

COTTERIDGE

PRIMARY

SCHOOL

17th October 2025



With just one week to go until the half-term break, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a particularly long eight weeks. This extended term has been especially challenging for our Nursery and Reception children, who have shown remarkable resilience as they've settled into school life. I'm sure everyone, children, staff and families alike, is looking forward to a well-deserved rest.

As we head into the colder months, I'd like to remind you of some key uniform expectations that help keep all our children safe, healthy and ready to learn:

Hair— Please ensure that children with long hair have it tied back securely each day. This simple step helps us avoid unwanted visitors such as head lice, which can spread more easily when hair is loose.

Jewellery—Children should not wear jewellery to school unless it is for religious purposes. This policy is in place for safety reasons, particularly during PE and playtime activities. One pair of studded earrings are allowed but must be covered for PE.

Nail Polish—Please ensure that children do not wear nail polish to school.

Footwear—Children should wear proper school shoes every day. Trainers should only be worn on PE days. On all other days, school shoes, not trainers, are expected.

Thank you for your support in maintaining these standards, which help create a safe and focused learning environment for all.

We have sent out information via text about our after-school extra-curricular clubs for the next half term. Please respond by Monday evening as places will be allocated to children on Tuesday. These clubs provide wonderful opportunities for children to explore new interests and develop their skills beyond the classroom.

Well done to all of the children who have completed their Bikeability awards over the last four weeks! All participants have had the opportunity to develop important life skills in a safe, controlled manner. Special thanks must go to Mrs Prosser for her excellent management and organisation of this programme.

Our PTA AGM will take place next Tuesday at 7pm in school. We would warmly welcome new members to join our PTA. I must be honest with you—we are currently thin on the ground with volunteers. If this situation doesn't improve, we will have no choice but to disband the PTA and the activities associated with it until we can secure more volunteers. The PTA plays a vital role in enriching our children's experiences and raising funds for the school, but we cannot continue without sufficient support. If you can spare even a small amount of time, please do come along on Tuesday.

We are a good school, and we are always looking to improve our policies and practices to better serve our children. but I also feel it's important to be honest about the challenges we face. It is simply impossible to please all of the people all of the time. We do our very best to make arrangements that hopefully suit most people, and we try to give as much notice as we can about events so that working parents can make arrangements to attend or send someone else on their behalf.

We also have to manage the work-life balance of our staff. They work incredibly hard for your children every single day, and we must ensure that what we ask of them is sustainable. We are human too with lives outside of school.

I hope you understand that every decision we make is made with the best interests of all our children at heart.



We genuinely value your partnership and support, and together we can continue to provide the best possible education and experiences for every child at Cotteridge Primary School.

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Jason Willetts



Dates For Your Diary



October

Tues 21st - Yr2 trip to Selly Manor

Fri 24th - Non-uniform - Be Bright, Be Seen (wear bright/fluorescent clothing)

November

Thurs 6th - KS1 and KS2 Parents' Evening day one

Tues 11th - KS1 and KS2 Parents' Evening day two

Thurs 13th - 5N trip to Safeside

Fri 14th - Yr2 Learning share 2:30pm and Children in Need day NON UNIFORM

Mon 17th - 4D start weekly swimming lessons

Thurs 20th - 5A trip to Safeside

Fri 21st - Yr5 Learning Share 2:30pm

Thurs 27th - Yr1 Learning Share 2:30pm

December

Fri 5th - PTA Christmas Fayre

Weds 10th - Christmas Dinner Day!

Fri 12th - EYFS Christmas concert 9:30am and 2:15pm

Tues 16th - KS2 Christmas concert 9:30am and 2:15pm

Weds 17th - KS1 Christmas concert 9:30am and 2:15pm

Fri 19th - Christmas carols around tree 2:00pm and last day

Attendance Matters



Friday 3rd to Thursday 16th October 2025


Turtles	95.2
Dolphins	95.2
1BD	91.0
1BH	92.0
2N	97.4
2W	95.7
3B	97.7
3T	95.2
4A	92.3
4D	94.0
5N	98.0
5A	94.0
6S	96.8
6A	96.6



Whole School this
fortnight : 95.1%

TARGET : 96%

School Photographs

We are expecting the proofs to be delivered to school at some point next week. As soon as they have arrived in school, we will be sending them home with your  children.



KS1 And KS2 Parents' Evening



You should have received your link to book your parents evening appointment by now (not Nursery or Reception). If you have not, please contact us on 0121 464 2865.

Dates: Thursday 6th and Tuesday 11th
November 2025

Names in clothes

We'd like to remind parents/carers to clearly name your child's clothing. That way, if children lose anything we can easily return it to the correct child's classroom.

We have a lot of lost property building up in both the infant and junior buildings. If anyone wants to have a look to see if anything of theirs is in there, please pop to the office at the end of the school day.



