



COTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Issue 20

Friday 12th February 2021

What a half term!

Thank you all for your wonderful support this half term. I think it really does highlight what an amazing school community we have. Please do have a good rest over half term, restrict screen time and get some fresh air. I have included below a number of ways of spending some quality time together during the holidays. Hopefully, by the time we return, we'll know more about a date for whole school re-opening. After half term, I would be extremely grateful if you would continue to only send children into school if it is absolutely necessary so that our teachers can maintain the quality of home learning for everyone. Thank you again for your considerate approach to accessing school places.

Scavenger hunt hikes Even if you can't go too far or don't have too much green space nearby, you can still make a walk fun with a scavenger hunt. Make a list of things for your child or children to tick off as you walk around the neighbourhood, park or local area. Make a list for them to try and tick off – spotting different birds, bugs and more.

Quarantine time capsule A bit of an understatement here, but we are living through history right now. In years to come, when Covid-19 is discussed the way the plague or smallpox is mentioned in history books now, you might want a unique way to remember the smaller details of living through it. Have your child locate items around the house that are unique to lockdown habits you've formed as a family and put them into a time capsule. Then, when you decide to years down the line, you can open it together and reminisce. Bury something in the garden – you won't even know what you might forget between now and the future.

Teach your child new recipes If you are a working parent, you may find it difficult find time to entertain your child during half term. But why not use time that has already been put aside? Whilst you're cooking, get your child involved and try out a new recipe together. Cook up a storm together – bonus points if you can trick them into thinking the washing up is fun.

Teach them new skills Have some bonding time and even get them to help out to lighten your load.

Set a challenge Feeling like you've achieved something is an added boost of serotonin that isn't unwelcome in these trying times. Challenge yourselves as a family to do something – nail 10,000 steps a day, read a set number of books, etc. – during half term, and let yourself have a reward if you achieve it.

Mad Hatter's tea party Why not make your child's lunch or snack time even more exciting by attaching a theme? The Mad Hatter's tea party is the perfect way to get your child dressed up and excited about an event again. Mad Hatter tea parties have extravagant decorations and striking costumes, which you can ask your child to craft for the big day. This is the perfect way to have a sensible, family celebration and use the half term period to create precious memories.

Create a soundscape of your house Create a soundscape together by going on a journey around the home to find different sounds. Whether it be the microwave beeping or scraping a stick against a wall in the garden, each time they find a sound use your phone and record it. Click pause until you find the next one, then record again. When you both listen to it back, you will have a soundscape of all the noises around your house.

Organise a virtual field trip While we're temporarily limited by Covid-19 safety restrictions, imagination knows no boundaries. A virtual field trip is a fantastic way to teach your child about different countries and cultures. There are plenty of virtual reality kits you can use now to make an immersive at-home trip, or you can just use the power of the internet. There are plenty of ways to do this including visiting the English Heritage website to explore England's history or using Google Street View to virtually visit another country. You can even use other everyday gadgets to enhance the experience. Teach them about Carnival, for example, and make a playlist full of Brazilian-inspired songs.

Have some quality time with your lovely children and forget about home learning for a week - enjoy!

Jason Willetts



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

Covid 19 Cases During Half Term

We have a responsibility to support Public Health with contact tracing for positive cases where a child or member of staff has spent any time in school in the 48 hours before the onset of symptoms. This means that once we have broken up for half term today, the 12th February, and a child displays symptoms this Saturday or Sunday, it is important that you inform us. We then have a duty to contact any identified close contacts and instruct them to self-isolate for 10 days.

Please use the form on our website if your child receives a positive test result and they displayed symptoms on Saturday 13th or Sunday 14th February. If your child tests positive, but symptoms did not begin until Monday 15th, you will still need to notify us and the household must isolate for 10 days from the first sign of symptoms, but we will not have to take any action for the rest of the school community.

You can find the online reporting form at: www.cotteridgeprimary.co.uk > Parents > Covid 19 Information and Home Learning > Covid 19 School Contact Forms > then click on the option for



Birmingham Trees for Life

(BTfL) Competition

Photograph nature, photograph trees, photograph green spaces to document your world through your eyes. We are excited to see your natural surrounding through you photographs!

BTfL wants to exhibit your photographs of trees and nature to inspire everyone to never take their green spaces for granted and always celebrate nature and all it's wonder!

This week's challenge is to take a nature photo. It could be of: trees, parks, wildlife, your back garden, the view outside your window, birds, flowers, sky lines or landscapes.

Please tweet us your photo @CotteridgeS and tag in @BhamTrees4Life.

Alternatively, you can email us on enquiry@cotridge.bham.sch.uk and we will tweet your photo for you.

As BTfL will exhibit the photos online, please only enter the competition if you are happy for your photo to be shown on social media and the BTfL virtual gallery. There will be a prize for the winner although we're not sure what this will be yet!

Good luck everyone!

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

School Money

There are a few parents/ carers who owe money for school dinners or breakfast/ afterschool club.

Please could **all** parents/ carers log in to their School

Money accounts over the half term to see if they owe any dinner money or wrap around care fees. If you do, please can you ensure that this is cleared before Monday 22nd February 2021. Any outstanding fees may result in the withdrawal of your child's space in breakfast/ afterschool club or the postponement of school dinners for your child until all monies are paid. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

