



# COTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

Friday 11th September 2020

### Welcome Back Everyone!

I am absolutely delighted to welcome everyone back to school after what for some children is more than six months away. We are so pleased to have seen so many children return to school and enjoy their lessons and playtimes with their friends. As far as possible, we are trying to ensure that the school is running as normal, although we are having to make adjustments as we go along. A big thank you to all parents for having patience with us at the end of the school day. We could see that things clearly weren't working at the start, but the new procedure of bigger time gaps between year group pick ups seems to be working. I am very aware that this is an inconvenience to parents with children in different year groups so I would like to say thank you for being patient. We've written some guidance for parents for when they are on the playground and we would so appreciate it if you would follow this. The key driver for us is to keep everyone safe.

On page 2 there is (more!) guidance on Covid-19 and if children are unwell. We are very aware that it's all rather complicated so please do call the school and ask to speak to Miss Lacey, Mrs Burnett or some of the office staff if you'd like to talk through any concerns. The key thing is to keep your child at home if they are unwell, have cough, a fever or have lost their sense of taste or smell.

I wish all families a lovely and relaxing weekend. Miss Lacey.

### You are not alone!

Although the school is now partially open for some families, we want you to know that we are still here for everyone in our school community. If you are struggling in any way, be it with school work, behaviour or providing food for your family, please feel free to contact us at school on **0121 464 2865** or email us on:

**[j.willetts@cotridge.bham.sch.uk](mailto:j.willetts@cotridge.bham.sch.uk)**  
**[z.burnett@cotridge.bham.sch.uk](mailto:z.burnett@cotridge.bham.sch.uk)** or

### Dates for your diary

- ◆ Tues 15th Sep: Individual school photos

### Teacher Training Days:

- ◆ Monday 2nd November 2020
- ◆ Thursday 1st April 2021
- ◆ Friday 28th May 2021

### Playground Pick Up

**Please use the one way system. In through the carpark gate, out through the two pedestrian gates.**

**It is appreciated if all adults on the playground wear a mask.**

**Please follow social distancing guidelines, keeping 2m apart at all times.**

**Only one adult for each family – we are trying to keep adult numbers on the playground as low as possible.**

**Children in Year 6 can meet their parents in the infant playground. Please just let the teacher know.**

**Please don't let children play on the playground equipment at home time. This means extra cleaning for us and we're trying to keep the children's bubbles separate.**



Follow Cotteridge Primary School on Twitter where we will share and celebrate children's achievements, successes, events and school updates.

### Food Bank

From next week we will be running our food bank again to support families in our community who are currently in need. If you would like to take advantage of our food bank and our community's generosity please get in touch with Mrs Burnett or Mrs Smith and they can ensure that you are supported. Please do not feel ashamed to ask for help - these are unprecedented times and we are all here to help!

A donation box will be placed by the exit gates each day for any donations of non perishable foods and toiletries.

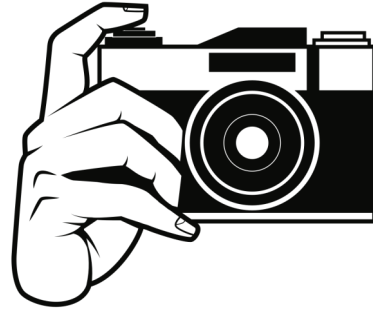
The food bank was a huge success before we broke up and during the summer holidays—thank you everyone!



### School Photographs

On Tuesday 15th September all children will have their individual photograph taken during the school day. Please make sure that they are in uniform and looking smart.

Due to the current situation we will not be able to offer family group or sibling photographs, as this will break our bubbles. We are sure that you understand!



### Guidance for families on Covid-19 and illness.

If your child or someone in your household has any **one** of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

it is important that you do not attend school and stay at home. You should arrange for a coronavirus test and tell the school the test results. Please let the school know the reason for your child's absence.

To book a test call 111 or 119 or go online by searching: NHS get a coronavirus test.

Our local test centre is at the University of Birmingham or a test can be posted to your home address.

If you are unsure what to do, please call either Mrs Burnett or Miss Lacey on 0121 464 2865.

Until we have the results of the test, your child(ren) will be unable to return to school.

Please note, if you have more than one child at school, even if only one child is displaying symptoms, all children must remain off school until the child displaying symptoms has received a negative test result. Alternatively, the child with symptoms may quarantine for 10 days whilst the rest of the household should quarantine for 14 days.

Children should not return to school if they feel unwell. This is even if they have had a negative test result.

If your child has a fever, they should not return to school until their temperature has been normal for 48 hours.

In the event of a positive test result, please call the school office and ask to speak to Mr Willetts or Miss Lacey as soon as you are able.

We understand this is a complicated situation, please feel free to discuss any questions with us.

## Birthdays

Birthdays are important to us all but they are particularly important when you are a child. Therefore, to recognise this, when it is a child's birthday they will be able to wear clothes other than their uniform for their special day.

If their birthday falls at a weekend the child can choose whether they wear their non-uniform on the Friday before their birthday or on the Monday following their birthday. If the child's birthday falls within a school holiday they can attend in non-uniform on either the day we break up before the holidays or on the day we return to school.

With regards to sweets etc. being brought into school for birthdays; if you wish to do so please ensure that anything sent in is individually wrapped so that the teacher can give them out. We will not give out anything which is not prewrapped because of possible Covid transmission.

If there are any queries about this new arrangement, please don't hesitate in contacting us.



## Hand sanitiser

Washing hands and maintaining good levels of hygiene is obviously very important at the moment and we try to ensure that children wash their hands regularly throughout the school day. However to get 30 children to wash their hands in one sink in a classroom is taking a long time and is impacting significantly on learning time.



Therefore from Monday we do intend, at times, to use hand sanitiser with the children as well as soap and water. Most children are used to using hand sanitiser now and are using it on a regular basis at home.

Sanitiser will speed up hand cleaning significantly, with the teacher able to quickly go around and squirt a small amount into each child's hands.

All sanitiser will be provided by the school and children do not need to bring their own.

We will assume that you give consent for your child to use the hand sanitiser we provide, unless we hear from you to say otherwise. If you don't want them to use it please contact us.