Sienna

The Christmas Jumper winners are:-

- NB - Elara, Charlie - RTY - Rosie, Reuben - RM - Gracie, Rosie
- 1P - Owen, Ryan - 1R - Zara, Jack
- 2F - Theo, Arya
- 3S - Levi, Ava - 3B - Ben, Caitlin
- 4F - Amelia, Lucas - 4J - Isla, Darcy

The Christmas Fayre raised a massive £269.30, we had tremendous support, a very big thank you to you all.

😊 Thank you all for your continuing support 😊

### 🏆🏆🏆 World Cup 2022 🏆🏆🏆

How did your team do this week!

#### Our World Cup Teams

Nursery	Canada	Ghana	Saudi Arabia
RTY	Australia	Poland	Qatar
RM	Mexico	Uruguay	Wales
1R	Croatia	Netherlands	Brazil
1P	South Korea	England	Brazil
2F	Japan	Argentina	Spain
2FB	USA	Morocco	Germany
3B	Serbia	Costa Rica	Tunisia
3S	Switzerland	Denmark	Senegal
4J	Belgium	Ecuador	Iran
4F	Cameroon	France	Portugal

### Finals

### Argentina v France



[www.catshillfirst.co.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk)



01527 872913



[office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'

## 🌸 Goodbye 🌸

We would like to say a big Catshill thank you and goodbye to Mrs Sarah Westby, who has taught many of the classes at the school, we all wish you good luck in your new challenge, and to Mrs Hannah Crawford-Brown, who has decided that she will not be returning after her maternity leave.

## 🌸 Goodbye and Good Luck 🌸

## ❄️ Bad Weather ❄️

Procedure during periods of severe weather such as heavy snow, we may need to close the school at short notice. The decision to close the school is only taken after a number of factors have been taken into consideration, such as local weather forecasts, highways information, health and safety and discussions with other local Head Teachers. We also have to ensure that sufficient numbers of staff are able to get to school. Should it become necessary to close the school the following will happen:-

- ★ You will receive an Epraise message (please ensure the school office has your up to date contact details).
- ★ A message will be put on our school website [www.catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk).
- ★ A message will be on the Worcestershire Hub web site: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk).
- ★ We will put a message on Twitter and Facebook



## 😊 Google Internet Safety 😊

The children really enjoyed their Google Internet Safety Assembly on Wednesday



[www.catshillfirst.co.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk)



01527 872913



[office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'

# Should I keep my child off school?

## Yes

### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



[www.catshillfirst.co.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk)



01527 872913



[office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'

## 📌 Household Support Fund 📌

### Household Support Fund



In partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant will help households in Worcestershire who are most in need for support with energy bills, food and water bills. The scheme will run between 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

#### The Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund (HSF) will provide support to those most in need (including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities) by providing vouchers or payments to eligible households or making direct provisions to help with food and goods.

#### How can I apply for the household support fund to help with energy?

Act on Energy are providing support for energy costs across Worcestershire. For more information please visit:

[www.actonenergy.org.uk/project/worcestershire-hsf](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk/project/worcestershire-hsf)

Pensioners, carers or people with disabilities on a low income are also encouraged to contact Age UK Worcester and Malvern to see if they are eligible for a one-off payment towards food and fuel costs by calling **01905 724294**.

#### Here2Help

Further information on the wider local support available, including the cost of living, visit Here2Help Worcestershire: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20758/here2help](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20758/here2help)

For more information about the Household Support Fund scan our QR code with your smart phone



#### Help with food and other essentials

Help with food and other essentials may also be available via your local District Council or their partner organisations. Information about what is available can be found by visiting our webpage and selecting your district: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20241/warmer\\_worcestershire/2519/household\\_support\\_fund](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20241/warmer_worcestershire/2519/household_support_fund)

#### Claiming Free School Meal Vouchers during the school holidays

The Council has extended this offer with further support for families who qualify for a Free School meal in the holidays until the end of March 2023. Currently you will need to contact your school directly regarding the issuing of Free School Meals vouchers during school holidays.

