

**COTTERIDGE**

**PRIMARY**

**SCHOOL**

**21st November 2025**

# Christmas at Cotteridge: Celebrating Together, Learning Together

As we approach the festive season, I wanted to share with you how Christmas connects beautifully with our everyday life at Cotteridge Primary School, enriching both our curriculum and our school community.

The Christmas story is one of hope, kindness, and community – values that sit at the heart of everything we do at Cotteridge. When we explore the nativity narrative with our children, we're not just learning about a historical event; we're discovering timeless lessons about:

Compassion and care – Mary and Joseph's journey reminds us to look after one another, particularly those who may need extra support

Generosity and giving – The gifts of the Magi teach us that giving isn't about the size of the gift, but the thought and love behind it

Community and belonging – The shepherds and angels coming together reflects how our school family comes together to support each child

Throughout December, you'll see Christmas woven thoughtfully into our learning:

In Literacy, children may be exploring Christmas stories and poetry, developing their reading comprehension and creative writing skills while engaging with festive themes that capture their imagination.

In Art and DT, our pupils are creating Christmas cards, decorations, and gifts, developing their fine motor skills and creativity whilst thinking about others.

In Music, we're learning carols and festive songs that help develop rhythm, pitch, and performance confidence – skills that will culminate in our Christmas performances.

In PSHE and our relationships education, we're discussing themes of kindness, friendship, and thinking of others – the Christmas story provides a perfect springboard for conversations about how we treat one another with respect and care.

At Cotteridge, we celebrate Christmas in a way that is inclusive and welcoming to all families, whatever your beliefs or background. We recognise that our school community is wonderfully diverse, and we want every child to feel they belong during this special time.

Our Christmas celebrations include:

- Class parties where children can enjoy time with friends
- Christmas performances where every child has a moment to shine
- Festive crafts and activities that develop creativity and collaboration
- Opportunities to think about those less fortunate and how we can help our local community

The true spirit of Christmas – of kindness, generosity, hope, and community – isn't just for December. These are the values we nurture in our children every day at Cotteridge:

Kindness in how we speak to and treat one another, generosity in sharing, helping, and supporting our friends, hope in believing we can all achieve and grow and community in working together and celebrating each other's successes.



As we move through this festive season, I encourage you to talk with your children about what Christmas means to your family. Whether you celebrate the religious aspects, enjoy the cultural traditions, or simply appreciate the opportunity to spend time together, these conversations help children understand and respect the diverse world around them.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community. I wish you all a wonderful festive season filled with joy, laughter, and precious moments with your loved ones.

Jason Willetts



It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?



# What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION



## HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

## LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

## LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



## CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes', explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

## APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.



National Online Safety®



## Top Tips for Parents



### LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

### REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focussed the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

### LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

### MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

### ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.

## STATISTICS

52% of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly 9hrs a week

82% of children aged 5-7 go online for nearly 9.5hrs a week

93% of children aged 8-11 go online for nearly 13.5hrs a week

99% of children aged 12-15 go online for nearly 20.5hrs a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018



# Dates For Your Diary



## November

Thurs 27th - Yr1 Learning Share 2:30pm

## December

Monday 1st - Teacher Training Day - school closed to all children

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

# Christmas Holidays!!!

**Children and staff return to school on  
Monday 5th January 2026**

## January 2026

Mon 5th - All children return to school

Mon 12th - Yr6 parents' SATs meeting

Fri 16th - Yr2 Florence Nightingale visit - in school

Thurs 22nd - Nursery storyteller visit - in school

**Monday 1st  
December is a  
Teacher Training  
Day, so school  
will be closed to  
all children!**

# A Greener Way To Share Christmas Cheer!

Instead of sending lots of Christmas cards to friends and teachers this year, let's try something fun and eco-friendly!

## Here's the idea:

Make **ONE big, bright A4 Christmas message** at home. Decorate it with drawings, glitter, stickers – anything festive! Then we can pop it on our conservatory windows so everyone can enjoy your masterpiece.

## Why do this?

- **Help the planet** – fewer cards = less paper waste!
- **Save money** – no need to buy lots of cards.
- **Show your creativity** – make it colourful and unique!

## Want to share your message at school?

Bring your A4 design to your **class teacher from Tuesday 2nd December**. We'll display them so everyone can feel the Christmas cheer!



If you'd like, you can put the money you save towards our collection to help **send Bella Sowe to school in The Gambia**, or donate to another charity you love.

