



## Value for January

### Co-operation

Co-operation exists when people work together towards a common goal. Co-operation requires recognising the value of everyone's part and keeping a positive attitude. One who co-operates creates good wishes and pure feelings for others and the task.

## Strike Arrangements

### SCHOOL CLOSED WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

This is the update regarding the planned forthcoming teacher strikes of the National Education Union (NEU) across the country and regionally.

The dates that will be affected are:

Wednesday 1st February 2023

Wednesday 1st March 2023

Wednesday 15th March 2023

Thursday 16th March 2023

On these days striking teachers will not be available to teach lessons, take registrations or supervise during breaks. Additionally, teachers in other unions are not allowed to cover for striking staff in any way by taking their classes, doubling up and making larger groups or any other actions that are deemed to be undermining the planned industrial action of NEU members.

As I intimated in my communication last week the NEU union represents the large majority of teachers in both schools. Having assessed the potential impact of teachers from Catshill not attending for work, and ensuring that all health & safety implications are managed across the schools the depleted staff teams are unable to safely function. Both schools are consequently closed.

We will be contacting the parents/carers of all Children Looked After (CLA), those on Child Protection Plans (CP), Child in Need Plans (CIN), and those with Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) and offering them access to school on these days if they wish it.

At Catshill Middle school pupils will be able to access Century Tech from home and can use their bespoke pathway in the subjects of English, Maths & Science. Catshill First School pupils will have access to a set of activities for the strike days.

The decision to close a school is never taken lightly, but in this instance, where staff have taken lawful industrial action, we have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health and well-being of our pupils. Attendance records will not be affected by these closures.

There will be a number of parents who have been invoiced for additional nursery provision that will now not be provided as a result of the strike action. Please be assured that these sessions will be credited against the Spring 2 half-term invoices.

Free School Meal families have been contacted with a google form to book a lunch to collect from the school if you wish. At the Middle school, there will be no morning tuck option for those who attend. I would like to apologise to parents/carers for the obvious inconvenience that this will cause you but hope that you will understand that these strike days are set nationally/regionally and are beyond my control. Should the picture change between planned strike days I will contact you to adapt plans if this becomes an option.

Kind regards, Paul Essenhigh, Executive Headteacher



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## 🎉 Upcoming Events At Catshill First School and Nursery 🎉

We wanted to make you aware that Catshill First School and Nursery will be supporting the following events which all take place before Easter. With the cost of living rises in mind, we wanted to give you plenty of advance notice.

**Friday 17th February - NSPCC Numbers Day.** Dress in maths theme clothes (or own clothes) with a suggested voluntary contribution of 50p for the NSPCC if wanted

**Friday 3rd March - World Book Day.** Dress as a book character (or own clothes) no contribution asked

**Friday 17th March - Comic Relief.** Children may wear own clothes with a suggested voluntary contribution of 50p for Comic Relief if wanted

**Tuesday 21st March - World Down Syndrome Day.** Children may wear mismatched socks with a suggested voluntary contribution of 50p for Down's Syndrome Association if wanted

For our charity collections, we wish to make it very clear that any contributions are voluntary and no child will miss out if they don't donate. Families with more than one child may wish to donate as a group. Children are welcome to wear their own clothes for any events where dressing up is encouraged and all children will be included in the activities whether they are in costume or not.

## 🏠 Nursery - Village Walk 🏠

Nursery went on a walk through the village on Wednesday, we were looking out for items linked to jobs and occupations such as a postbox and a bus stop.

The children were so well behaved and really safe walking on the pavement, we were lucky to get a friendly beep from a passing tanker too!



**Big thank you to our volunteers**



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## Catshill Children's Choice

This half term we will have £50 to spend on new books. Please vote for your top three favourite books from the list below. The top few books that receive the most votes will be purchased for our library. The winners will be announced in our newsletter and shared with everyone in school.

[Please click here to vote](#)

Happy voting!

## School Council

Thank you for supporting our Craft sale this week, with your help we have raised a massive £214.00

Please look out for our Valentine's Teddy Bear Raffle, more information to follow nearer the time.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 4 - Science

Year 4 have been looking at the effects of different drinks on our teeth. We used egg shells to show the possible damage. This surprised a lot of children and some said they will drink more water from now on!



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## Big Garden Birdwatch

27th - 29th January

Big Garden Birdwatch is fun, free and for everyone. And you don't need a garden to take part! Counting birds from your balcony, or your local park will play a vital role in helping us understand how UK birds are doing.

Taking part is as easy as 1,2,3

1. Watch the birds around you for one hour
2. Count how many of each species of bird lands on your patch
3. Go [online](#) and tell us what you saw

Let us know on Monday if you took part!



ERIC is the national charity dedicated to improving children's bowel and bladder health. Their mission is to reduce the impact of continence problems on children and their families.



The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity

Please follow [this link](#) for further information about ERIC and how they can help support parents/carers with children who are struggling with toileting issues.

## Reporting A Child's Absence

Can all pupil absences, please be reported to the admin office, so that we can record your child's absence accordingly on the register.

phone - 01527 872913, option 2 (from 8.15am)

leave a voicemail - 01527 872913, option 1

text - 07786 132612

Epraise - Admin

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

Thank you



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## Reception

This week we have been exploring capacity, using rainbow counters and alien slime. We have some superstar readers in Reception too!



### Reminders and Dates for your Diaries

- ★ **SATs Workshop for Parents Year 2** - A letter has been epraised out, inviting you to attend a SATs workshop on Friday 3rd February 9.00am to 10.00am. Please follow [this link](#) if you would like to attend, and we will confirm your place shortly.
- ★ **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 Thursday 9th February to test their vision. A form has been sent home with your child before Christmas for you to complete and return, but only if you DO NOT want your child to have a vision test.
- ★ **Medication** - A polite reminder to parents that medication can only be given to the children if it is prescribed by the Doctor and is required to be given 4 times a day, as per the school policy, and a medication form completed, which can be collected from the administration office.
- ★ **Parking** - Just a gentle reminder regarding parking when dropping off and picking up children - can parents please be mindful not to park on the pavement opposite the school, as buggies and pushchairs cannot get past on the pavement, and are having to step into the busy road. Please be advised that the neighbourhood policing team will be patrolling regularly.

Thank you for your co-operation



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## 📌 Activities - Spring 1 2023 📌

Spring 1 2023	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nursery		Forest School (am)	PE (pm)		PE (am)
RM			PE (am)	Forest School (pm)	
RTY			PE (am)		Forest School (am)
Year 1	Forest School (1R pm)	PE (am)	Forest School (1P pm)		
Year 2		PE (pm)		PE (am) Ball Skills (pm)	
Year 3	PE (pm) Football Skills Girls (pm)	Football Skills Boys (pm)	PE (am)		Cornet (3S) Forest Schools (3B)
Year 4	Football Skills Girls (pm)	PE (am) Swimming (am) Football Skills Boys (pm)		PE (pm)	Cornet Continued (4J/4F)

\*Please note that there may be some flexibility.

## 🚫 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.**

### 📌 Things to remember 📌

- ★ W/C 30th January 2023 is week 1 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 📌

- ★ *Here and on time at five to nine.*
- ★ *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 17th February.*
- ★ *Please find 2022/2023 term dates [here](#)*
- ★ *Please find 2023/2024 term dates [here](#)*
- ★ *Please do not book holidays in term time.*
- ★ *Spring Term 2 for the children starts on Monday 27th February 2023.*



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