

COTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

30th January 2026



The Best Gift You Can Give Your Child? It's Free!

Hi everyone,

I know life is hectic – juggling work, home, school runs, and everything else in between. But here's something that might surprise you: the most valuable thing you can give your child doesn't cost a penny—your time and attention! That's it. Simple as that. Your time and your chat are worth more than any toy, gadget or treat. (And yes, we know that's a relief to your bank account after Christmas!)

Picture this: you're at the school gate, phone glued to your ear, finishing that call or firing off a quick text. Your child comes out, excited to see you, and you give them a quick "hello" whilst still scrolling or talking. What does that tell them? It says whoever's on that phone is more important than they are, that their day can wait and being busy beats being present.

I get it – life's demanding. But those first few minutes at the end of a school day matter more than you might think. Plus, let's be honest, most of those calls could probably wait. Forget the latest craze or expensive days out. Children just want YOU. What makes a real difference is someone asking about their day (and somebody actually listening!) "What made you giggle today?" "What was tricky?" "Who did you play with?" (Bonus points if you can remember the names of their friends – we know there are a lot of them!)

Be there, properly, pop the phone away at pick-up time, look them in the eye, give them your full attention – even just 10 minutes makes a huge difference. Also have a laugh together; share silly jokes (yes, even the terrible ones about chickens crossing the road, be daft – kids love it when grown-ups are playful and create little traditions (like a special Friday question or a silly handshake)

When children feel properly heard and valued, they become better communicators, feel more confident, can express their feelings better, build stronger relationships and they feel loved and secure. Your attention says: "You matter. Your day matters. YOU matter."

Give It a Go! This week, try this: when you collect your child, put your phone away completely. Give them 10 minutes of your full attention. Ask about their day and really listen. See what happens. You don't need to be the perfect parent (spoiler alert: they don't exist). You just need to be present. Those little moments of connection – the chats, the laughs, the listening – they're what build confident, happy children.

Be there. Be interested. Be engaged. That's what children really need.

See you at the gate (hopefully with phones safely tucked away)!

Jason Willetts



“ When I grow up, I
want to be an iPhone so my
mum will talk to me ”

~ London pupil

Download me again from safe posters.lgfl.net

MAKES YOU THINK...

Talk to your child about their device use, but remember yours, too



Ctrl AND CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO SEE WHAT CHILDREN THINK ABOUT THEIR PARENTS' ONLINE BEHAVIOURS?

Or copy this link into a browser <https://youtu.be/Lde52EtjljQ>



Dates For Your Diary



February

Thurs 5th - 1BH trip to Lapworth Museum **CHANGE OF DATE**

Turtles class Toni's Tots 9:15am - 10:15am

Fri 6th - 1BD trip to Lapworth Museum **CHANGE OF DATE**

FINAL YR6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP PAYMENT DUE

Mon 9th - 5A start weekly swimming lessons

Yr3 trip to Mosque and Buddhist Centre

Thurs 12th - Dolphins class Toni's Tots Drama 9:15 - 10:15am

Fri 13th - PTA Non school uniform day

Yr6 Learning Share 2:30pm

HALF TERM

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February

Mon 23rd - All children and staff return to school

Weds 25th - Yr1 Phonics screening parents' meeting

March

Mon 2nd - Yr1 Royal Ballet workshop in school

Attendance Matters

Friday 16th to Thursday 29th January 2026



Turtles	94.2
Dolphins	97.1
1BD	98.5
1BH	95.6
2N	96.3
2W	98.8
3B	97.0
3T	98.2
4A	93.5
4D	98.4
5N (Superstars)	99.2
5A	97.2
6S	95.9
6A	95.2



Whole School this
fortnight : 96.8%

TARGET : 96%

FYI: 7 Fixed Term Penalty Notices have been issued to families taking holidays in term time

IMPORTANT!

Year 6 Residential Trip Final Payment

The final payment for the residential trip is payable by Friday 6th February. If you do not think you are able to complete full payment by then, please inform the school asap otherwise your child's place is at risk.





During the week beginning 19th January our 4 houses competed in the Great Cotteridge Bake Off. This year's challenge was linked to the upcoming Chinese New Year and each team had to make their own Spring Rolls from scratch, under the guidance of Mrs Burnett. Then all 4 Spring Rolls were tasted by the judges : Mr Willetts, Mrs Smart, Rafe and Milica, our Head Pupils. It was a close run thing but the winners were the team below from Air.

Well done Carter, Bryn, Emma, Etta, Elijah and Dylan.



Just before half-term, we will be making offers to those on our waiting list for a September 2026 start in our Nursery class.

Currently, we still have some full-time and part-time places left.

If you have any children who will be 3 before 31st August and are interested in a place in our Nursery, please contact the school office and ask for Lisa.

Likewise, if you have any friends/family who would be interested, please could you pass this information on to them too.

5A Class Swimming Lessons

5A will be starting their weekly swimming lessons on Monday 9th February.

