



🎄 Value for December 🎄

Courtesy

Courtesy is important at all times of year. At Christmas, it is a good time to remind our children to use their good manners. We encourage our children to use **STEPS** - saying **S**orry, **T**hank-you, **E**xcuse me and **P**lease.

🏛️ Catshill Baptist Church Foodbank 🏛️

Thank you so much for your donations for the foodbank so far! We know that this time of year is difficult for many and the cost of living expenses have risen for all, so please only donate if you are able. They will be collecting on Monday, so there is still time to donate if you would like to



The Catshill Baptist Foodbank has helped many of our families and community members, and we are glad to support them at this time.
Many thanks



 **Important Dates for your Diaries** 

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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Jamia Masjid Aqsa Mosque

Year Two visited the Mosque in Wolverhampton. What an amazing time we had. We learned about what Muslims believe and discovered how some beliefs are shared with the Christian faith. The Mosque was so beautiful inside with calligraphy writing on the walls and colourful soft carpets to make kneeling for prayer comfortable. It also had a huge chandelier hanging from the dome which looked very special. It was really interesting to see our Religious Education learning come to life.



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 finish next week

 **Thank You** 

Big shout out to Catshill Under 10's Football Club who did an amazing job at the Catshill Village Hall light switch on, and raised £100 for our school.

And a big thank you to Scythe for their generous donation to the school.

Thank you very much



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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

🏠School Council🏠

The Christmas Raffle are 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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 **Bikeability Balance Bike Training** 
Year 1

An Epraise has been sent out to 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.

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.

 **Hartlebury Castle** 

Celebrate the festive season with an exciting programme of Christmas events at Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire!

Enjoy fun family Christmas weekends with opportunities to meet Santa, relax as you listen to marvellous concerts & evening performances, or get creative in our popular Wreath Making workshops. Or simply pop in for a visit and see the Castle dressed for Christmas with its beautiful decorations.

[For more details please click here](#)

 **Library** 

Look how much the children have been reading this week! The children have been really enjoying their visits to the library and have been reading, talking about books and authors and getting excited for their next visit. Well done children!



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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](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

🧑‍🤔 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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You may already be aware of the Holiday Activities & Food fund (HAF) targeted at children and young people entitled to free school meals.

There will be a variety of free activities available in Bromsgrove, Redditch and throughout Worcestershire during the Christmas Holidays for those children which can be searched here

<https://www.haf-it.co.uk/activities>

📌 Help Over The Christmas Period 📌

Please see the information below for money support and advice

<p>Help For Houses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Support Energy Bills—Cost of Living Payments Childcare Costs Household costs Childcare Costs Finding Work <p>costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk provides access to contacts who can provide support for households.</p> <p>Visit ‘Energy Saving Tips’ Find out what actions you can take to get</p>	<p>Act On Energy</p> <p>We encourage energy conservation by providing free and impartial advice to householders and small businesses in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Coventry, Solihull, Birmingham & the wider West Midlands</p> <p>Household Support Fund</p> <p>For those who have previously received funding from the Household Support Fund prior to 30th September 2022 you can now re-apply for funding – subject to the conditions.</p>
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the trussell trust
City Of Hunger

Food Banks

<p>Worcester City (Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri) 11am—2pm) 0808 2082138 7 Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester WR1 2RS, UK</p>	<p>Malvern Hills Foodbank (Mon—10.15am—12.30pm, Tues 1pm—3.15pm, Thurs 10.15am—12.30pm) 07529 322985 Unit 4, Spring Court, Spring Lane South, Malvern, WR14 1AT</p>
<p>Droitwich (Tues 1pm—3pm & Fri) 07532 130604 / 07532 130604 Droitwich Baptist Church, Ombersley Street East, WR9 8QS</p>	<p>Pershore (Tues 11am— 1pm, Fri 1pm—3pm) 01386555347 St Andrews, Church Walk, Pershore, WR10 1BH</p>
<p>Redditch & Bromsgrove (Mon—Thursday 11am —2pm & Fri 10am— 1pm) 01527 69161 Number 24, Church Green East, Redditch, B98 8DE</p>	<p>Kidderminster (Mon, Wed & Fri 12:30pm—3pm) 015262 916555 Unit 9, Swan Shopping Centre, Blackwell Street, Kidderminster DY10 2DP</p>



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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 13 years. 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 Pastimes / 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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📌 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 📌

- ★ **Found** - Child's black framed Chapmans glasses, we have had these for a while but no one so far has come forward to claim them. Please contact the Office.
- ★ **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 11th December 2023 is week 2 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

 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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