



COTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Issue 17

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that everyone is staying well and calm in these strange times. Whether you are at home, home schooling your children or they are coming into school to learn, it isn't easy for any of you and I thank you for your ongoing hard work and efforts with your children's education.

Several parents, have this week, been in touch about their child(ren) not wanting to do their work and feeling demotivated. I can totally understand how they are feeling, not being in school, but if they can try and do at least one or two pieces of work each day, this will help them when they return to school after lockdown.

The biggest thing I would suggest for everyone, if you haven't already done so, is to establish a routine. A set time to get up and a set time to go to bed is crucial. I would suggest that these times are exactly the same as they would be during normal term time. When they get up, get the children dressed. This way they are more likely to be in work mode rather than feeling that they can lounge around etc. Access the morning calls, if you can, being the same time each day aids that routine. If your child is struggling with motivation, break learning down into bite size chunks. Maybe do 30 minutes learning then have a snack, or play a game for 15 minutes and then go back to the work. If your children are really struggling, do one learning activity and then maybe reward them with some quality time with you, if you have the time to do that. Routine is important to us all and at this crazy time we need to maintain some form of it for our sanity.

If you are having difficulties getting your child to conform to your routine, then please get in touch with me. If they are not going to bed when you ask, if they won't do any work at all etc. then please contact me and I will support you in any way I can. I am happy, along with other members of my team to speak to children over the phone, via Teams or in person (socially distanced) to reinforce your routine messages. Being the big baddy and telling the children that they have to do what they are told comes naturally to me!

I know from my experiences with my own children, that many children listen more to their teachers than they do their parents. You are not alone, I am happy to help in any way I can!

Keep smiling, stay safe and strong, and establish those routines!

Jason Willetts

E Safety

As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child stay safe online, and you don't need to be an expert on the internet to do so! There are lots of user-friendly websites that offer tips, advice, guides and resources to help support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively. This advice and support is frequently updated to address the expectations of online learning during this period of Covid-19 lockdown.

Please check out the e-safety page on our school website, in particular Internet Matters, which has helpful videos and advice.

As always, if you have any concerns please contact us through the school office or by email. **Zoe Burnett**



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.willetts@cotridge.bham.sch.uk
z.burnett@cotridge.bham.sch.uk or
k.lacey@cotridge.bham.sch.uk



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

Covid Testing **IMPORTANT!**



Unfortunately, we have been made aware of another case whereby a child has been sent in to school whilst their sibling was awaiting Covid test results. Those test results have since returned positive. It was only upon receipt of the positive test result that the school was informed of the fact that a sibling had been tested. Fortunately, at the time of writing this, the child who was in school is not displaying any symptoms and remains well. They will also now be isolating from school for the recommended time. However, this has potentially put other children and staff at risk by being in school at a time when the entire household should have been isolating.

Can we take this opportunity to remind **ALL** Parents/Carers of the following:

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

You should arrange for a coronavirus test for the person displaying symptoms and tell the school at your earliest opportunity.

Everyone in your household must isolate until you have received a negative test result. **This is also the case if you have had a test without experiencing any symptoms.** Please inform the school of your test results as soon as you have received them, whether negative or positive. Even in the event of a negative test result, children should not return to school if they feel unwell. If your child has a fever, they should not return to school until their temperature has been normal for 48 hours.

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.



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“It's very user friendly, if you go on you can add it to your computer and any website that you go onto that you can collect a donation, it will alert you. It also works on booking holidays, lots of insurance companies etc. so it becomes very easy for people to use”.

Helen Couriel (one of our PTA members)

Lateral Flow Testing For School Staff

We would like to make you aware that the staff at Cotteridge School have been asked to take part in the Lateral Flow Testing for schools. It is only for staff and not for pupils. Starting from Tuesday 26th Jan, staff will be taking 2 Lateral Flow Tests per week—on a Tuesday night and a Friday night. If all staff receive negative test results, no further action is required. However, if any member of staff tests positive, they and their household will begin isolating. Depending on where they work within the school and who they would have been in close contact with, we may have to close a bubble. This will be communicated to Parents/Carers in the same way we have communicated previous bubble closures. The member of staff who has tested positive will immediately book a PCR test (at a testing centre) to confirm the result. If the PCR test returns negative, then the member of staff and their household ends their isolation and the bubble can be re-opened. If the PCR test returns positive, then the member of staff, their household and the closed bubble will remain in isolation until the date Public Health England have advised. We have been informed that even if the 2 tests have different results, the PCR test result overrides the Lateral Flow Test result. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact us.