

Catshill First School and Nursery

PROSPECTUS 2023/2024



WHERE INDIVIDUALS MATTER

'Pupils talk excitedly about their learning and how their teachers support them to do their best.' Ofsted 2022





Welcome to Catshill First School and Nursery



Welcome to Catshill First School and Nursery. We are delighted that your child will be joining our school and look forward to seeing them reach their full potential as they grow, develop and learn. Individuals really do matter at Catshill First School and Nursery; all the staff take time to get to know the pupils, their interests and what helps them to learn.

'Pupils are happy at Catshill First School. This is a friendly school with kindness at its heart.' Ofsted 2022

We hope that all pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors and visitors have a happy association with the school. We want all our children to be happy and successful at Catshill First School and Nursery.

You'll find a flavour of our school in this prospectus. There is also a lot of additional information on our website, including copies of recent newsletters. If you have any further questions, please contact the school and we will do our best to answer your queries.

If you would like to arrange to visit the school or discuss your child's individual needs, please call us to make an appointment.

Miss Julia Shingler: Headteacher of Catshill First School and Nursery and Catshill Middle School

Mrs Georgia Plant: Head of School



Catshill Learning Community

The governing body of Catshill First School and Nursery and Catshill Middle School support both schools on their learning journey for the children in their care. The day to day running of the school is undertaken by Mrs Georgia Plant, Head of School, under the strategic leadership of Miss Julia Shingler, Headteacher of both schools. This gives our pupils, from First to Middle School and beyond, a focused team of senior and middle leaders, teachers and support staff, who are well positioned to provide personalised learning experiences to ensure success for all. Catshill Learning Community's core purpose is to maximise progress and attainment for our children, whilst ensuring that we give them life-long learning opportunities that will help shape their character and values. We believe that our federated partnership across the First and Middle School phase empowers us to deliver a 'joined up' curriculum and to develop citizens who will continue to develop our community for the better. We are very excited by the progress we have made so far, and look forward to building on these solid foundations.

Our School Vision

Written by the children of Catshill First School and Nursery

*Catshill First School and Nursery is a **friendly**, **happy** and **safe** school where we welcome all children, staff and visitors. We develop **relationships** and **responsibilities** within our school, the local community and the wider world so we can all play a positive role in society. We show and share our four core expectations and our school **values** with everyone.*

*In school we learn and play together in **fun**, inclusive and **supportive** ways. Always trying our best and **enjoying** and experiencing new exciting things gives us the **knowledge** and skills to be learners now and in the future. We are **creative** and **imaginative**, welcoming challenges with a smile.*

*We are kind and cooperative; we learn to understand our emotions and make **positive choices** to support our health and wellbeing. We respect individuality and celebrate our differences. We care for each other so that everyone is ready to **learn** and thrive. We enjoy sharing our **achievements**.*



Our Curriculum

'Leaders are ambitious in their expectations of what pupils can achieve, including those with SEND.'
Ofsted 2022

Learning is fun at Catshill First School and Nursery and children enjoy their learning. The children are taught from the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum through an exciting topic approach. This enables subjects to be grouped and for maximum engagement and motivation to be incorporated. Each topic cycle is carefully planned to ensure that all curriculum areas are covered and that the children are equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to fully meet the requirements of the curriculum. Some subjects can be blocked or taught discretely and, due to our partnership with Catshill Middle School, some subjects are taught by specialists.

Learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone and we encourage pupils and teachers to take the learning in a direction that builds on the interests of the child(ren). Each year group produces a curriculum map which gives further details. Parents are informed at the start of each topic of the areas that will be covered and ideas for home learning so that school and home work in partnership.



Long Lasting Learning

Children learn from the experiences that we give them. At Catshill First School and Nursery we have a fantastic site which is used to full effect to support our learners. There is a beautiful library and a Forest Schools area. Our wraparound playgrounds, huge field and sensory garden provide ample room for taking the learning outside. Our adjoining Tulip Tree Centre is yet another area that is utilised when needed for our pupils and parents.



We like to ensure that everyone is active every day. **Physical Education** is a popular subject at Catshill with children having the opportunity to work with a sports coach during the week. The Sports Crew, made up of some of our older pupils, support the younger ones at playtime and equipment such as the climbing wall and tyre trail are popular playtime pastimes. Our superb Trim Trail is a well-liked addition to our playground facilities.

Educational Visits enhance learning and throughout the year, events, visits and visitors provide additional opportunities for the children at Catshill. Our classes have recently enjoyed visits to Warwick Castle, All Things Wild, the Wyre Forest and Bell Boating on the canal at Droitwich. Our Year 4 children are invited to take part in a residential visit to Blackwell Court where they can participate in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities.

