

COTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL



17th April 2026

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I would like to warmly welcome everyone back after the Easter break. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday and that the children are refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning. It has been a real pleasure to see so many smiling faces back in school this week and to feel the renewed sense of energy around the building.

We began the term with an excellent staff training day on Monday. Teachers focused on developing their understanding of Kagan principles – a range of proven classroom strategies designed to ensure that all children are actively involved in their learning rather than remaining passive learners. These approaches promote teamwork, discussion, cooperation and confidence, enabling every child to have a voice and to participate meaningfully in lessons. Staff were enthusiastic and inspired, and these strategies are already being used in classrooms with great success.

Over the last two afternoons, Key Stage 2 Talent Show auditions have taken place, and it has been a joy to watch. It was wonderful to see children facing their fears, showing such bravery and performing so confidently in front of their peers. The standard was high, and the pride children felt after performing was clear to see. Confidence gained through opportunities like this can have a hugely positive impact on many other areas of learning and school life. Well done to everyone who took part.

Year 1 also had a fantastic day on Wednesday during their trip to Twycross Zoo. I know the children had an amazing time, and many were keen to tell me all about their favourite parts of the visit, particularly Gruffalo Land and the monkeys! Educational visits like this bring learning to life and create memories that last a lifetime.

On Wednesday, our Year 5 and Year 6 dance troupe took part in a local dance competition and achieved a superb win. The judges were truly impressed by the slick, well-timed performance and the excellent teamwork displayed by the group. Congratulations to Sofia, Emma, Georgie, Susie, Alice, Isobella, Melody, Freya, Megan, Scarlett and Matilda, who performed with confidence and precision and were absolutely awesome.

A special thank you goes to my daughter, Grace, who runs Etoile Dance Studios, for her time, expertise and dedication in choreographing the routine and helping the girls look so professional on stage. Full credit, however, must go to the dancers themselves for their commitment, hard work and outstanding performance.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We have a busy and exciting term ahead, and I look forward to sharing many more successes with you.

Warm regards

Jason Willetts



Dates For Your Diary



April

Thurs 23rd	Parents' residential trip information meeting 5:00pm in school 3B trip to Lapworth Museum
Fri 24th	EYFS and KS1 Cotteridge's Got Talent auditions 3T trip to Lapworth Museum Vocabulary workshop for Nursery Parents 10:00am
Mon 27th	Bags2School donations start

May

Fri 1st	Bags2School donations end
Mon 4th	Bank Holiday - School closed to all
Tues 5th	Yr4 Viking day in school
Fri 8th	Cotteridge's Got Talent final 6:00pm (ticketed event)
Mon 11th	Start of SATs week for Yr6 5N start swimming lessons
Fri 15th	Yr6 trip to Drayton Manor Yr4 Learning share 2:30pm
Mon 18th	Sports Day attempt 1
Fri 22nd	Diversity Day

Mon 25th - Fri 29th HALF TERM

All children return to school Monday 1st June

Group Chats

Giving parents and carers everything they need to know about online issues, including insights and experiences direct from young people.

What are group chats?

Group chats are private conversations happening using technology that include more than just two people. You might be familiar with group chats on messaging apps like WhatsApp, but they can also happen on games and social media. Like any conversation, group chats have different purposes including:

- chatting to friends
- asking questions
- large chats for people with similar interests, such as for a concert or fan groups
- messaging family
- passing on information
- planning activities
- sharing photos

Did you know?

In our work in schools, we hear a lot about group chats set up by children for their whole class or year group to use.

Where are young people having group chats?

Young people use different apps for group chats but for many, their first group chats will be on games like Roblox. Often, WhatsApp is seen as for adults and 'work'. For example, family chats or revision groups. For fun, young people use Snapchat, Instagram and Discord.

"I've always found it's been very much Snapchat for, like, play and then WhatsApp for work." Anna, 17

What do young people like about group chats?

- quick and easy communication
- a place to get help from others
- convenient
- don't have to arrange to meet up or all be free at the same time to hang out
- can dip in and out of conversations
- makes it easy to find links and information
- can help you get to know people before an event or working together. For example, before going to college

What are young people's concerns about group chats?

- online bullying including mean messages or arguments breaking out
- subgroups where certain people are excluded and talked about
- memes, language and comments that are hateful like homophobia, misogyny and racism
- pressure to be active and involved in group chats
- FOMO (fear of missing out) when messages are exchanged when they are busy, including late at night
- sharing of personal information
- a pressure to be funny or controversial
- stigma against those who do not participate
- if you step away, the topic can change and move on leaving you behind
- can include distressing or harmful content such as pornography or non-consensual nude image sharing

What strategies are young people using to manage group chats?

