



Value for November

Tolerance

Tolerance is not about accepting bad behaviour, but accepting “people” for who they are and treating those how “you” wish to be treated.

In assembly on Monday, the children listened to the song 'Everyone is Different' and talked about accepting and celebrating our differences.

Food Bank Collection Week

From Monday 29 November to Friday 3 December

Next week we will be collecting food and Christmassy items for Catshill Baptist Church, who in turn will give to the needy in our community. At this time of the year, we encourage the children to bring in items to school, as listed below for this worthwhile cause.

Packets & 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 pudding, sponge pudding,

Toiletries

Toilet rolls, soap, toothpaste, washing-up liquid, nappies, ladies sanitary items

Christmassy Items

Chocolates

Chocolate coins

Toiletry sets/sprays

Christmassy items welcome

Thank you



 Covid 19 Please Keep Safe 

We continue to have confirmed cases of Covid 19 among our school population.

We have been asked by the Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT) to draw your attention to the information below.

The situation continues to be monitored on a daily basis.

We would advise any member of your household to take a PCR test if they are showing any of the symptoms below.

Cough
Runny nose
Loss of taste/smell
Raised temperature
Headache
Nausea
Sickness and diarrhoea
Lethargy
Rash on torso

Anyone with symptoms should remain at home awaiting the results in an attempt to manage infection control.

We would also suggest that you consider taking additional precautions to limit the spread of infection by reducing their contacts with others outside the school, avoiding close contact with those who may be clinically vulnerable.

Please keep us fully informed or call us for advice if your child shows any symptoms.

We are aware that there are other children, in other classes, who are currently awaiting results of tests and thank parents for their vigilance at this time.

The school remains open and providing your child remains well and symptom free, they can attend as normal. This is being kept under review by LORT.

[When Should I Isolate](#)



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🎄👤 Christmas Dates for your Diaries 👤🎄

More details will follow nearer the time

Wednesday 1st December - School Council Xmas Raffle- lots of super prizes to be won - online tickets will be available from 1st December, an epraise will be sent out with more details.

Friday 3rd December - Festive Friday, non uniform day/festive clothes. Children may wear their own clothes and we encourage something sparkly or Christmassy. On this day, all children will have the opportunity to make decorations for our school tree and their classroom.

Friday 10th December - Marie Curie Penguin Parade - non uniform day/penguin item
More details to follow

Monday 13 December - School Council Christmas Fayre (children only)

Wednesday 15th December - Christmas Dinner £2.80 for children £3.60 for staff
Please [click here](#) to view the menu

Thursday 16th December - Non uniform day/party clothes, parties and we hope to have a visit from Father Christmas

Friday 17th December - Non uniform day for the last day of term

🐎 Horse Power 🐎

One of our pupils, Levi, arrived at school on Wednesday morning in a very unusual way!



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Flu Nasal Vaccinations

Children in years Reception to year 4 received their flu vaccinations on Thursday 25th November. For children who were unable to have their vaccinations due to absence/illness, please call the NHS Worcestershire School Immunisation Team on 01527 390030 to book your appointment.

Winter Sickness Bug

Whilst a lot of focus and attention has been around Covid-19, 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 below.

[NHS Website](#)



Eye Tests for Reception

An Orthoptist will be attending school to offer eye tests to all the children in Reception on Wednesday 15th December.

All children whose parents/carers have NOT declined consent for this test will be screened in school.

A letter has been sent out with your child, please only return if you **DO NOT** want your child to have an eye test.

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 colder 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.

Head Lice

We have had a few reported cases of head lice in the school. Can parents and carers please remain vigilant and follow our 'Head Lice to Dead Lice' information.

[Head Lice to Dead Lice](#)



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🎨 Art 🎨

Year 2 have been creative again this week, this time focusing on the artist Kandinsky the Russian painter and art theorist. They have tried really hard to replicate his style using pen, pencil, crayon and cut out shapes.



Well done Year 2, we think they look fantastic!

👍 Catshill Middle School 👍



Catshill Middle School have launched a brand new Facebook Page, take a look and please follow by clicking on the below link.

<https://www.facebook.com/Catshillmid>

🎅 🌲 School Council 🌲 🎅

A big big thank you to all who contributed.

This week we have raised £60.40 for the gift tags and £242.00 for the creative kits.



