



🌸 Value for February 🌸

Empathy

Because it helps students understand the perspectives, needs, and intentions of others, empathy is a building block of morality and a key ingredient of successful relationships in school and beyond.

+-÷Numbers Day for NSPCC÷--+

The children looked fabulous dressing up for numbers day, and raised a massive £193.50 in support of the NSPCC and school funds. Here are just a few photos for you to enjoy!



+-÷0123456789÷--+



🌲🌳 Forest Fun 🌳🌲



🍵 A Big Thank You 🍵

A big thank you to Meadowbank Tree Services for their kind donation to our Forest Fun area of some new logs for the children and teachers to sit on.



🏠 School Council 🏠

Please keep a lookout for our next sale/raffle.

From Mrs Fannon and the School Council



🏆⚽ After School Clubs - Spring 1 ⚽🏆

The following After School Clubs are running this term (Spring 1)

Monday - TTRS Club - Year 4 (selected pupils)

Monday - Phonics - Year 1 (selected pupils)

Tuesday - Arts & Crafts - Year 1 (selected pupils)

Wednesday - Team Games Year 1

Thursday - Football Skills Boys KS2

Thursday - Football Skills Girls KS2

4.15pm finish and collection from the glass corridor.

Clubs for Spring 1 have now finished and you have been notified if your child has a place at After School Clubs for Spring 2.



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Author of the Month

Each month we will have an author of the month. We want Children at Catshill First School and Nursery to become familiar with an author's work/illustrator's work so that they can identify new books by that author/illustrator independently. Our children will then become interested in reading more books by different authors.



Author of the month
February 2024



Sinéad O'Hart

My name's Sinéad O'Hart and I'm a writer, and enthusiastic reader, of books for children. So far, I've written five novels The Eye of the North, its prequel Skyborn, The Star-Spun Web, The Time Tider, The Silver Road, and The Ravens' Call. I'm really into old things – including anything even faintly medieval, churches, graveyards, antiques, early books, artwork, museums, architecture, and archaeology. I live with my family in a book-filled house in the middle of Ireland where it rains more than you'd think possible, but we're too busy reading to notice.

Our Reading Ambassadors

Meet your new reading ambassadors who will be championing reading for each class in school. These reading experts will help you choose a good book, recommend authors and also be responsible for class reading areas including our wonderful library. They will also be responsible for our Catshill Childrens' Choice voting each half term where we purchase books which children want to see in our school!

RB - Bodhi & Frankie

RM - Evie & Eddie

1R - Emily & Matayo

1E - Nina & Ashley

2F - Zara & Mrihan

2FJ - Daisy & Archie

3S - Omie-Jay & Eddie

3B - Ella & Neo

4F - Riley & Summer

4J - Caitlin & Charlie



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🏠Pride in Presentation Awards 23 - 24🏠

We have been working, across the Catshill Federation, on improving presentation. Today we were pleased to give out our first Pride in Presentation Awards.

Class	Name	Reason: Improved Presentation Perseverance with Presentation High Standards of Presentation
1E	Nina	High Standards of Presentation
	Livvy	Perseverance with Presentation
	Jessica	High Standards of Presentation
1R	Emily	High Standards of Presentation
	Zach	High Standards of Presentation
	Mayah	Perseverance with Presentation
2F	Oakley	High standards of presentation
	Clara	High standards of presentation
	Mrihan	Improved standards of presentation
2FJ	Ryan	Improved Presentation
	Erin	High Standards of Presentation
	Scarlett	Perseverance with Presentation
3B	Bailey	Perseverance with presentation
	Ella	High standards of presentation
	Neo	High standards of presentation
3S	Megan	Perseverance with Presentation
	Stanley	High Standards of Presentation
	Noah	Perseverance with Presentation
4F	Levi	Perseverance in presentation
	Summer	Consistently high levels of presentation
	Freya	Consistent effort in presentation
4J	Bethany	Consistently high levels of presentation
	Charlie	Consistently high levels of presentation
	Olly	Perseverance with presentation



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Science

In Science, year one have been learning about materials and their properties. Today we predicted whether the materials were waterproof. The children (and Mrs Wilkes) were very excited to test them out!



Best day ever!

World Book Day

'Changing Lives Through a Love of Books and Reading'

World Book Day is coming to Catshill First School and Nursery on Friday 8th March.

World Book Day is a celebration of reading, authors, illustrators and books. Sharing stories together for just ten minutes a day will encourage a love of reading and it's fun for everyone! You can read together anywhere and everywhere, from breakfast to bedtime! In the park, on the train, on the sofa, on a plane – reading and sharing stories can happen anywhere at any time.