Lots of the young people we speak to recognise the challenges of using group chats and are already finding ways to make their experiences more positive. For example:

- using the 'mute' tool to prevent active groups becoming a distraction
- leaving groups they don't want to be part of
- starting new groups if existing ones no longer felt safe
- using settings to prevent people adding them to group chats without permission
- working together to moderate behaviour in chats, for example by having a group admin or issuing warnings to members

Did you know?

Group chats can be of varying sizes and some have hundreds of participants. Young people may be added to group chats with people they know and people they don't.



Attendance Matters



Thursday 20th March to Thursday 16th April 2026

Turtles	96.5
Dolphins	93.9
1BD	97.4
1BH	96.3
2N	98.1
2W	96.7
3B	98.3
3T	96.1
4A	96.7
4D	99.0
5N	95.6
5A	97.2
6S	93.8
6A	92.7



Whole School this
fortnight : 96.3%

TARGET : 96%

Year 6 Parents' Residential Trip Meeting

Thursday 23rd April

5:00pm

Junior Hall

Year 6 Children welcome



5N Class Swimming

Advanced Warning

5N will start their weekly swimming lessons on Monday 11th May for 9 weeks. Therefore, please remember to pack your child's swimming kit every Monday from Monday 11th May up to and including Monday 13th July.

Girls require a one-piece swimsuit and 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.

Thank you!





*Bournville Village
Children's Festival*

Saturday 27th June 2026

*We are looking for children aged between 4yrs
and 18 yrs to dance around the Maypole at this
year's Festival*

Everyone is Welcome!

Contact Maypole Admin at

Email : BVCmaypole@outlook.com

Mobile : 07817 323401



Food Bank Donations

We are beginning to run out of some things in our food bank, so wanted to reach out to our wonderful school community to see if anyone would be willing to donate any of the following items:

- ⇒ Pasta
- ⇒ Pasta sauces
- ⇒ Curry sauces
- ⇒ Rice
- ⇒ Casserole sauces



Of course, we would always be grateful for anything else that you can think of that would be good to donate too.

If you would like anything from our food bank, please speak with Mrs Burnett.



Netball News

Players of the Week:

Monday 23rd March - No netball

Thursday 26th March - Janice 6A

Monday 13th April - No netball

Thursday 16th April - Jess 6S

Upcoming matches:

- Weds 22nd April - Away vs. St. Edward's
- Tues 28th April - Away vs. Bournville Village
- Tues 23rd June - All day tournament, Billesley

Netball Match



Results



Cotteridge: 12 vs. Colmore: 5

Our very first league match and it was an impressive win. Colmore challenged us to the end and didn't give up. We showed great teamwork and our netball skills continue to improve.

Umpiring was faultless by Eva.

Player of the match was Jess 6S

Super proud netball coach!

Mrs Smith.





PTA News



Easter Sale:

Thanks to everyone who purchased items for our Easter Raffle and sale. We raised a profit of: £218.75

Bag2School:

Next collection date is Friday 1st May 2026.

Please, bring your donations in tied up black bags from **Monday 27th April to Friday 1st May (drop off at the latest on this date.)** Place bags on the wooden area behind the climbing frame.

Dates for Your Diary (details coming soon):

Friday 5th June - EY and KS1 Disco

Friday 12th June - PTA Non-Uniform Day

Friday 19th June - KS2 Disco

Friday 3rd July - Summer Fayre.

Stikins:

Stikins is a website where you can purchase labels for your child's belongings.

By quoting "5083", you will be helping us raise money for our PTA through a commission.

www.stikins.co.uk

Easy Fundraising:

Easy Fundraising is a website/app where you can purchase items from over 7000 brands and a small donation will go to the cause of your choice. This does not cost you any extra: the donation is covered by the brand.

Cotteridge Primary School PTA is a searchable cause on the website. It is quick and easy to sign up at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

When searching, select "find a cause" then type "Cotteridge Primary School PTA."

Birmingham Community Lottery:

Birmingham community lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Birmingham. Cotteridge Primary School PTA is part of the community lottery. We can benefit from you playing and will receive at least 50% from every £1 from the tickets, with 10% also going to other causes within Birmingham. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win.

Each ticket has six numbers (each between 0 and 9.) There will be a draw every Saturday night at 8pm. Prizes will be given to players with tickets that match the first or last 2 to 6 numbers from the winning combination. Match all six and you win the jackpot of £25,000!

To find out more information and sign up, visit:

www.Birminghamcommunitylottery.co.uk

Contact details:

Email: Cotteridgepta@gmail.com

Project Evolve

Online Bullying

Our Online Safety unit this half term is all about online bullying. Within this, we will be discussing cyber bullying and strategies for effective reporting.

Use the scenario cards below to start a conversation with your child about online bullying.

Early Years - 7

How would this make you feel?

Someone was nasty to you in a online game

PROJECT EVOLVE

Early Years - 7

Who can help?

Who would you turn to...

