



# COTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 10

Friday 20th November 2020

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### ATTENDANCE

Whole School Target is 97%

	EYFS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Attendance %	N/A	95%	95%	96%	93%	97%	95%

From Friday 13th November to Thursday 19th November inclusive

Whole School Attendance: 95%



Attendance Superstars For This Week: 5PE & 6H 98%

As we plough through the Autumn Term, the children continue to work very hard across school. It has been lovely to see the work they are engaged in and it is always pleasing to get visits from children who are keen to show me their work. I popped into all classes this week to have a look at writing and I have to say that Allycia in 3A impressed me with her use of detail and language in her explanation text about how to wash a woolly mammoth.

Across school, staff are using high quality texts and class novels to engage our children in exciting writing-Year 4 have been writing newspaper articles, Year 5 have created 3D monsters linked to Greek Myths as a stimulus for non-chronological reports, Year 6 have been learning about the Blitz for use in their World War Two portal stories and Nursery have been practising writing their names-they are making such good progress!

Writing in Year 2 has also been particularly exciting this week as the children received new English books with special handwriting lines-they find the books very helpful in supporting their letter formation and are very proud of their presentation. Hopefully we will get to show you their books at some point in the future. Across school we have adopted a new handwriting scheme and in Year 1 and 2, correct pencil grip is very important-I know that Miss Howlett and Miss Peters have been giving lots of Smart Tickets for super effort. Well done Year 1!

Well done to our Reception children who are working hard at home, it is wonderful to see so many of you on the morning call. I know the teachers love to see your smiling faces each day and Mrs Briley is certainly getting into the swing of live teaching with her impressive ukulele performances. Keep up the good work everyone!

Once again, a big thank you to all our parents and carers who support us in keeping our whole school community safe by wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, moving swiftly off the playground and following our one way system on the playground.

I wish you all a safe and restful weekend. *Mrs Tucker*

### You are never alone!

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.willets@cotridge.bham.sch.uk](mailto:j.willets@cotridge.bham.sch.uk)

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

[k.lacey@cotridge.bham.sch.uk](mailto:k.lacey@cotridge.bham.sch.uk)

### 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.

### Diary Dates

#### November 2020

Mon 30th Nursery Photos

#### December 2020

Tue 15th EYFS & KS1 Xmas Showcase 10am.  
KS2 Xmas Showcase 1:45pm

Wed 16th Christmas Dinner

Thu 17th KS2 Xmas Showcase 10am. EYFS and  
KS1 Xmas Showcase 1:45pm

Fri 18th Last day— school closes normal time

#### Teacher Training Days:

Thursday 1st April 2021 and Friday 28th May 2021



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

## Christmas Showcases

This year we will be unable to do any form of Nativity play or performances, as we usually do, because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban, the shepherds have been furloughed and the Inn Keeper is shut because of Lockdown 2.0.

Therefore as a result we will be doing Christmas Showcases where each class will perform via Zoom for 5 minutes, singing Christmas songs etc. Parents will get Zoom invites so that they can watch the classes perform from home. This way, at least we can still have some form of Christmas celebration this year.

There will be 2 performances for the children in Years 3,4,5 and 6 on Tuesday 15th December at 1:45pm and on Thursday 17th December at 10am.

Children in Nursery, Reception Year 1 and Year 2 will perform their showcases on Tuesday 15th December at 10am and then on Thursday 17th December at 1:45pm. Please note that the Nursery children will only be performing once, on the Tuesday morning.

Further details regarding Zoom logins for these Showcases will be sent out in the coming weeks.



## Guidance for families on Covid-19 and illness for children at school.

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. 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.**

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

Whilst children are isolating, they are able to access work online. Please head to our school website, under 'Parents' then 'Covid 19' for guidance.

**REMINDER: To report a child's absence due to Covid, please report this via the online form on our school website. There are two forms—one for reporting an absence due to displaying symptoms and awaiting a test/ test results and one for reporting an absence due to receiving a positive test result. This new system will enable parents and carers to contact school quickly. This means that you can contact us at any time with this information, including when school is closed.**

**When you submit a form, an alert will go to the senior leadership team who will seek advice and take the recommended actions.**

## School Video and Question and Answer

### Sessions for Prospective Parents

As we are unable to hold our open sessions for prospective Reception parents in the usual way this year, we have made a video about the school which is now on our website and we will be hosting several virtual question and answer sessions. These sessions will be held on Zoom, the links for which are also on our website. These question and answer sessions will be an opportunity for prospective parents to ask questions of members of our Senior Leadership Team and our Early Years Phase Leader.



