



## 🎄 Value for December 🎄

### Courtesy

The definition of courtesy is polite behaviour and the showing of proper manners, or is a polite and socially proper act.

At Catshill, we encourage our children to remember their manners every **STEP** of the way.  
We like them to say **S**orry, **T**hank-you, **E**xcuse me and **P**lease.

## ❄️ 🎄 Festive Friday 🎄 ❄️

Christmas has arrived at Catshill First School and Nursery, we added a bit of sparkle whilst putting up our decorations!



## Important Dates for your Diaries

**From Monday 4th December - Foodbank Collection - If you are able to donate an item to our local foodbank, we have a collection this week - please see list**

**Monday 4th December - Visit to Jamia Masjid Aqsa Mosque Year 2**

**Wednesday 6th December - Geography Field Trip Year 1**

**Friday 8th December - Year 1 Library Visit**

**Monday 11th December - Catshill Methodist Christmas Experience Year 4**

**Tuesday 12th December - Catshill Methodist Christmas Experience Year 3**

**Wednesday 13th December - Reception Nativity 2.15pm - 3.15pm (Tickets will be coming home Friday 8th December)**

**Thursday 14th December - Reception Nativity 9.30am - 10.30am (Tickets will be coming home next week)**

**Friday 15th December - Nursery Concert 9.15am**

**Monday 18th December - KS1 & KS2 Christmas Carols (gates open at 2.45pm, come and join us on the KS2 playground for a festival singalong outside).**

**Tuesday 19th December - Christmas Lunch**

**Wednesday 20th December - Parties - Children may wear their party clothes all day**

**Thursday 21st December - Last day of term for Nursery**

**Thursday 21st December - Christmas Fayre**

**Friday 22nd December - Last day of term, children may wear Christmas Jumpers**



## Catshill Children's Choice

Each 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.

<https://forms.gle/EqRkq1LRbMKFniQD6>

**Happy Voting!**



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## 🎁 Christmas Story Winners 🎁

Congratulations to Oakley, Hannah and Frankie for winning the Christmas Story competition run by Catshill and Marlbrook Parish Council! They switched on the Christmas lights in Catshill Village on Saturday - wow!

Cllr. Bernard McEldowney and Councillor Jessica Parry were overwhelmed by the entries they saw - thank you to all the children who entered.



## 📖🧵🏈 After School Clubs 🏈🧵📖

- Monday - Reading Club for Year 2
- Monday - Christmas Sewing Club for Year 4
- Monday - Crafting Club for Year 4
- Tuesday - Crafting Club for Year 3
- Wednesday - Team Games for Year 2
- Thursday - Football Skills for KS2 Boys
- Thursday - Football Skills for KS2 Girls

4.15pm finish and collection from the glass corridor.

The clubs will run for 6 weeks, finishing the last week before Christmas.

## 🏠 School Council 🏠

There are still a few Christmas Gift Tags available, 40p a pack or 3 for £1

The Christmas Raffle starts today at 50p per ticket.  
There will be 2 prizes per class (1 family gift bag and 1 child gift bag).

Thank you for your continued support



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## 📌Hearing Screening - Reception📌 Monday 15th January

The 5-19 Public Health Nursing Service offers a routine hearing test to every child in Reception. The main reason for screening children's hearing at this age is to ensure that all children have satisfactory hearing for learning in school. Untreated hearing problems can cause difficulties with speech, learning and behaviour.

Health Care Support Workers working within the Public Health Nursing Team will soon be attending your child's school to test your child's hearing. For this to be recorded accurately on your child's records, we will ask school to provide your child's full name, address, date of birth and gender\*.

Worcestershire Public Health Nursing Service is now using a digital system known as School Screener to perform the hearing tests and issue the results. Please register for a School Screener Parent Portal Account using the link below:

<http://qlink.uk/WOR255/116658>

The School Screener Parent Portal can only be accessed by the web browsers, Google Chrome or Edge.

[Please see the attached additional information for you to read.](#)

At Catshill First School we celebrate diversity, by exploring and studying different faiths, cultures and beliefs.

All are welcome at Catshill First School and Nursery.