Let's make this Christmas **kind, creative, and green!**

# Congratulations And Thank You!

Cake Sale for Bella Sow, the child we are supporting in The Gambia raised almost £140.



Well done to Maggie, Anya and Maria in Year 5 for baking and selling the cakes.



# Attendance Matters



Friday 7th to Thursday 20th November 2025

<b>Turtles</b>	<b>80.3</b>
<b>Dolphins</b>	<b>95.2</b>
<b>1BD</b>	<b>90.8</b>
<b>1BH</b>	<b>94.1</b>
<b>2N</b>	<b>91.2</b>
<b>2W</b>	<b>97.1</b>
<b>3B</b>	<b>95.7</b>
<b>3T</b>	<b>93.5</b>
<b>4A</b>	<b>89.0</b>
<b>4D</b>	<b>92.6</b>
<b>5N</b>	<b>96.3</b>
<b>5A</b>	<b>98.3</b>
<b>6S</b>	<b>98.9</b>
<b>6A</b>	<b>94.6</b>



Whole School this  
fortnight : 93.3%

**TARGET : 96%**



# Christmas Performance Ticket Sales Update

## Performance times:

- ◇ EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Friday 12th December  
9:30am and 2:15pm
- ◇ KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Wednesday 17th December 9:30am and  
2:15pm
- ◇ KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) Tuesday 16th December 9:30am  
and 2:15pm

We still have a good number of tickets available for the EYFS and KS1 performances, however, we now have very limited tickets for the KS2 performances, particularly the afternoon one. If you haven't already purchased tickets, please could you do so by Friday 28th November as they will be going out for general sale from then.

# Christmas Dinner Day!



We know it seems too early to start discussing Christmas, but our school kitchen are already beginning their preparations for Christmas Dinner Day - Wednesday 10th December!

Being as it is not an ordinary dinner, it takes a lot of ordering and preparing for them. They have to order the Turkey and all of the trimmings by Friday 28th November.

Therefore, it is VERY important that they know the final numbers of who wants a Christmas dinner by Thursday 27th November to insure they have enough for everyone.

**IF YOUR CHILD WOULD LIKE A CHRISTMAS DINNER, PLEASE BOOK THIS ON SCHOOLMONEY/TEACHERS2PARENTS NO LATER THAN THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, EVEN IF THEY ARE ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS.**

Instructions of how to do this are on the next page...



# Booking Your Child's Christmas Dinner

Log in to SchoolMoney/Teachers2Parents and select a dinner for Wednesday 10th December. It will not say "Christmas dinner", it will just say "School dinner", however, if you book a dinner for that date; we will know this means your child will want a Christmas dinner. Proceed to the checkout to pay for this dinner. Once paid for, it is booked!

**If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will still need to book a dinner for this day. You will not be charged (your basket will say £0.00), but you must go through the whole checkout process for your booking to be processed.**

There is no need to choose your child's meal options beforehand, your child will choose this when they go to collect their food on the day. As soon as Coombs have sent the menu to us, we will forward this on.

**If you have not booked a dinner by 27th November, please provide your child with a packed lunch on Wednesday 10th December as there will be no other meal options on this day.**

If you have forgotten your SchoolMoney/Teachers2Parents login information please contact the school office who can issue a password reset, or you can do this yourself by going to the login page and selecting the option for 'forgotten my password'.

**Remember:** when it asks for your telephone number and email address, you must use the primary telephone number and email address you have given to school otherwise it will not allow you to log in. When entering your child's first name, sometimes it requires the first name to be in CAPITAL LETTERS, depending on which device you are using.

# Socks And Pants

## Donations



We are running very low on spare socks and pants for the children. If anyone has any that they are willing to donate to the school, please bring them to the school office. We will be very grateful!





# Somebody Different Collecting Your Child?

If someone different is collecting your child i.e. grandparent, aunty, uncle, another child's parent, etc., it is really important that you contact the office to make us aware before 3pm. If teachers have not had a message, they will not let your child go with the person. We have had a couple of awkward moments recently where we have had to refuse handing a child over to someone purporting to be collecting because we had not had a message from the parent.

If you know that someone else will be collecting your child on a regular basis, we have a form in the office that you can complete that will negate the need to call us every time.

# Medicines In School



Please could we remind parents/carers that we will only administer medicine in school if it has been prescribed by a medical professional to be taken four times per day. Any less than this and the doses can be given outside of school i.e. before school, after school and then before bed.

Please make sure the prescription label is present on the bottle/box. This is also the case for inhalers.

