



## 🎄 Value for December 🎄

### Courtesy

Children: Please don't forget to say thank you for any presents you are lucky enough to receive.

🌟🧑🏻‍🎄🎄 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!

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 9th January 2024



## 🎅 Father Christmas 🎅

We had a visit from a very special person on Tuesday, with his helper Elf, who handed out presents to the children.



Thank you Father Christmas

## 🎅 Santa's Little Helpers 🎅

Card posting elves have been out and about around the village delivering cards!



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



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



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## School Council

Thank you all for donating to the Christmas Raffle, and achieving a grand total of **£292.00.**

Here are the lucky winners:-

Nursery - Rosalie & Elsie-Mae  
RB - Freddie G & Jack RM - Layla & Charlie  
1E - Charlotte & Gracie 1R - Theo & Ella  
2F - Mrihan & June 2FJ - Poppy & Isla  
3B - Tommy G & Poppy 3S - Maddie T & Bella B  
4F - Eddie B & Lola 4J Millie-Grace & Frankie

Our Christmas Fayre raised a massive **£230.00.**

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year



 Thank You 

A big thank you to Gemma from Bromsgrove Spar, for nominating CFSN for a **£50 voucher.**



 After School Clubs - Spring 1 

The following After School Clubs will be run for 4/5 weeks in the New Year (Spring 1)

Monday's - TTRS Club - Year 4 (selected pupils)  
Monday's - Phonics - Year 1 (selected pupils)  
Tuesday's - Arts & Crafts - Year 1 (selected pupils)  
Wednesday's - Team Games Year 1  
Thursday's - Football Skills Boys KS2  
Thursday's - Football Skills Girls KS2

4.15pm finish and collection from the glass corridor.



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## Spark winter reading fun with the free online Winter Mini Challenge

It's back... encourage a love for reading this winter with the free online [Winter Mini Challenge](#). We've teamed up with The Reading Agency this winter, to encourage children to unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading. This bite-sized challenge is perfect for keeping young minds active during the holidays.

The [Winter Mini Challenge](#) is online where your children can unlock rewards for reading and find fun activities.

Following the success of the Summer Reading Challenge, Ali Oliver MBE, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust, shares, "*The Winter Mini Challenge is a brilliant way to inspire children over the winter to keep both minds and bodies active.*"

Encourage your child to join in at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk) from Friday 1 December and let's tackle the holiday reading 'dip' together. Bring your certificates into school to show your teacher.

## CHALLENGE



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# Holiday Information

**HAF it! 2023** READY STEADY WORCESTERSHIRE

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CAMP FOR 9 - 12YRS

**@ Bromsgrove Baptist Church, New Road, B60 2JD**

**28/29th Dec 2023  
3rd, 4th, 5th Jan 2024  
9am - 3pm**  
Later pick up available for additional cost

To book a place, please contact Dan Owen via email [do@thehubbromsgrove.org](mailto:do@thehubbromsgrove.org)

**ENJOY FOOD, CRAFTS, SPORTS & MUSIC!**

Non HAF places are £12 per child, per day, 20% discount if you book all five days  
A limited number of free places are available for children in receipt of free school meals. (HAF places)



### Cost of Living: Let's Work Together

## Bromsgrove & Redditch Festive Special 2023/2024

The festive season doesn't have to break the bank! Here's some top tips to help you through the Christmas period. Turn over for support to get you through the Winter months.



Name	Venue	Date/Time	Details	More Info
Holiday Activity & Food Programme Fun Winter Clubs	Various	Various	FREE for free school meal children aged 5 - 16yrs	<a href="http://haf-it.co.uk">haf-it.co.uk</a>
Worcestershire Libraries	Various	Various	Warm spaces for FREE family fun	<a href="http://worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries">worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries</a>
Arrow Valley Country Park Lights Trail	Battens Dr, Redditch, B98 0LJ	Fri 1st Dec, 6 - 9pm	FREE entry	<a href="http://redditchbc.gov.uk/events">redditchbc.gov.uk/events</a>
Sanders Park Lights Trail	Kidderminster Rd, Bromsgrove, B61 7JP	Sat 2nd Dec, 6 - 9pm	FREE entry	<a href="http://bromsgrove.gov.uk/events">bromsgrove.gov.uk/events</a>
Build A Bike Workshops Redditch (Must be booked)	Kingfisher Centre, Woodrow & Winyates Green Comm Centres	9th, 16th & 17th Dec Various sessions	FREE Build-A-Bike for new & maintenance sessions for 2nd hand	Search for 'bike' on <a href="http://redditchbc.gov.uk">redditchbc.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:sd@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">sd@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a>
Pop-Up Toy Shop Donations	NewStarts or Bromsgrove Rugby Club	NewStarts anytime, Rugby Club on 3rd Dec	Collecting donations for the pop-up toy shop	01527 882410 <a href="http://newstarts.org.uk">newstarts.org.uk</a> or Facebook
Pop-Up Toy Shop		Mon 11th/ Tues 12th Dec 10am - 3pm	Turn up to NewStarts	
Christmas Food Vouchers (Referral only)	NewStarts, 1 Sherwood Rd, Bromsgrove, B60 3DR	Mon 18th/ Tues 19th Dec	Get in touch	
Community Supermarket		Every Thurs, 3 - 6pm	Pay what you can/feel	
School Uniform Help (No referral needed)		Mon - Fri, 9am - 4pm, Sat 10am - 1pm	Get in touch	

All details were correct at the time of being published. If you need this information in another language/format please call 01527 548284 or email [equalities@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)



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## 📌 Holiday Information 📌

### Cost of Living: Let's Work Together Winter Special: Advice & Contacts



#### Act On Energy

Energy advice - including energy efficiency tips; billing issues; grants & funding for energy efficiency measures & grants for broken heating systems & help with fuel bills & energy debt.