Additional support with holiday activities and lunch is also available for families via the Ready Steady Worcestershire programme: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20818/ready\\_steady\\_worcestershire\\_-\\_school\\_holiday\\_food\\_and\\_activities](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20818/ready_steady_worcestershire_-_school_holiday_food_and_activities)

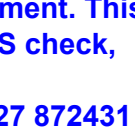
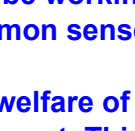
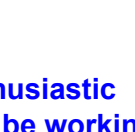
#### Healthy Start

Healthy Start is a Government Scheme that provides weekly vouchers to eligible parents and can help you if you're pregnant or have a young child under four. These vouchers can be spent on milk, fruit and vegetables and infant formula milk at your local shops and supermarkets, as well as offering coupons for free vitamins too.

For more information about the scheme, visit

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20532/pregnancy/1829/healthy\\_start](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20532/pregnancy/1829/healthy_start)

Additional support with holiday activities and lunch is also available for families via the Ready Steady Worcestershire programme



## 📌 Vacancy for a Cleaner at Catshill First School and Nursery 📌

Hours of Work: 3.20pm to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

13 hours and 21 minutes per week with a bank of 36 hours and 20 minutes to be worked during the holiday period.

Salary: £6472 to £6530 per annum

For January 2023 the school is seeking to appoint a reliable, hardworking and enthusiastic cleaner to join our school as part of the cleaning team. The successful candidate will be working under the direction of the Site Manager and working alongside staff and pupils. Common sense, initiative and flexibility are essential.

Catshill First School and Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post will be subject to all relevant safeguarding checks including an enhanced DBS check, references and medical check.

For further information and an application pack please contact Mrs Kate Sabin on 01527 872431 or email [kes37@catshill-middle.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:kes37@catshill-middle.worcs.sch.uk)

Closing date: Tuesday 3rd January 2023



[www.catshillfirst.co.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk)



01527 872913



[office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'

## Some important information and phone numbers from Worcestershire Children First

### Family Front Door

01905 822666 (Office Hrs) 01905 768020 (Emergency Out of Hrs)

The Emergency Deputy Team (EDT): 01905 768020

Get Safe: 01905 845568 / [getsafe@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:getsafe@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

If you have reason to believe that a child, young person or adult is at immediate risk from harm CALL 999

### Women's Aid 24 hr Helpline

The FIFA World Cup is running into the festive season. Please be aware that regardless of a win or lose result, domestic abuse **increases by 38%**. This will be impacting families in our County.



Women's Aid 24hr Helpline

**0800 980 3331**

Male Domestic Abuse Helpline (24Hrs)

Worcestershire

**0800 014 9082**

Operation Encompass Teachers Advice Helpline (8am –1pm)

**0204 513 9990**



### #SleighNoToLoanSharks

Christmas is a time for joy and happiness, but for the millions of families struggling with spiralling debt to loan sharks, it can be the most terrifying time of the year. Figures show that nearly one in ten people who borrowed from loan sharks last year did so to cover the costs of Christmas.

The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) is concerned that ruthless loan sharks will try to cash in on the festive period as many families struggle to cope with rising food, fuel and energy bills this winter.

**Are you worried about someone who is being taken advantage of by a loan shark?**

**Contact the Stop Loan Sharks 24/7 Helpline on 0300 555 2222 for support**

**[www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk)**



[www.catshillfirst.co.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk)



01527 872913



[office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'

[costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk](http://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk)

- **Income Support**
- **Energy Bills—Cost of Living Payments**
- **Childcare Costs**
- **Household costs**
- **Childcare Costs**
- **Finding Work**



**Help for Households**

[costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk](http://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk) provides access to contacts who can provide support for households.

Visit 'Discounts and Offers' for hot meals for children for £1 and discounted children's meals at leading supermarkets.