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Bad Weather Procedure

During periods of severe weather such as heavy snow, we may need to close the school at short notice. The decision to close the school is only taken after a number of factors have been taken into consideration, such as local weather forecasts, highways information, health and safety and discussions with other local Head Teachers. We also have to ensure that sufficient numbers of staff are able to get to school. Should it become necessary to close the school the following will happen:-

- ★ You will receive an epraise message (please ensure the school office has your up to date contact details).
- ★ A message will be put on our school website www.catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk.
- ★ A message will be on one of the following local radio stations:-
BBC Hereford and Worcester 104FM and 94.7FM
Free Radio 97.6FM and 102.8FM
- ★ A message will be on the Worcestershire Hub web site: www.worcestershire.gov.uk.
- ★ We will put a message on Twitter and Facebook

Christmas Holiday Football

Harriers next community holiday football course for children aged 5-13 years will feature Santa's Penalty Shoot-out and a festive 5-a-side tournament. Courses run 10am-3pm. Cost just £10 per day or £28 for 3 days for online payment. Add £2 for late/on day payment. Half days are available @ £5 per day 10-12.30 or 1-3pm

Kidderminster, Baxter College – Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd December

Bromsgrove, Catshill Middle School - Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st

Worcester, Bishop Perowne College - Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd

Cleobury Mortimer Sports Centre - Thursday 23rd

Please bring both indoor and outdoor footwear, packed lunch, drinks, umbrella and waterproof clothing.

To book a place email harrierscommunity@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01562 823931. Please leave the child's name, age, any medical conditions, an emergency contact and which course you want to attend.

Morrisons - Good to Grow

Thank you to all who collected and donated Morrisons 'Good to Grow' vouchers, we have been able to buy sets of gardening equipment for the children's classes.



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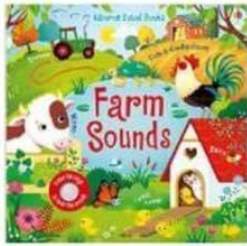
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Stuck for ideas this Christmas!

Here are some great present ideas from the Speech and Language Team to help with your child's learning.

A Speech and Language Therapist's Christmas List

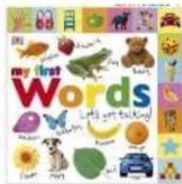
A click clack track or a marble run – These are great for early turn taking. Have fun teaching them to listen by seeing whether they can wait for ready....steady....go!



A book with sound effects – Learning to make pretend noises such as animal sounds or transport noises is a great stepping stone to real words.



Role play toys – We love toys that help children pretend! Farms.. teaset.. garages...doll's houses. Watch what children are doing and give them a simple commentary. It really helps them link the words with what they are seeing and doing



First words book – You just can't beat photos of real objects for babies and toddlers! They are much easier for them to make sense of than books with drawings. A first words book with real photos is a brilliant investment!

A word play book – We love books that introduce children to the joy of words and this one is just brilliant! If you have a flair for the dramatic you will love reading this to your little one and they will love listening to you... and a love of words is a gift for life!

The Book With No Pictures
B.J. Novak



A turn taking game – Games like this are a great way for children to learn to take turns... and maybe even learn to cope with not being the winner.. a fantastic skill for school and life!

A nursery rhyme book – Even the youngest child can enjoy sharing a rhyme. It helps them to share attention, listen to the sounds in words and learn to love books.



Play doh – What is it? Is it a cake or a truck or a dog? Only they know! A great way to release their imagination 😊



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Online Safety

Is your child safe online? Do you have parental controls in place?

There are concerns that more and more children are accessing inappropriate online content, playing games not suited to their age group and opening links to adult websites. This all has an impact on behaviour and attitudes. Primary and First School age pupils are no longer immune.

Please use the following links to support and for further information on this subject.

[Online Safety for Children - Tips & Guides
Parents and Carers](#)

[What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TikTok](#)

We all want our children to be safe online. Why not try the free Google Interland game to help your child learn about online safety?

This engaging game is both fun and educational.

[Google Interland](#)

Reminders

Just a gentle reminder that jewellery, nail varnish and toys from home are not allowed in school, and long hair should be tied back where possible. Please check out our school uniform rules on our website for further details.

Can parents please be aware that any dinner money (Monday mornings), medical forms or sick absence needs to be dropped off or reported to the admin office.

Polite Reminder

Can parents please be aware when collecting children from Catshill First School and Nursery, not to park in front of neighbours driveways or block in other cars. We have also been made aware that The Dock Medical Centre is also being used for parking up when picking up, which is strictly for the sole use of their staff and visitors.

Many thanks

● 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 29th November 2021 is week 1 for our dinner menu. You can find the menu on our website

<https://www.catshillfirst.co.uk/our-school-day/> ✓

★ Please send all dinner money to school on a Monday ✓

★ All children have active sessions every day such as PE, Forest School or fun on the Trim Trail. It is important that children attend school wearing suitable clothing and footwear for these activities. ✓

★ Log on to Rising Stars to access your child's online reading books. ✓

 Term dates 

★ *This half term ends Friday 17th December 2021*

★ *Please find next year's term dates [here](#)*

★ *Please do not book holidays in term time.*

★ *First half of Spring Term begins: Wednesday 5th January 2022*



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