



COTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Issue 19

Friday 5th February 2021

As we race towards half term, I would like to remind you that we have our usual Parents' Evenings next week and further details about how these will work are located elsewhere on this newsletter. The teachers are looking forward to catching up with you and sharing the progress your child had made prior to Lockdown 3 and to maybe chat with how they are coping at the moment with the changes in learning and routine.

Whether you as a parent have established a new routine during lockdown, particularly with regards to home learning, or you are one who is currently struggling with your child every day, we recognise that life is tough for you all at the moment so as always, I am offering the support of the school.

We do have nearly 30% of the children in every day and to be honest, to ensure everyone's safety, we will struggle to accept any more into school for their learning. However there are other ways we can help and support you, other than taking your children back into class.

We are always available for advice and support via email or phone. We recognise that some parents are in need of moral support or simply a chat with another adult. Many children will do what their teachers say but push the boundaries with their parents. It was no different with my own girls! If you want a message reinforced, please contact us and we can speak with your child about how they should be behaving or what they should be doing. We can offer support via our Food Bank, or by providing stationery or paper - just let us know! We can offer some IT support when things aren't working as they should or show you where to access things but unfortunately, at the moment we cannot offer the loan of any more devices as they have all been distributed. We can also provide emotional support remotely via our Pastoral Team for children who are maybe struggling with their feelings or emotions. We are here for you, so please use us if you need to, you are not alone and it is a strength to ask for help when you need it!

I am sure that you are all doing your very best and we are grateful for your efforts. Don't be too hard on yourselves if things don't go as you planned. Try and get your child to do some work every day but don't stress if they don't do it all because you are struggling as a family to juggle the demands of home schooling and working from home as well as parenting and surviving in a pandemic! Being a parent is the hardest job in the world at any time let alone now. Take care of yourself, try to laugh and have fun with your family - everyone's mental health and sanity are the most important things at this time!

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.

Parents' Evening

Tuesday 9th 3:00pm to 6pm

Thursday 11th 3:00pm to 6pm

Hopefully you will already have booked an appointment. If not, please log in to Teachers2Parents using your School Money log in as soon as possible. There are not many available slots left.

This term we will be using Microsoft Teams for Parents' Evening meetings and therefore you will need your child's BGfL log in. This is the log in that they use for Home Learning, but if you would like a reminder, please call the school office in advance.

To access your child's Parents' Evening please follow the steps below.

1. Log into BGfL Launch under your child's log in and click on the Home Learning tile for their year group. We would recommend you do this **5 minutes before the appointment** is due to start.
2. When in Home Learning, click on the Parents' Evening Feb 2021 tile.
3. Select your child's teacher's name and the day of your appointment. For example, it might be *Mrs Howlett Tuesday Parents' Evening*.
4. If given the option how to access the meeting and you do not have the Teams app, choose the middle browser option.
5. You will then be placed in the lobby until the teacher is ready to admit you for the meeting.
6. At the end of the meeting please click on the red leave button.

This is the first time Parents' Evening will have been via Teams and we trust that it will be a success. If you are having problems however, please call the school office and ask for some technical support from Miss Lacey, Mrs Tucker or Mrs Darby.

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

Chinese New Year Dinner

We will be having a special dinner on Thursday 11th February in celebration of Chinese New Year. Please see the menu below for the available meal options. Please note: these will be the only food options on this day. If your child would not like any of these, please provide them with a packed lunch from home on this day. If your child would like a Chinese New Year dinner on 11th February, please book and pay for a school dinner on School Money in the usual way.



PTA Corner

This has been a very difficult time for everyone, so let's wind down from the end of term and have a bit of fun :)



- ◆ Friday 12th February, 7:30pm, via Zoom.
- ◆ £5 per family.
- ◆ Email cotteridgepta@gmail.com for details of how to make payment, then when payment has been received you will get the zoom link and further details. One email per household.
- ◆ You are welcome to invite family and friends, once we have received their payment they will get the link.
- ◆ Make sure you have plenty of drinks and snacks at the ready!

Don't forget to send your child's photo for the VIRTUAL CLASS PHOTOS!

The deadline for pictures is Monday 8th February. You can save the image as your child's name and class

Email photos to helen@brightstarsphotography.co.uk



Thank you to everyone who has signed up to Easy Fundraising! We have raised £50 alone just from people doing their shopping online via www.easyfundraising.co.org.uk Once you install it onto your computer it will just collect donations when you shop normally, so free money for the school!

Thank you, from the PTA.

Weekly Challenge

As it is Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of "Expressing yourself" the weekly challenge is for children to do just that and express themselves in their preferred way. That could be through dance, drama, music, art, painting, dressing up, singing etc. They can then share these via email to j.willetts@cottridge.bham.sch.uk or tweet them and tag us @CottridgeS. In the assembly today, the Senior Leadership Team expressed themselves through song and their performance can be seen on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMPgfxJTK_Q . The words to their song are also printed below:

Listen as Lockdown unfolds

Challenge what the future holds
Try and keep your head up to the sky
Missing friends, may cause you tears
Go ahead release your fears
Talk about your worries
Don't be ashamed to cry
We Gotta Be
We Gotta Be tough, We Gotta Be bold, We Gotta Be stronger
We Gotta Be good, We Gotta be smart , We Gotta work harder
We Gotta Be kind, We Gotta Be calm, we gotta stick together
All we know, all we know
Look to brighter days
Follow what your parents say
Read a little every day
Try to do the work which all your teachers set
Exercise your body too
'specially when you're feeling blue
My oh my, yeah, hey, hey
We Gotta Be tough, We Gotta Be bold, We Gotta Be stronger
We Gotta Be good, We Gotta be smart , We Gotta work harder
We Gotta Be kind, We Gotta Be calm, we gotta stick together
All we know, all we know
Look to brighter days

Hang on in there, we are right behind you
Helping you at home if you have challenges
School keeps on caring
So you aren't on your own
Cottridge is a family and a wonderful place

Listen as Lockdown unfolds
Challenge what the future holds
Try and keep your head up to the sky
Missing friends, may cause you tears
Go ahead release your fears
My oh my, hey, hey, hey

We Gotta Be tough, We Gotta Be bold, We Gotta Be stronger
We Gotta Be good, We Gotta be smart , We Gotta work harder
We Gotta Be kind, We Gotta Be calm, we gotta stick together
All we know, all we know
Look to brighter days (Repeat this chorus)

Got to be tough
Got to be bold
Got to be strong
Do what your parents say
Got to work hard
Not too, too hard
All we know is look to brighter days
We Gotta Be tough, We Gotta Be bold, We Gotta Be stronger
We Gotta Be good, We Gotta be smart , We Gotta work harder
We Gotta Be kind, We Gotta Be calm, we gotta stick together
Yeah!
We Gotta Be tough, We Gotta Be bold, We Gotta Be stronger
We Gotta Be good, We Gotta be smart , We Gotta work harder
We Gotta Be kind, We Gotta Be calm, we gotta stick together
All we know, all we know
Look to brighter days