## School PTA

We hope you enjoyed your homemade Christmas cards from the children, and managed to get your orders in on time (deadline is 3pm today). Thank you for cooperating with the fast turnaround, it is so we can get them back to you asap! Also, thank you to everyone who sent in donations last Friday for Children In Need—we raised an incredible £261.12!! It was great seeing the children wearing their spotty accessories!

If you would like to join or get in touch with the PTA, please do so via [cotteridgepta@gmail.com](mailto:cotteridgepta@gmail.com).

## School Christmas Dinner

The children will be able to enjoy a school Christmas dinner on Wednesday 16th December. If your child would like to have a Christmas dinner, please book a dinner for this date on School Money by Wednesday 2nd December.



## Ex Cathedra Story Making Competition

Please send your stories to school ASAP. Children can write a fictional word story (no more than 500 words in length), picture story or a combination of both.



<https://excathedra.co.uk/education-participation/singing-medicine/lets-make-a-story/>

## Messages For Class Teachers

If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher please could you phone the office on 0121 464 2865 and ask for a telephone call back. We're trying to keep conversations on the playground to a minimum to keep everyone safe and to clear the playground as soon as possible. We really do appreciate everyone's cooperation with keeping our school community safe.



## Christmas Cards and Last Day Of Term

This year, we will have to do things a little differently with regards Christmas cards. Children can bring in Christmas cards between 1<sup>st</sup> and 15th December only for children in their Year Group. Each class will have their own small post box for the children to post their cards into. The cards will then be quarantined for 2 days and will be given out during the last day of term – Friday 18th December.

You will also recall that normally we would close for the Christmas holidays at 1:30pm. However, as the children have already missed so much school this year, we felt it would not be appropriate to finish early this time so, on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, school will be closing at the normal time. Afterschool Club will also be available as normal on this day.

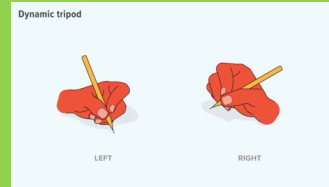


## Preparing for home learning

In the event of a Year group bubble closing due to a positive case of Covid-19 and to begin home learning using BGFL365, we are asking parents with an Apple device to download the BGFL365 App which includes a camera icon. Children in Years 1,2 and 3 will complete any home learning in their Home Learning Book. Once logged in with your child's details (found in the front of home learning books) parents will then be able to take a photograph which will be automatically be uploaded into your child's individual file. Parents with an Android device will need to type [login.bgfl365.uk](https://login.bgfl365.uk) into a web browser, log in using their child's details (in the front of their home learning book). Click on My Files, Upload Files, Choose Files and camera. The photo of your child's work will appear in the My Files folder for the teacher to give feedback.

## Pencil Grip

Across school we are using the dynamic tripod grip.



To support how we are teaching pencil grip in school, please encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly whenever they are drawing or writing at home. Watch the below video with your child to reinforce the tripod pencil grip.

**How to HOLD A PENCIL!! - (Easy for Kids!) - with Ally the Alligator**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RclxBdiuvOM>

## Is your child getting enough sleep?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sleep-and-tiredness/how-much-sleep-do-kids-need/>



**4 years old** = 11 hours 30 minutes

**5 years old** = 11 hours

**6 years old** = 10 hours 45 minutes

**8 years old** = 10 hours 15 minutes

**10 years old** = 9 hours 45 minutes

**7 years old** = 10 hours 30 minutes

**9 years old** = 10 hours

**11 years old** = 9 hours 30 minutes

**Doing the same relaxing things in the same order and at the same time each night helps promote good sleep:**

- A warm (not hot) bath will help your child relax and get ready for sleep.
- Keeping lights dim encourages your child's body to produce the sleep hormone, melatonin.
- Once they're in bed, encourage your child to read quietly or listen to some relaxing music, or read a story together.

## **Avoid screens in the bedroom**

- Tablets, smartphones, TVs and other electronic gadgets can affect how easily children get to sleep.
- Older children may also stay up late or even wake in the middle of the night to use social media.
- Try to keep your child's bedroom a screen-free zone, and get them to charge their phones in another room.
- Encourage your child to stop using screens an hour before bedtime.

## Home Learning Book

In September, all children brought home a Home Learning Book in the event of **self isolation** due to a family member or close contact testing positive or if they are **awaiting test results**.



If your child is absent for either of these reasons, please follow the link below to the Oak National Academy website. In each year group from Reception to Year 6 there are lessons that your child can complete into their Home Learning Book and bring into school to be marked by their teacher.

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year>