## Food Banks

**the trussell trust**  
Tackling UK Hunger

**Food Banks**  
**Worcestershire**  
[www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org)

<b>Worcester (Mon—Fri 10am—4pm)</b> 0808 2082138 7 Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester WR1 2RS, UK	<b>Malvern Hills Foodbank (Mon—10.15am—12.45pm, Tues 1pm—3.30pm, Thurs 10.15am—12.45pm)</b> 07529 322985 Unit 4, Spring Court, Spring Lane South, Malvern, WR14 1AT
<b>Droitwich (Tues 12.30—2.30pm &amp; Fri)</b> 07532 130604 / 07532 130604 Droitwich Baptist Church, Ombersley Street East, WR9 8QS	<b>Kidderminster (Weds 12.30—3pm, Fri 12.30—3pm) 07469 216904</b> Unit 9, Swan Shopping Centre, Blackwell Street, Kidderminster DY10 2DP
<b>Redditch &amp; Bromsgrove (Mon—Thursday 11am—2pm &amp; Fri 10am—1pm) 01527 69161</b> Number 24, Church Green East, Redditch, B98 8DE	



## Bromsgrove

### **Bromsgrove Sports & Leisure Centre, B60**

Multiple activities including a swimming, multi sports, arts & crafts and climbing.

Age 8 -14

### **Premier Education, B47**

Range of sporting activities, including archery and curling, performing arts, and arts and crafts.

Age 5 -11

### **Aspire Active Camps, DY8**

Multi-sports, physically active learning programmes 'Maths on the Move' and 'English on the Move', craft and art activities linked to sports and the human body, and team building

Age 5 - 11



[www.catshillfirst.co.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk)



01527 872913



[office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'



## 📌 Reminders and Dates for your Diaries 📌

- ★ **Hearing Screening for Reception** - A message has been epraised out to Reception children, advising you that the School Health Nursing Service will be in school on 10th and 12th January 2023, to carry out hearing screening on your child. Can you please follow the link on the epraise to complete the information they will need.
- ★ **Vision Tests for Reception** - Worcestershire Specialist Children's Service offers a routine vision test to every child in Reception year. The Orthoptist will be attending Catshill First School and Nursery on Friday 10th February to test their vision. A form has been sent home with your child for you to complete and return, but only if you DO NOT want your child to have a vision test.
- ★ **After Schools Club - Football Skills for KS2 Girls** - Now fully booked, parents have been notified if their child has a place in the New Year.
- ★ **After Schools Club - Football Skills for KS2 Boys** - Now fully booked, parents will be notified shortly if their child has a place in the New Year.
- ★ **After Schools Club - Ball Skills for Year 1** - Now fully booked, parents will be notified shortly if their child has a place in the New Year.
- ★ **Free School Meals Vouchers** - If you are entitled to FSM's the voucher for the Christmas period for £35.00 per child will be issued on Friday via your Epraise, please remember to check your spam. Unfortunately Nursery children are not entitled to these vouchers.
- ★ **School Admissions September 2023 - Reception and Year 5** - Just a polite reminder that the application cut off date for your child starting Reception or Year 5 is 15th January 2023, please apply via [Worcestershire Schools Admissions](#) if you haven't already done so.

Thank you for your co-operation

## ⊖ Car Park - Important Notice ⊖

The car park at Catshill First School and Nursery is for use by school staff only. The only exception to this rule is when access is required to the disabled parking space.

**Children must NOT be on the school car park at ANY time.**

**All Access to the school premises must be via the pedestrian footpath and NOT through the car park.**

**Please note the signage on the gate requesting that it is kept closed at all times. This is for the children's safety.**



[www.catshillfirst.co.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk)



01527 872913



[office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'

## Things to remember

- ★ W/C 2nd January 2023 is week 3 for our dinner menu. You can find the menu on our website  
<https://www.catshillfirst.co.uk/our-school-day/> ✓
- ★ Please send all dinner money to school on a Monday ✓
- ★ Children should come to school on PE days wearing school uniform, they will change into PE kit as part of the session. For Forest School or Forest Fun sessions, children should come to school wearing their appropriate Forest School clothing and footwear for these activities. ✓
- ★ Log on to Rising Stars to access your child's online reading books. ✓

## Term dates

- ★ **School collection times**  
Reception 3.20pm  
KS1 (year 1 and 2) 3.20pm  
KS2 (year 3 and 4) 3.25pm
- ★ **This term ends on Friday 16th December.**
- ★ **Please find 2022/2023 term dates [here](#)**
- ★ **Please find 2023/2024 term dates [here](#)**
- ★ **Please do not book holidays in term time.**
- ★ **Spring Term for the children starts on Wednesday 4th January 2023.**



[www.catshillfirst.co.uk](http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk)



01527 872913



[office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk)



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'