Home Learning can be a way to 'lock in the learning' and we encourage our children to take part in home learning challenges which can be done in all sorts of ways. We welcome family involvement and celebrate all the projects as they arrive. It is hoped that parents/carers will support their child(ren)'s reading development by listening to them read on a regular basis as well as completing other pieces of homework such as phonic work or maths skills. Some of our home learning opportunities take place using online platforms such as the Rising Stars reading scheme or Timetable Rockstars.



Our School Clubs

We offer a wide range of extra curricular opportunities which take place either during lunchtime or after school. The clubs vary depending on needs and interests. Some of the clubs held over the past few years have been:

- Science
- Gardening
- ICT
- Eco Club
- Cooking
- Choir
- Sewing
- Art
- Maths
- Cornet
- Book and Cook
- Football
- Girls' Football
- Rugby
- Gymnastics
- Cricket
- Multi Skills
- Yoga
- Ball Games
- Badminton
- Archery
- Athletics



'The school offers a wide range of experiences for pupils, including opportunities for leadership experiences. These include being a member of the 'values council', which rewards others for showing the school's values. Pupils talk enthusiastically about trips out of school, such as a visit to Warwick Castle. All pupils can take part in a performance to show parents and carers what they have learned.'

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Before and After School Care

Wraparound care is available onsite and is provided by The Kool Crew. For further details, please contact Mrs Tina Lammas on 07985 403810 (text or call) or email thekoolcrew ltd@gmail.com.

There are also childminders who drop off and pick up at Catshill First School and Nursery. Their details can be found at www.childcare.co.uk



Uniform Stockists
School Days of Bromsgrove

15 Church Street,
 Bromsgrove, B61 8DD
 01527 757439

[www.schooldays-bromsgrove.co.uk](http://www schooldays-bromsgrove.co.uk)



Our School Uniform

Uniform Stockists

S & H Schoolwear and Sports

1 Church Street,
 Bromsgrove, B61 8DD
 01527 874885

www.sandhschoolwearandsports.co.uk

Clothing List

Top	Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan (with or without school logo)
Shirt	White shirt/polo shirt
Skirt/Trousers	Grey/black skirt, pinafore, trousers, or shorts Blue and white gingham dress in Summer (optional)
Socks	White, grey or black socks Black or grey tights
Shoes	Plain black (made of polishable material) No trainers permitted
PE Kit	White t-shirt Black shorts Black pumps (trainers for outside) Black tracksuit bottoms or leggings (outside)
Book Bag	All children are encouraged to use a school book bag to safely carry their reading book and diary

All uniform can be purchased at supermarkets or High Street shops. No items need to be branded with the school logo.

If parents wish to purchase branded items, they can be purchased from School Days or S & H Schoolwear and Sports in Bromsgrove.

Catshill First School & Nursery has stocks of second-hand uniform.



Food and Drinks

We encourage children to make healthy food and drink choices.

Milk

Children under 5 in Nursery or Reception are provided with a drink of milk each day. Once children reach their 5th birthday, milk can be purchased for drinking at playtime or is available free of charge to pupils entitled to free school meals. Our school uses a scheme called Cool Milk.



Water

In Nursery, children bring their own water bottle in daily. From Reception upwards, all children are provided with a water bottle. Pupils can then access water throughout the day keeping them refreshed and hydrated. Water is also provided at lunchtimes.



Fruit and Playtime Snacks

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two are provided with a piece of fruit (or veg) each day as part of the national scheme. The fruit (or veg) choice is varied throughout the year and ranges from pears, apples and bananas to carrots, tomatoes and peas.

In Years Three and Four, children can bring in their own healthy snack to eat at playtime if they wish. We encourage snacks such as fruit, vegetable sticks, yoghurt or cheese sticks for example.

School Meals

All children can choose meals from a balanced, varied menu provided to the school by Shire Services. The meals are currently provided free of charge for children Reception, Year One and Year Two and for older pupils who are entitled to claim free school meals. The eligibility criteria is set out below. Pupils who are not entitled to free school meals can purchase meals for £2.40 per day, £12.00 per week (March 2023). Payment must be made on a Monday morning, either by cash or cheque (payable to Shire Services) and should be sent into school in a named, sealed envelope showing your child's name, class and days for which dinner is being paid.



A typical menu is a choice from:

- Roast Chicken Fillet, Stuffing & Gravy
- Jacket potato with a selection of fillings
- Veggie sausage in Yorkshire pudding (v)
- Seasonal Medley of Vegetables
- Mashed Potatoes, Roast Potatoes
- Selection of freshly made cookies and traybakes

Attendance and Punctuality



The School Day

Doors open: 8.45am

Registration: 8.55am

End of School:

Rec and KS1: 3.20pm

KS2: 3.25pm

Please note that Nursery times vary.