## 📌The Spire Trust📌

Considering a career in teaching?

The Spire Trust still have places, so if you are interested, please click [here](#) for further information.

Thank you



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 **Bikeability Balance Bike Training**   
**Reception and Year 1**

An Epraise has been sent out to Reception and Year 1 parents regarding Bikeability Balance Bike training, which is an initiative run by Worcestershire County Council to inspire children to take to two wheels.

This is a series of school-based sessions that aim to achieve basic cycling balance for children. It involved fun games carried out on balance bikes (bikes without pedals) to develop handling and awareness. It will provide children with a positive early experience of being on two wheels and give them the skills that they will need to take part in Bikeability Level 1, which is usually delivered in school to year 4's.

Reception - Wednesday 6th December - Friday 8th December (½ hour sessions)  
Year 1 - Monday 11th December - Wednesday 13th December (½ hour sessions)

Children are asked to come to school in school uniform, with warm coats, hats and gloves.

 **Cupcake Sale** 

Wow, what a fantastic response we had for the Diabetes Cupcake sale last Friday, raising £136 on the day, and £1,071 so far.

Thank you, we hope they tasted as good as they looked, and thank you to Zoe, Rose, Bonnie and Josh, well done for helping out with a great cause!



 **Christmas Lunch**   
**Tuesday 19th December**

Have you booked your child's Christmas Lunch, as the cut off date is Friday 8th December. It will be served on Tuesday 19th December and costs £3.

Roast Turkey & Chipolata Sausage or Veggie Toad In The Hole, served with Stuffing Balls, Baton Carrots, Fresh Sprouts, and Garden Peas, Roast and Mashed Potatoes.

Followed by Festive Cupcakes or Christmas Biscuits.

Please complete [this link](#) if you would like to order for your child.



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## Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#).

These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Follow the below link for further information and advice on managing coughs/colds/ slapped cheek/sore throat etc.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

## Coats, Gloves and Scarves

A reminder that children should have a suitable coat with a hood in school every day. Unless the weather is really poor, we do try to go outside for playtime and at lunchtime every day. As the cold weather approaches and children bring in gloves, scarves and hats, please make sure these items have names written in as they so easily get mixed up or mislaid!

Thank you

## Winter Sickness Bug

As the winter season progresses we ask parents to be vigilant of usual childhood conditions. These include chicken pox, slapped cheek, [head lice](#), ringworm and threadworm etc. Please advise us of any of these conditions when you call to notify us of the absence. Many of these conditions are easily treatable via your local pharmacy or with advice from your local GP surgery.

**We also remind you that our policy in respect of sickness and diarrhoea is that 48 hours needs to have passed between the last bout and return to school.**

If you are unsure in respect of any symptoms or ailments your child may have, further help and information can be found on the [NHS Website](#).



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# Christmas in Catshill

**Saturday 25th November**  
**Catshill Christmas Light Switch On**  
*Outside Catshill Village Hall 3-6pm*  
 Street vendors/stalls/music/  
 dancers/choir and special guests

**Friday 15th December**  
**Christmas Film Night**  
*Catshill Methodist Church 4pm onwards*  
 Children's film 5pm Adults film 7pm  
 Hot pork baps with mince pies

**Friday 1st December**  
**Christmas Party**  
*Catshill Social Club 6.30-10pm*  
 £1 Entry (visit Facebook Catshill Social Club)  
 Kids disco with Santa and the Grinch

**Saturday 16th December**  
**Friends of the Cemetery**  
*North Bromsgrove Cemetery 10am*  
 Christmas Service with tea and mince pies at  
 cemetery on Barley Mow Lane, Catshill

**Saturday 2nd December**  
**Story and Craft**  
*Catshill Library 10am*  
 Ten little elves story and make your  
 own craft elf

**Saturday 16th December**  
**Board Games**  
*Catshill Library 10am*  
 Join in for some Christmas fun  
 and board games

**Sunday 3rd December**  
**A Time of Wonder Christmas Party**  
*Catshill Baptist Church 3-5pm*  
 For families and children 10 years and under  
 email facilities@catshillbaptist.org.uk to book

**Saturday 16th December**  
**Christmas Songs at Coffee Morning**  
*Catshill Methodist Church 10am-12pm*  
 Christmas Songs around the Piano  
 with mince pies

**Monday 4th December**  
**Hot Potato Quiz**  
*Welcome Hall 6.45pm*  
 Quiz night, Teams (up to 6) can book 07481346767 or  
 email office@welcomehallchurch.org

**Saturday 16th December**  
**Christ Church Carol Service**  
*St Luke's Hall, Marlbrook 5pm*  
 Festive fun with Carol singing  
 and other entertainment.