To celebrate, we would like all pupils and staff to dress up as their favourite book character. Please do not spend lots of money buying new outfits, there are loads you can make for free or very low cost. If you wish to purchase anything premade, then Poundland and Home Bargains do sell very cheap costumes. It is fine to just come in your own clothes.

There are lots of ideas, author information, competitions and fun activities on the World Book Day website - <http://www.worldbookday.com>



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🐉 Lunar New Year 🐉

Saturday 10th February - Year of the Dragon

This week children in Reception have been tasting prawn crackers, noodles, sweet and sour sauce and sweet chilli dip. The children are really enjoying our Lunar New Year celebrations.



📌 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

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.



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Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday it was Internet Safety Day and the children have been learning how to stay safe when using the internet.

Here are some helpful links for your information.

https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/parents/

<https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/download>

Star Assessments

Across the Catshill School federation, from Year 2 onwards, we have invested in a programme called Star Assessments which is used to support the assessment of your child(ren)'s learning.

Your child has taken three tests so far this year. The tests are computer-based and take between 20 - 30 minutes to complete. The tests are adaptive, which means they adjust in difficulty to each answer your child gives.

Your child will be bringing home their Star Assessment Reading and Maths reports.

If you have any questions about the tests, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Your class teacher will also be able to discuss your child's results during the upcoming parents' evenings (27th February and 29th February.)

If you would like to find out more about the tests please watch this short video:

<https://renaissance.widen.net/content/cteqcs1j4u/mp4/Meet-Star-for-Parents-and-Families.mp4?quality=hd&u=e4jaal>

Children's Mental Awareness Week

Help give a voice to children and young people across the UK in Children's Mental Health Week, from 5-11 February 2024.

Children's Mental Health Week is a mental health awareness week that empowers, equips and gives a voice to all children and young people in the UK.

Everyone can take part in Children's Mental Health Week! Download our free resources for **schools** and **families** and find out how you can **take part** to raise vital funds and awareness for children's mental health.

Children's Mental Health Week was launched in 2015 and each year, hundreds of schools, children, parents and carers take part. Now in its 10th year, our theme is 'My Voice Matters'.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>



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Starting Well Partnership
EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



SOLIHULL APPROACH

Understanding your child's behaviour Workshop

Do you have a child aged 2-10 years?

FREE One-off sessions available to parents and carers

1 x 2-hour session on Microsoft Teams -Digital session
(Book for one of the workshops below)

Thursday 22nd February 2024 (Evening) 6:00-8:00pm

Tuesday 5th March 2024 (Lunchtime) 12:30-2:30pm

How to book: Simply scan the QR code which will link you to the bookings page, visit website <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/>

Or call 01905 827391 to book your workshop.



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World Book Day Menu

Friday 8th March

Please note that we have a change to the menu on Friday 8th March. Instead of pizza, we have the below, to celebrate World Book Day.



Introducing Jigsaw our new PSHE programme

We have made some changes to our Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) teaching and from February 19th, we will be using Jigsaw which is a programme that is also used at Catshill Middle School.

For more information, there is a downloadable parent leaflet which you can access here:

<https://jigsawlivescmsuk.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-media/1sfhkbqe/jigsaw-information-leaflet-for-parents-and-carers-2023.pdf>

Part of the PSHE curriculum is to include the statutory Relationships Education, Sex Education and Health Education (RSE). More information can be found in this parent guide:

<https://jigsawlivescmsuk.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-media/u2gb1cnk/rshe-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-leaflet-sep-2023.pdf>

Our classes have all introduced Jigsaw and made a class charter. Each class has a colourful, cuddly Jigsaw piece and/or a Jerry Cat who is one of the characters linked to the programme.

The whole school (and Catshill Middle School) will all follow the same theme at the same time. Our theme for the half term is Healthy Me and Mrs Plant will be launching this in assembly in the first week back after the holidays. For an overview of the whole programme for all year groups, please see this document:

<https://jigsawlivescmsuk.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-media/bvfbdtc0/uk-3-11-12-snapshot-overview-map.pdf>

Please talk to your child's class teacher if you require any further information. Or you could send an epraise to Ms Fay (PSHE lead) or Mrs Freeman (RSE lead) or Mrs Plant (Head of School).



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Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccinations

An increasing number of measles cases are continuing to be seen across the country. While Worcestershire has one of the best rates for uptake, some children who haven't had their MMR could be at risk of getting this serious illness.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine are given to make sure we have the best protection from measles. The first dose is given at 12 months of age and the second dose is given at three years and four months, before starting school. For anybody who did not receive the full vaccination course, your own GP will be able to provide a catch-up MMR vaccination.