Weather Appropriate Clothing

Following on from the previous page, please could we ask that children are sent to school with clothing appropriate for the weather, particularly as we head into the colder, wetter and soon to be icier months. All children should bring a coat to school every day as we try to encourage outdoor play as much as possible. The only time the children would not go outside would be if it is raining heavily,

snowing or there is too much ice on the ground.



Just for fun

**Which member of staff is
this?**

Answer on the final page of this newsletter



School Closure Arrangements

It's that time of year when we need to think about what we would do in the event of bad weather. Obviously we will try our best not to, but if we do have to close the school, we will be communicating the closure by email, text message and the school website.

**Please make sure your contact
details are up to date!!**



Absences From School



All absences from school must be reported before 9:15am by calling us on 0121 464 2865 and either selecting option 1 to leave a voicemail message or by speaking with a member of office staff. You will need to call on each morning of your child's absence, unless otherwise informed by the office staff on day 1 of their absence i.e. in the cases of chicken pox, vomiting, operations etc.



Dropping off And Collecting

Please could we remind everyone that the car park gates will only be open from 8:45am till 9:00am in the morning and 3:00pm till 3:20pm on the afternoon. Outside of these times, if the car park gates are closed, please do not ask for them to be opened and please do not push on them. If they are closed, please proceed to the pedestrian gate instead, which can be opened outside of these times, even if you need to collect bikes from the bike stands.

The reason for this is, we have lots of after school activity clubs taking place at school and the car park gates open and close very slowly, meaning it can be a safeguarding risk for children to exit the site without an adult. Also, before 8:45am and after 3:30pm is when staff start arriving and leaving school, so need to be able to drive in and off site.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with keeping everyone in our school community safe.

BIKEABILITY

As it is Cycle to School week, officers at BCC, on Tuesday, came to Cotteridge to discuss and see all about the fantastic work our school is doing to encourage the pupils to walk, wheel and cycle to each day.

Some of our Year 5 pupils were undertaking Level 2 Bikeability training on the day. Funding for the training is provided by The Department for Transport's body called Active Travel England and the funds are administered by the charity, The Bikeability Trust. The Bikeability Trust's CEO, Emily Cherry also travelled up from London as she was keen to join the local staff and see some of the training in action and to meet some of the children benefiting.

Girls football team success!

We are incredibly proud to share the fantastic achievements of our girls' football team!

Tournament Success

Two weeks ago, 10 girls from Years 5 and 6 represented Cotteridge Primary School in a local tournament. The team played exceptionally well throughout the day, demonstrating skill, determination and teamwork. They only lost one game and finished in an impressive **2nd place**, which secured their spot in the finals!

Finals Night

On Tuesday evening, the girls competed in the finals at Kings Norton Rhinos RFC. Once again, they battled hard and worked brilliantly as a team, displaying all of our Cotteridge values throughout the competition. Whilst they didn't win a match on finals night, they should be immensely proud of reaching this stage – a tremendous achievement in itself!

Special Recognition from Professional Footballers

Our Sports Coach, Jade, was so impressed by the girls' performances that she arranged something truly special. During Monday's assembly, the team watched personal video messages from professional women's footballers:

- **Chloe Peplow** – Southampton Ladies (previously Birmingham City)
- **Kerys Harrop** – Former Birmingham City, Spurs and England player, and recent Sky Sports pundit
- **Lauren Broadbent** – Captain of Redditch United Women
- **Amber Hughes** – Wolverhampton Wanderers Women

Mascot Experience

As if that wasn't exciting enough, Jade invited the girls to be mascots for Redditch United Ladies on Sunday! Those who were able to attend had a wonderful time, despite Redditch's loss on the day. What an unforgettable experience!

Well done to all the girls involved (Jalissa, Susie, Milicia, Robin, Jess, Amy, Sofia, Phoebe, Bella and Lois) – you've made us all very proud! Your hard work, dedication and positive attitude throughout this journey exemplifies everything we value at Cotteridge Primary School.



Netball News

Players of the Week

Monday 6th - Iris 3B

Thursday 9th - Nova 6A

Monday 13th - Isla 4D

Thursday 16th—Lila 5A



Parent Workshop

Next Friday, we have a parent workshop 9:15 until 10:15am with our LLSS teacher talking about early communication and language. This is ideal for Reception and KS1 parents. However anyone is welcome to come along. In the learning hub. Light refreshments will be available.





Reception class Applications

For Nursery aged children - the application form for Reception class 2026 is now open. Apply for your child's secondary school via the Birmingham City Council website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions

It is very important that you follow the instructions very carefully.

If you require any help with your application, please speak with Mrs Burnett.