**Freephone 0800 988 2881**

[actonenergy.org.uk](http://actonenergy.org.uk)

#### Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest

Free & confidential advice for people over 50.

**01527 570490** [ageuk.org.uk/brwf](http://ageuk.org.uk/brwf)  
[enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk)

#### bdht

Can support its residents with budgeting, employment & generic support. Contact us if you are struggling financially or worried about paying your rent.

**0800 0850 160** [contactus@bdht.co.uk](mailto:contactus@bdht.co.uk)

#### Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN)

Signposts to a variety of voluntary sector services & helps find the right service if you need help to access food, furniture, school uniform, money advice, support when facing homelessness, disability advice & more.

**01527 60282** [office@barn.org.uk](mailto:office@barn.org.uk)

#### Libraries

Free PC access, WiFi & activities.

**01905 822722**

[worcestershires.gov.uk/libraries](http://worcestershires.gov.uk/libraries)

#### Citizens Advice

Bromsgrove & Redditch  
General information & advice  
& specialist debt support.

**0808 278 7890** [cabr.org.uk](http://cabr.org.uk)

#### Council Support

We are here to support you so please keep in touch. Information & advice about housing benefit, council tax support, discretionary housing payments & our essential living fund.

**Bromsgrove District Council**

**01527 881213**

[benefits@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@bromsgrove.gov.uk)

[bromsgrove.gov.uk/benefits](http://bromsgrove.gov.uk/benefits)

**Redditch Borough Council**

**01527 534050**

[hbenefits@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:hbenefits@redditchbc.gov.uk)

[redditchbc.gov.uk/benefits](http://redditchbc.gov.uk/benefits)

It is very important that you continue to pay your rent, so please get in touch if you are struggling financially or worried about paying your rent.

**01527 587000 Option 1**

[housingrevenue@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:housingrevenue@redditchbc.gov.uk)

#### NewStarts

Empowers local individuals & families to overcome their challenges & achieve more in their lives. Providing free assistance to over 1000 households every year in North Worcestershire.

**01527 882410 / 0121 679 2072**

[newstarts.org.uk](http://newstarts.org.uk)

#### Starting Well Partnership

Supports families, parents, children & young people across Worcs to lead happy, healthy & fulfilled lives.

**01905 520 032**

[@StartingWellRB](https://www.facebook.com/StartingWellRB)

[startingwellworcs.nhs.uk](http://startingwellworcs.nhs.uk)

#### Worcestershire

Adult Front Door

**01905 768053**

[worcestershires.gov.uk/](http://worcestershires.gov.uk/costofliving)

[costofliving](http://costofliving)

#### Need mental

health support?

Contact Samaritans

116 123

[samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)

**Thursday Club**  
**4 - 6pm**

**FREE**

**Starts 23rd Nov**

**For 11-14 year olds who are in school years 7-9**

**At Bromsgrove Baptist Church, New Rd, B60 2JD**

**Come along & enjoy food, games, sport, colouring, a warm space & chat with youth workers**

worcestershire County Council TAFAD Bromsgrove Baptist Church



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# 📌 Holiday Information 📌

**NHS**  
Herefordshire and  
Worcestershire

## Don't let germs make mischief in your mind.

If your child is unwell, use the HANDi App to check their symptoms and get instant, NHS-approved medical advice.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

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**NHS**  
Herefordshire and  
Worcestershire

## Don't let bugs play on your mind.

If your child is unwell, use the HANDi App to check their symptoms and get instant, NHS-approved medical advice.

**The conditions covered include:**

<b>Chesty child/baby illnesses:</b>	• Strep A
• Bronchiolitis	• Diarrhoea and vomiting
• Asthma	• Newborn Problems
• Croup	• High Temperature
• Wheezing	• Abdominal Pain
• Asthma	

Scan this QR code for more information!

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Search 'handi' on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

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# ÷ Maths ÷

Maths reasoning work in 4F (and whole of yr4). Using our maths reasoning skills to explore maths problems in context.

Year 4 are super mathematicians!



## 👏 Lockdown Drill 👏

Well done to all the children who carried out a lockdown drill at Catshill First School and Nursery on Thursday.

All children were quiet and followed the instructions given by their teachers. They understood that we were practising so that we can be safe. Mrs Plant was very impressed by their conduct.

We will continue to have regular lockdown and fire drills each term so that the children are aware of what to do in an emergency.



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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.



## 📖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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## 📌 Things to Remember 📌

Spring 1 2024	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nursery	PE	PE		Forest Fun	
RM	PE				Forest Fun
RB	PE		Forest Fun		
Year 1	PE (1E) Forest Fun (1R) Phonics Club	Arts & Crafts Club	Team Games	PE	
Year 2		PE (2FJ) Forest Fun (2F)	PE (2F & 2FJ)		
Year 3			PE	Forest Fun (3S) Ukulele (3B) Football Skills Boys Football Skills Girls	PE
Year 4	TTRS Club	Swimming		PE Football Skills Boys Football Skills Girls	Cornet Continued

\*Please note that there may be some flexibility.

## 🚫 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](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-specific-infectious-diseases).

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



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## 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

## Reminders

- ★ **Found** - Multi coloured scarf on the playground, please see the office if this is yours.
- ★ **Vouchers** - An Epraise has been sent out informing those who are eligible, when free school meal edenred vouchers will be emailed out to cover the Xmas holiday period.
- ★ **Lunch Money** - Just a polite reminder regarding lunch money. Can all parents please provide the correct money where possible, along with name, class and which days your child would like a lunch. **All money should be handed in on a Monday morning.**
- ★ **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 8th January 2024 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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