At school At home Online

...if you were being bullied or worried about bullying?

PROJECT EVOLVE

Ages 7-11 + Advice on how to block and report

Advice on how to block and report

You can **block** a user so they won't be able to view your videos or interact with you through direct messages, comments, follows, or likes. You can **report** abuse, spam, or anything else that doesn't follow the Community Guidelines within the app.

Reporting or blocking a user

1. On the user's profile, tap the **three dots** at the top of the screen.
2. Tap 'Report' or 'Block'.
3. Select a reason and follow the instructions.

Reporting a comment

1. Long press on the comment.
2. Tap 'Report'.
3. Select a reason and follow the instructions.

Reporting a video

1. Long press on the video.
2. Tap 'Report'.
3. Select a reason and follow the instructions.

PROJECT EVOLVE

projectevolve.co.uk

Ages 7-11

Scenario 2

Someone shows you a video on their mobile. It's an embarrassing video of a boy in your class. It's clear the boy thought he was alone and didn't know he was being filmed.

What could you do or say?

PROJECT EVOLVE

Cotteridge

Family Bike Ride

Free family bike ride on cycle paths and quiet roads.

Riders of all abilities welcome.
All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The Shed Cafe,
Cotteridge Park,
B30 2HF

April 26th 2026
Meet 1:30pm
approx. 1 hour ride



Register at:

[https://www.bikebirmingham.org.uk/
event/cotteridge-family-ride/](https://www.bikebirmingham.org.uk/event/cotteridge-family-ride/)



1st April 2026
10.00 - 14.30

Touchbase Pears
Bristol Road, Selly Oak, B29 6NA

Neurodevelopmental Pathway Information Day



Supporting families on the NDP pathway
(Autism Pathway)



Get advice and find out
about support available
whilst waiting



Understand the Assessment Process

Come and talk to
professionals
involved in
assessments



Expert Advice

Meet professionals
in Autism and get
expert advice



Advice and Resources

Find out what
support is available
to you and your
child while you wait



Where to get support

Access to a number
of service providers
across Birmingham





SOUTH BIRMINGHAM FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE



AT: ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WYCHALL LANE, BIRMINGHAM, B38 8AP

STARTING: MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2026

Mondays:	Group 1: School Years Reception & Year 15.00pm-6.00pm
	Group 2: School Years 2 & 3.....6.00pm-7.00pm
	Group 3: School Years 4, 5 & 6.....7.00pm-8.00pm

OR

AT: KING EDWARD VI BALAAM WOOD ACADEMY

NEW STREET, FRANKLEY, RUBERY, BIRMINGHAM, B45 0EU

STARTING: WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL 2026

Wednesdays:	Group 1: School Years Reception & Year 1.....5.00pm-6.00pm
	Group 2: School Years 2 & 3.....6.00pm-7.00pm
	Group 3: School Years 4, 5 & 6.....7.00pm-8.00pm

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to inform you that, due to the huge success of our football courses over the last 25 years, we are following up the football coaching programme for the season starting in April 2026. The course will run for approximately 12 weeks and the programme is for boys and girls aged between 4 and 12.

About our Course

- The unique practice techniques are specifically designed to work with children of all abilities, ranging from the absolute beginner to the more advanced player.
- The course is run by F.A qualified coaches, who are DBS checked, and hold an advanced premier skills qualification, they are currently working with children, enabling them to learn essential football techniques, building CONFIDENCE, improving FITNESS and providing the most important ingredient FUN!
- Children will be fully supervised at all times, although parents are welcome to stay and watch.
- Each child will be provided with a football for individual practice and their progress will be recorded each week.
- It is an indoor course held in the sports hall, therefore children may wear trainers and sportswear.
- Ex Premier League Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Fulham player Geoff Horsfield quotes, "I've coached on these courses with the team and they are fantastic in the way they deliver their coaching sessions!"
- Ex England World Cup star and Sky Sports pundit Paul Merson quotes, "I have presented trophies to the children on these courses and it's great to see the smiles on their faces and sense of achievement!"
- On the final week of the course, we hold a presentation, whereby **EACH CHILD WILL RECEIVE AN ENGRAVED TROPHY.**
- Children also have a chance to win many other special individual awards and trophies for various skills, including 'premier league' and 'penalty shoot out' competitions.
- Parents and friends are most welcome to attend the presentation and watch the children being presented with their awards, as this encourages a fantastic atmosphere.

The cost of the course is £9 per week; payment is made every 4 weeks, with the first payment of £36 due on week 1. Please Note: With a high response expected and limited places available, bookings will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis. *Mark Frith* (course co-ordinator)

TO RESERVE PLACES PLEASE TEXT:

ST THOMAS AQUINAS + CHILD'S NAME + AGE + GROUP NO. (1, 2 or 3)

OR

RUBERY + CHILD'S FULL NAME + AGE + GROUP NO. (1, 2 or 3)

and receive confirmation by text to:

07827 322780

OUR APPS

Birmingham Family Hub App - Your go-to guide for parenting support, with trusted tips and tailored help for every stage of your family's journey - available anytime, anywhere.