Regular attendance at school is vital if children are to make good progress and to benefit from all the opportunities that school offers. Good attendance and punctuality is important. If your child has been absent from school the law requires you to notify the school of the reason for absence. The Head of School then decides whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

As a guide, children should only be absent if they are ill or attending a medical appointment. Leave is granted for days of religious observance or for a significant event such as a wedding or family bereavement. Children should not be kept from school to help at home, because the family has a new pet or to go shopping. We are not allowed to authorise absence for birthdays or personal events. If in doubt, please ask as unauthorised absences are classed as truancy and will be investigated.



**'Here and on time
for five to nine'**



'Pupils feel safe. Leaders have ensured that the curriculum supports pupils' understanding of risk, including those within the community, and how to stay safe online.' Ofsted 2022

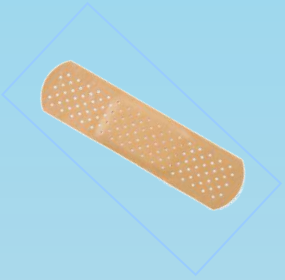
Holidays

Children are expected to be in school for 190 days during the school year. This leaves 175 days for holidays, treats, special events and non-urgent appointments. We are unable to authorise time off for holidays in term time, except in exceptional circumstances. If you need to make an application for leave in term time, a form is available from the office which must be completed.

Health Matters

First Aiders

At Catshill First School and Nursery, there are several staff who are trained in First Aid and are able to support a child who requires basic treatment. We have a medical room and an accessible toilet for pupils with conditions requiring more support.



Medicines

Generally a sick child should be kept at home. Medicines, such as antibiotics can usually be given before and after school. Where this is not really possible, or where there is an on going or chronic condition the school is happy to offer help. Medication should be handed in at the office and a medication form completed.

Only medicines prescribed by a doctor that has the dispensing pharmacist's label with the child's name and dosage upon it can be given in school. Only a qualified First Aider will administer medicine. We reserve the right to ask parents to come into school to administer the medicine themselves. Children with asthma keep their inhalers in their classroom. All inhalers must be in date and should be labelled with the child's name.



Long Term Medical Needs

If your child has any allergies or needs additional medical support, we will work with you to produce an individual care plan. Please discuss any specific needs with us.



Safety and Welfare

The safety and welfare of our pupils and their families is of utmost importance to us at Catshill First School and Nursery.

We work in partnership with external agencies to ensure that each child's needs are met and that positive outcomes are achieved. We can provide help and support for a range of needs. Our Children and Family Welfare Support Lead is Pauline Wainman.



Child Protection

Every school is legally obliged to follow a set procedure if we are concerned about a child's safety or welfare. Head Teachers are required to refer their concerns to the Social Care Department of Social Services for further investigation so that children at risk can be quickly identified.

We have a duty of care to protect and safeguard the children at our school. We follow the Worcestershire Safeguarding Procedures. All adults in school are subject to Enhanced CRB checks whether they are employees or volunteers. The school's designated teacher for child protection is Mr Essenhigh. He is supported by Mrs Plant and Mrs Wainman. The school does not investigate the concerns or make decisions about whether or not a child is being abused.

We work in partnership with all agencies to ensure that children are safe and can provide help and support if you are struggling in any way. If your child has a named Social Worker please let us know.

'Leaders ensure there is a strong culture of keeping pupils safe. The support for vulnerable pupils is strong.'

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Term Dates

Academic Year
2023-2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

TERM STARTS	Tuesday 5 September 2023 New Reception groups and selected pupils for appointments and visits
	Wednesday 6 September 2023 Whole school return
HALF TERM	Monday 30 October – Friday 3 November 2023
TERM ENDS	Friday 22 December 2023

SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Inset 1 – Monday 4 September 2023

Inset 2 – Friday 27 October 2023

SPRING TERM 2024

TERM STARTS	Tuesday 9 January 2024
HALF TERM	Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February 2024
TERM ENDS	Thursday 21 March 2024

SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Inset 3 – Monday 8 January 2024

Inset 4 – Friday 22 March 2024

SUMMER TERM 2024

TERM STARTS	Monday 8 April 2024
HALF TERM	Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May 2024
TERM ENDS	Friday 19 July 2024

SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Bank Holiday – Monday 6 May 2024

Inset 5 – Monday 22 July 2024

Reporting
Absence

We continually strive to improve attendance for the pupils in our school as good attendance is linked to future success. In any case of absence, it is a parent or guardian's legal duty to notify school of the reason why. We have increased the number of ways that you can get in touch with us to report a child's absence:

1. Our answering service.

This bypasses reception and enables you to leave a direct message, 24 hours a day, on the answerphone informing us of the absence.

The number to call is **01527 872913**.

2. Email on office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk

3. Text message.

Please text **07786 132612**.

4. By calling into the **school office** to speak to a member of staff.

All absences must be reported by one of the methods above by 9.15am.

The information we need is your name, your child's name, your child's class and the reason for their absence.

We may still contact you for further information.

Many thanks for your support in this matter.