**Saturday 9th December**  
**Friends of the Cemetery**  
*Christ Church 10am*  
 Christmas service with hot drinks  
 and mince pies

**Friday 22nd December**  
**Christmas Panto Cinderella**  
*Catshill Social Club 7pm*  
 £2 adults £1 children  
 Please visit Catshill Social Facebook for info

**Saturday 9th December**  
**Christmas Lego Morning**  
*Catshill Library 10am*  
 Lego building and  
 Christmas library fun

**Saturday 23rd December**  
**Festive Storytime**  
*Catshill Library 10am*  
 Making reindeer food and  
 Santa Key.

**Sunday 10th December**  
**Crazy Crews Christmas Party**  
*Catshill Social Club 1-3pm*  
 £3pp £1 under 1years. Tickets needed for event please  
 book before end of Nov via Crazy Crew facebook page

**December**  
**Community Carol Singing**  
*Meet and Time To be Confirmed*  
 Join your local community for some  
 Carol singing

Christmas Church Services: (Baptist, Methodist and Welcome Hall have services Christmas Day at various times)  
 Catshill Baptist: Sunday 17th Dec 6pm Concert with Pantomime/ Sunday 24th Dec 6pm Carols by Candlelight  
 Christ Church: Sunday 17th Dec Carol Service / Sunday 24th Dec Christingle Service  
 Catshill Methodist: Sunday 17th Dec 6pm Carols at Candlelight / Sunday 24th Dec 4pm Christingle Family Service  
 Welcome Hall: Sunday 17th Dec 10.30am Carol Service / Sunday 24th Dec 4pm Christmas Eve Carols



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Next week we will be collecting for Catshill Baptist Church foodbank.

If you are able to donate any of the following it would be greatly appreciated:-

Packetts and jars - tea bags, coffee, hot chocolate, long life milk, long life fruit juice, cereals, rice, pasta, savoury rice, noodles, pasta sauce, custard, jam, biscuits.

Tinned food - fish, meat, potatoes, vegetables, tomatoes, soup, baked beans, spaghetti, fruit, rice puddings, sponge pudding.

Toiletries - toilet rolls, soap, toothpaste, washing-up liquid, nappies, ladies sanitary items.

Thank you



### Harriers Christmas Holiday Football

Harriers next community holiday football courses for children aged 5-13 years will be in the new year. They will feature Santa's Penalty Shoot-out and a festive 5-a-side tournament. Courses run 10am-3pm.

Droitwich High School Sports hall -Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> & Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan - Cost £15 per day, half days not available - Limited places, indoor

Worcester FA, Claines Lane 4G Astro - Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> & Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan- Cost £15 per day - Limited places no trainers no metal studs

Cleobury Mortimer Sports Centre Sports Hall- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 24

Tenbury High School Sports Hall- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 24

Kidderminster, Baxter College Astro/Sports Hall – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> & Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 24

South Bromsgrove High School Astro Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 24

Cost Cleo, Ten, Kidd Brooms: Online price: 1 day = £10, 2 days = £20. Half days (5-7 years only)@ £5 per day 10-12.30 or 1-3pm - 10% sibling discount

Pay on the day price: 1 day = £12, 2 days = £22. Half days @ £6 per day- No sibling discount

Note: We have had to increase fees for Droitwich & Worcester to cover costs at new venues.

Please bring both indoor and outdoor footwear, packed lunch, drinks, umbrella and waterproof clothing. Online price is available until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec after which pay on the day price applies.