IOS



ANDROID



EasyPeasy - Looking for fun, practical parenting ideas? EasyPeasy is a free app for Birmingham families, full of playful ways to support your child's development.

SIGN UP & DOWNLOAD

DadPad - A app designed especially for new dads and dads-to-be. Packed with advice, tips, and local support to help you feel confident and involved through pregnancy, birth, and your baby's early months.



IOS



ANDROID

50 Things To Do - Explore 50 fun activities designed for parents and carers to support their children in trying out and repeating engaging and educational experiences.



DOWNLOAD



SELLY OAK FAMILY HUB WHAT'S ON



MONDAY

10:00am - 11:30am

Baby Group

Birth - 12 Months

The Chinnbrook
Centre, B13 0ET

10:30am - 11:45am

Story & Craft

Under 5 Years

Running in
conjunction with
Touch Base Pears
Library, B29 6NA

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Wiggle and Wonder

Birth - 12 Months

Selly Oak Methodist,
B29 6HT

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Big Hands, Little Skills

3-5 Years

4 Week Course

Sense, Touch Base
Pears, B29 6NA

20/04 - Creative Mark Making

27/04- Building Little Hands

11/05 - Exploring Feelings

18/05 - Adventures in stories.

TUESDAY

10:00am - 11:30am

Play & Learn

Under 5 Years

Sense, Touch Base
Pears, B29 6NA

10:00am - 11:00am

Stepping Stones

(Referral Only)

6 Week Course

To support parents of
children in the Early
Years (From birth to 5)
with identified or
emerging additional
needs.

Please call for more

info!



2:15pm - 3:15pm

Book Start

Under 5 Years

Druids Heath
Library, B14 5NJ



WEDNESDAY

10:00am - 12:00pm

Footsteps

(Referral Only)

A set of 5 weekly
workshops offering SEND
support & guidance
covering a wide range of
topics. The workshops
offer an opportunity to
connect with other parents
with the same challenged
to provide a wider support
network.

Please call for more

info!



Startwell,
www.startwell.org.uk
0203 0203 0203

THURSDAY

9:30am - 11:00am

Play & Learn

Under 5 Years

The Chinnbrook
Centre, B130 ET

10:00am - 11:30am

Breastfeeding Support

Group

Selly Oak Methodist,
B29 6HT

Running in the school
holidays

See leaflet for more info)



10:00am - 11:00am

First Words Together

Birth - 2 years

Druids Heath Library
5 week courses

Please call for more info!



FRIDAY

9:45am - 11:15am

Play & Learn

Under 5 Years

Stirchley Baths, B30
2JT

Most of our

groups are now

DROP IN GROUPS

No need to book
just turn up!

Any groups with
the phone symbol,
please call to book
on 0121 464 4189.





TOGETHERNESS



An update on

WELLBEING FOR EVERY SCHOOL PARENT

Your NHS learning space created by psychologists

April 2026

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.

Spill the beans on SATs



Anxiety and SATs

We've partnered with Learning by Questions to help you support your child to process how they're feeling and get ready for SATs with confidence

[\(free downloadable resource\)](#)

Get them ready for secondary



Moving up in school

A digital hub of resources for parents of nursery, Reception and Year 6 children to support them to thrive as they move up in school

[\(easy reads and watch digital hub\)](#)

Support for hearing parents



Understanding your deaf child for hearing parents

90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents. Our new short online learning, written with members of the deaf community, supports you to understand your deaf child's needs and development

[\(bitesize e-learning\)](#)

Understand big feelings



Does sharing big feelings help young people feel like they belong?

Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Dr Rebecca Johnson, unpacks how sharing how we feel can bring moments of connection in relationships

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

Parents and anxiety



Managing parent anxiety

The Clinical Psychologist and Child Psychotherapist's advice

[\(2 minute read\)](#)

Nurture your key relationships



Understanding your relationships

Discover new ways to communicate, connect and respond in your relationships in this online learning pathway

[\(bitesize e-learning\)](#)



ATHENA'S OWLS FOREST SCHOOL

FREE (ages 6+)

2-4pm

Cotteridge Park - meet at the Wood

2nd May

6th June

4th July (CoCoMad Festival)

Gather round the Olympic Torch, walk the walls of Rome and build your own pyramid. Join us for legendary stories and outdoor play, with creative activities and exciting challenges inspired by Greek, Roman and Egyptian myths that we will explore.

Children must be accompanied by their guardian.

Register your interest at:

athenasowlsforestschool2026.eventbrite.co.uk



With thanks to the Classical Association for funding these sessions





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