The MMR vaccine is a safe and effective combined vaccine that protects against three serious illnesses: Measles, Mumps and Rubella. Overall, Worcestershire has an excellent uptake of the MMR vaccine; for 5-year-olds, the county shows as having an uptake of 96.4% (1 dose) and 91.3% (2 doses). The 1 dose figure is joint highest in the West Midlands region and the 2-dose uptake is the outright highest in the region. Having the vaccine protects not only the child but also reduces the spread of the disease. This relies on as many people as possible being vaccinated and is why Public Health experts in the county are keen to continue to encourage all children to be vaccinated.

Measles is a very infectious viral illness that is spread by coughs and sneezes. It usually starts with cold-like symptoms which can include a high temperature, a runny or blocked nose, sneezing, a cough, sore red eyes and a rash. It spreads very quickly to non-immune children and adults who are unvaccinated or have not previously been infected.

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Public Health are holding pop-up MMR vaccination clinics in these areas. If your child hasn't had the MMR vaccination just turn up. You can ask for an MMR vaccine which does not contain pork ingredients if you prefer.

Not sure if you or your child have, had it? Just check your red NHS book or ask at your local GP.

The clinics are being hosted in libraries on the following dates:

Kidderminster Library – 10th Feb, 9.30am until 4pm
Wythall Library – 10th Feb, 9.30am until 4pm
Redditch Library – 10th Feb, 9.30am until 4pm
Evesham Library – 17th Feb, 9.30am until 4pm
Malvern Library – 17th Feb, 9.30 am until 4pm
The Hive – 17th Feb, 9.30 am until 4pm

The pop-up MMR clinic is free, and no appointment is necessary but if you'd prefer an appointment, you can also book ahead by calling 01527 390030.

If anyone has symptoms of measles, please stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. Do not go to GP surgeries or A & E departments so the illness isn't spread to others.

For more information on measles and the MMR vaccine please visit: Measles - [NHS](https://www.nhs.uk) (www.nhs.uk)



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Cost of Living Information

If you are struggling with the cost of living crisis, Bromsgrove District Council has a handy webpage that provides links to support and advice that is available. This is advice from a wide range of agencies. Even if you don't claim any benefits you may be entitled to support you weren't aware of, and not just monetary support, but good advice from legitimate sources you can trust. Have a look and please share the links with anyone else who may be struggling financially.

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/costofliving

Parent Questionnaire

I'm pleased to add some more responses to our recent parent questionnaire. To see full results and other actions, please see our website link

You said:	So we have:
<p>You would like to have mid-year reports so that you know how well your child is doing.</p>	<p>We have introduced STAR assessments in reading and maths in Y2, Y3 and Y4. Parents/carers will receive termly assessment reports which gives them information on how their child is doing in these areas. There will be another parents evening after half term where the children's learning can be discussed. We are considering further ways to keep you updated with your child's progress and attainment.</p>
<p>You'd like more opportunities for your child to learn other instruments (not just cornet).</p>	<p>Over the last 3 years, we have been fortunate to be granted funding from the David Morgan Music Trust which enabled instrument lessons to be accessed at no cost to parents for all our Year 3 pupils. For 2 years, the children learned cornet (and had funded follow on lessons in Year 4). This year, the instrument was changed to ukulele. We hope that this funding may continue for future year groups.</p> <p>After half term, Mrs Fannon will be running a recorder club for KS2 pupils.</p>



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📌 Reminders 📌

- ★ **Tuesday 27th February - Botanical Gardens Visit - Year 2** - We will be leaving school at 9.10am and arriving back to school at around 3.00pm. An epraise has been sent out with further information re payment and lunch.
- ★ **Wednesday 28th February - Professor McGinty - Year 4** - We are excited to let you know that we have arranged a visit from Professor McGinty, a Time Traveller and Detective, who will be visiting our school to share and teach his 'Interactive History Workshop'. An epraise has been sent out with further information regarding payment.
- ★ **Monday 4th March - Bishops Wood - Year 4** - We are pleased to confirm that we are running an educational visit to Bishops Wood, Stourport on Severn for the children in year 4. An epraise has been sent out with further information re payment and lunch.
- ★ **FSM 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 half term holiday period.
- ★ **Absence** - When reporting an absence can we kindly ask parents and carers to state the child's symptoms: cold, cough, rash, vomiting, diarrhoea etc.
- ★ **Appointments/Medicals/Opticians** - Can we kindly remind parents and carers that all medical, optician, hospital, dental appointments etc, need to be reported to the admin office, either in person or via Epraise or email, so that we can record your child's absence accordingly.
- ★ **Medication** - 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 school office.
- ★ **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.**
- ★ **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



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📌 Things to Remember 📌 Spring 2

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

*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 19th February 2024 is week 3 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 9th February*
- ★ *Please find 2023/2024 term dates [here](#)*
- ★ *Please find 2024/2025 term dates [here](#)*
- ★ *Please do not book holidays in term time.*
- ★ *Spring 2 term starts Monday 19th February 2024.*



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