**THE DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY
SCHOOL APPLICATIONS IS 15th
JANUARY 2026!**



Secondary School Applications

This is a reminder to all Year 6 parents that applications for secondary school are now open. Apply for your child's secondary school via the Birmingham City Council website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions

It is very important that you follow the instructions very carefully.

If you require any help with your application, please speak with Mrs Burnett.

THE DEADLINE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS IS 31ST OCTOBER!



OCTOBER HALF TERM AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PREMIER EDUCATION ARE DELIGHTED TO PARTNER UP
WITH YOU THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM!

9AM-4PM 5-11 YEAR OLDS £22
9AM-1PM 4 YEAR OLDS £14

TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER - THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER

PLENTY OF FUN ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED EACH DAY! ALL YOU
NEED IS A PACKED LUNCH, WATER BOTTLE AND
PLENTY OF ENERGY!



SCAN HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION

or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps



ST DUNSTANS HOLIDAY CLUB ACTIVITY TIMETABLE



TIME	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
ICE-BREAKERS	Team Games	Team Games	Team Games
ACTIVITY 1	Fencing	Glow in the Dark Dodgeball	Gymnastics
ACTIVITY 2	Invasion Games	Capture the Flag	Indoor Kurling
ACTIVITY 3	Arts and Crafts	Archery	Invasion Games
ACTIVITY 4	Hide and Seek Tag	Structured Play and Sports	Halloween Party!!
CELEBRATION	Certificates and Stickers	Certificates and Stickers	Certificates and Stickers



**BOOK
NOW!**



www.premier-education.com/holiday-camps



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



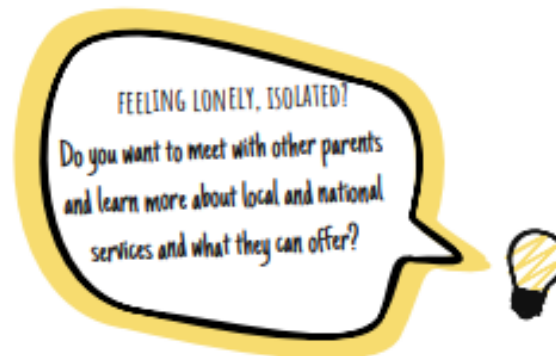
Mrs Tucker
Assistant Head
Years 5 and 6



Be Empowered.....

BE EMPOWERED WORKSHOPS

- Early Support Programme for SEND Parent Carers



We warmly invite you to a series of workshops that have been written by and are led by trainers who are parent/carers of a child with additional needs themselves. They run over a period of 6 weeks, and there are a selection of face-to-face and online sessions.

These workshops are for parent/carers of children and young people of any age, with any additional need, with or without a diagnosis. They are an attempt to support parent/carers through times of change and at whatever stage of the journey participants may find themselves.

Wednesday's 5/11/25 - 17/12/25
10:00am - 1:00pm
Evolve Centre, 99 Glover St, B9 4EN.

Monday's 10/11/25 - 15/12/25
10:00am - 1:00pm
Online via Zoom

Thursday's 8/1/26 - 12/2/26
10:00am-1:00pm
Lime Tree Children's Centre,
Heathfield Rd, B19 1UJ

TO BOOK - Please complete the booking form and return to: BeEmpowered@birmingham.gov.uk

For more information please contact: Christine Legore on 07770 762056 or via email at christine.legore@birmingham.gov.uk or

Nathalie Messarvi on 07943 364833 or via email at nathalie.messarvi@birmingham.gov.uk

Saturday's 10/1/26 - 13/2/26
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Online via Zoom
Joining details will be sent.

Tuesday's 10/2/26, 24/2/26 - 24/3/26
10:00am - 1:00pm
Acocks Green Methodist Church,
1 Botteville Road, B27 7YE.

Friday's 27/2/26 - 27/3/26, 17/4/26
6:00pm-9:00pm
Online via Zoom
Joining details will be sent.

Tuesday's 14/4/26 - 19/5/26
10:00am - 1:00pm
Online via Zoom
Joining details will be sent.

Thursday's 16/4/26 - 21/5/26
In Community Languages
10:00am - 2:00pm
Lime Tree Children's Centre,
Heathfield Road, B19 1UJ

Friday's 5/6/26 - 10/7/26
10:00am - 1:00pm
Online via Zoom
Joining details will be sent.

Monday's 8/6/26 - 13/7/26
10:00am - 1:00pm
Hodge Hill Family Hub, Dyson Gardens
Children's Centre, Highfield Road, B8 3QF.

TO BOOK - Please complete the booking form and return to: BeEmpowered@birmingham.gov.uk
or alternatively you can submit online either by using the QR code to submit online.



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Nathalie Messarvi on 07943 364833 or via email at nathalie.messarvi@birmingham.gov.uk

The member of staff from earlier in the newsletter was Miss Bridgman who is our History Leader across school and Year 1 teacher.