To book a place email [harrierscommunity@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:harrierscommunity@hotmail.co.uk) We do not save you details so Please email details EACH time you book.



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## Parking at Schools Within Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough

This is a joint letter sent by Bromsgrove District Council, Redditch Borough Council and West Mercia Police, reminding all parents/guardians, when dropping off and picking up their children at school, to comply with traffic road markings such as double yellow lines, zig-zags, etc., and to avoid obstructing vehicle access points which serve private properties.

While many parents and guardians are adhering to the rules of the road and parking safely, there are a small minority who unfortunately do not. This is putting children at unnecessary risk of harm on their way to and from school, and causing access issues to residents living in close proximity to our schools.

There are a number of important points that we would like to bring to your attention:

Where at all possible, parents/guardians are asked to walk their children to and from school. This not only helps with traffic congestion but promotes active travel options and health and fitness. However, we fully appreciate that many parents need to transport their children to school by car for a number of reasons. If you do need to drive to school, please 'park and stride', leave your car 5-10 minutes' walk away from the school and walk the rest of the journey. This will help to ease congestion close to the school where children and parents will be crossing;

If you are a driver, you have a responsibility to 'stop and think' about whether you are parking in a safe and considerate manner. If you do not, you could be endangering a child's life. Co-operation and consideration for others is the key. It is not about competition for the best parking space, it's about the safety of your children and everyone else in the area;

Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) are implemented in areas by the Highway Authority after careful consideration and consultation with many relevant partner agencies. In general, their implementation is not only to assist with the free flow of traffic, but primarily to ensure that highway safety can be achieved, for all road users. Please remember, children's safety should always be in the drivers' mind when approaching the school. Enforcement takes place to ensure these rules are adhered to, and ultimately to improve the safety of the roads for everyone who uses them;

Did you know? One in five cars on the road during the morning rush hour is transporting children to school. Please ensure you allow sufficient time to travel. If you must use a vehicle, 'just this once' or 'we are running late today', are NOT valid excuses for ignoring the rules of the road and putting other road users in danger;

Please ensure your vehicle is not blocking any access into a private property when you park. This can be classified as an obstruction of the highway. Many of us have experienced being blocked in in some form or another and understand how frustrating this can be.

Civil Enforcement Officers and Police Officers will continue to attend schools during drop-off and pick-up times where possible, and will enforce parking and driving offences as necessary, to ensure that the safety of children during these times remains paramount. Please therefore adhere to any restrictions in place around your school to avoid the possibility of any Penalty Charge Notices being issued.

Thank you



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## 📌 Things to Remember 📌

Autumn 2 2023	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nursery	PE	PE	Forest Fun		
RM	PE				Forest Fun
RB	PE		Forest Fun		
Year 1	PE (1R) Forest Fun (1E) Phonics Club			PE	
Year 2	Reading Club	PE (2FJ) Forest Fun (2F)	PE Team Games		
Year 3		Crafting Club	PE	Forest Fun (3S) Ukulele (3B) Football Skills Boys Football Skills Girls	PE
Year 4	Sewing Club Crafting Club		Swimming	PE Football Skills Boys Football Skills Girls	Cornet Continued

\*Please note that there may be some flexibility.

## 📌 Reminders 📌

- ★ **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.
- ★ **Contact Details** - Just a polite reminder that if you have changed address, phone number, email address, or emergency contact details, can you please pop round to see one of our admin staff in the office, or Epraise admin with the correct information, so that we can update your details.
- ★ **Head Lice** - Can all parents and carers please regularly check their child/rens hair, and follow our '[Head Lice to Dead Lice](#)' information if they find head lice. We also recommend that all long hair be tied back in school time.

Thank you for your continued 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.



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 Things to remember 

- ★ W/C 4th December 2023 is week 1 for our dinner menu.

[Our School Day](#)

- ★ Please send all dinner money to school on a Monday.
- ★ To report an absence, please state child's name, class and reason for illness.

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)

 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 22nd December.*
- ★ *Please find 2023/2024 term dates [here](#)*
- ★ *Please do not book holidays in term time.*
- ★ *Spring 1 term starts Tuesday 9th January 2024.*



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