They will have a half an hour swimming lesson every Monday for nine weeks.

This means the children will require their swimming kit in school **every Monday** from 9th February up to and including 27th April. Girls require a one-piece swimsuit and the boys require swimming trunks or swimwear that is above the knee. All children will also need a towel and a suitable bag. Goggles are optional.



Non-School Uniform Day

Friday 13th February

Raising funds for our PTA

Suggested donation of £1.00



**KEEP
CALM
AND
DON'T FORGET
NON-UNIFORM DAY**


Pancake Day Menu

The main meal will be as usual for that day, but pancakes will be available for dessert.



Turtles Class Thursday

Next Week!


Free  **Free**

www.tonistotsdrama.co.uk

TONI'S TOTS DRAMA

Parents/carers, please join us for a fun-filled hour of adventure, full of music, movement, role play, puppets and craft, all with imaginative play at its heart.

9.15-10.15am in KS1 Hall
Nursery-8th/29th Jan
Turtles-15th Jan/5th Feb
Dolphins-22nd Jan/12th Feb



Free **Free**



Netball News

Players of the Week

Monday 19th - Alice 4A

Thursday 22nd - Robin 5N

Monday 26th - Ruthu 3T

Thursday 29th - No netball





TOGETHERNESS



An update on

WELLBEING FOR EVERY SCHOOL PARENT

Your NHS learning space created by psychologists

February 2026

This Spring Term, we're delighted to share some helpful resources for parents experiencing all the big emotions of growing children.

TogetherNESS the NHS emotional health digital learning hub funded in your area. Your family has **free access** to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children.

Here's a quick round up of what we think is great on TogetherNESS to help your children thrive.

Here for big feelings

Three key questions



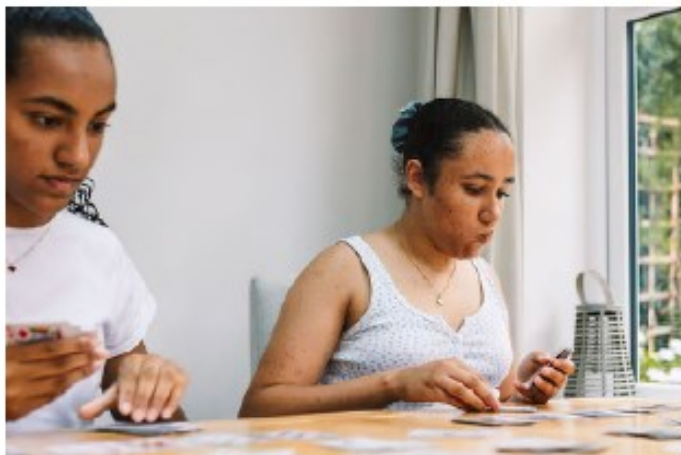
Understanding your child's feelings

How can I support my child with anxiety?

Our taster online learning journey to support you to understand your child's feelings as they head back to the classroom

The Clinical Psychologist and Child Psychotherapist's advice

Teenage brain and exams



What happens to the teenage brain during exam time?

Clinical psychologist, Dr Rebecca Johnson, explains how teenage brain development can impact exam stress – helpful for teens taking mock exams

[\(4 minute watch\)](#)

Healthy sleep habits



How to support bedtime routines

Health Visitor, Mary Rheeston, explains how bedtime routines can support your child's emotional and physical health

[\(short video watch\)](#)

Raising kind kids



Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

Online learning journey to support your parenting and help nurture your child's emotional health anytime, anywhere

Anxiety: all feelings welcome



Understanding anxiety

A digital hub of resources to support parents to understand feelings of anxiety in children and young people



Mrs Tucker
Assistant
Headteacher
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead

Mr Willetts
Headteacher
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead

Mrs Burnett
Pastoral
Manager
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead

Mrs Timmins
SENDCo

Mrs Smith
Learning
Mentor

Mr Adam
Jarvis
Safeguarding
Governor



Our Safeguarding Team are always here to help!

Out of school hours, if you are concerned about a child, please contact Birmingham Children's Trust on 0121 303 1888. In an emergency, always dial 999.

If you have any concerns about a child our safeguarding team are always here to help. You can contact them during school hours on 0121 464 2865 / enquiry@cotridge.bham.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can find them in the playground areas during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up times. Outside of school hours, if you are concerned about a child, please contact Birmingham Children's Trust on 0121 303 1888. In an emergency, always dial 999.

How Can We Help You?

If you are unsure about any information or require more assistance about your child, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

If you require further support, please contact one of our Assistant Head Teachers: Mrs Darby for Nursery to Year 2, or Mrs Tucker for Years 3 to 6.

Mrs Pickering Ernst is currently on maternity leave.

If your query is then still not resolved, please contact Mr Willetts.



Mrs Darby
Assistant Head
EYFS / KS1



Mrs Pickering Ernst
Assistant Head
Years 3 and 4



Mrs Tucker
Assistant Head
Years 5 and 6