ALL medication, including inhalers must be brought to the school office where a form must also be signed by a parent/carers. Children **MUST NOT** bring medication to school in their bags or pockets.

# Late Arrivals / Early Collections

If your child arrives late to school (after the gates have closed) you MUST sign them in at the office even if a Teacher has collected them from you on the playground and taken them in. This is because they may have missed their morning mark on the register and if there was to be a fire, we would not have a record that your child is on school site. If you have more than one child, please remember to sign them all in. The same message applies if you need to collect them early.



# Winter PE Kit

As it has started to get colder, the children are allowed to bring in additional clothing to keep them warm during outdoor PE lessons.

These can include:

- Black/dark leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- Preferably school jumper or cardigan or if not a black/dark jumper or hoodie, which is a plain design without a large logo
- Appropriate outdoor trainers






# Christmas



## Card Designs



The first delivery of completed orders arrived this afternoon, so they will be sent home with the children over the next few days. Please do not be alarmed if you don't receive everything you ordered at the same time—they tend to send the deliveries to us in

 batches.



# School Photographs

Academy Photographers haven't sent your photos to us yet. When they do, we will send them home with your child.





# Netball News

## Players of the Week

Monday 11th - Layla 3B

Thursday 13th - Betty 6A

Monday 17th - Tabitha 4A

Thursday 20th - Janice 6A



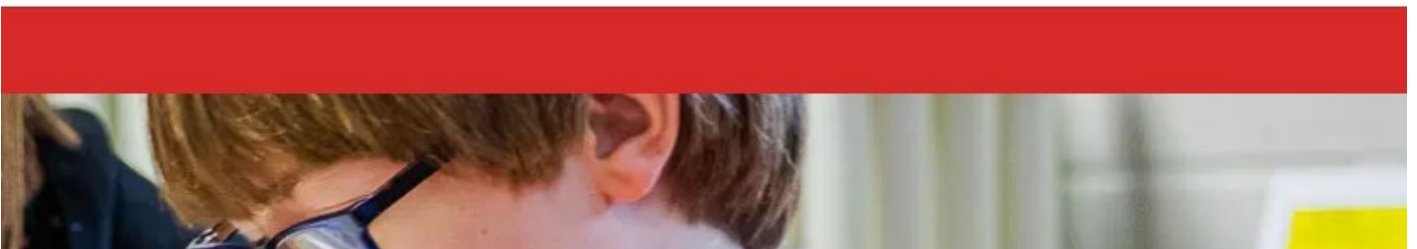
# New Safeguarding and Pastoral Section On Website

Please could we make parents aware of our new Safeguarding and Pastoral tab on our website.

Please do have a look at this to see how best to support your child and what other support is available.



Home Safeguarding and Pastoral Support ▾ About Us ▾ Curriculum ▾ Parents ▾ Contact





**Help Needed!**

**Stewards  
needed for our  
School Street.**



Could you give up 45-60 minutes once a fortnight to be part of a supportive team of stewards?  
Training & resources provided.  
Email school for more info:  
[enquiry@cotridge.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@cotridge.bham.sch.uk)



# PTA News



## Disco

Our first disco of the year will be:

Friday 28th November - ON SALE NOW!

(4:30 – 5:30) – Nursery and Reception

(5:30 – 6:30) – Year 1 and 2

Friday 9th January - ON SALE IN DECEMBER!

(4:30 – 5:30) – Year 3 and 4

(5:30 – 6:30) – Year 5 and 6

Tickets for **Friday 28th November** are on sale at £3 per child on "Classlist." so, please ensure you have signed up. Details on how to do this were sent out via email earlier this academic year. Squash and popcorn will be provided.

*\*\*We require parent volunteers to help supervise the Year 1 & 2 Disco to ensure we meet the appropriate adult to child ratio. If we don't get enough volunteers by 24th November, then this disco will be cancelled. \*\**

## Christmas Fayre

This year our Christmas Fayre will be on **Friday, 5th December** from **3:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

If you would like to have your own stall, you can purchase a table for £10 on Classlist.

We are always looking for volunteers to aid us in making the fayre run smoothly. If you can dedicate some time (whether this is helping set up or running a stall), please get in touch.

## Santa's Grotto

Santa Claus is coming to Cotteridge.

Come and see Santa and his Elves, receive a gift, and take your own photo with Santa and your child if you wish.

Tickets cost £5 per child. Under 2s go free so you don't need to be booked in. However, they will not receive a gift. If you want your little one to receive a gift, you will need to book a ticket for them too.

Timeslots start from 3:30 p.m. and will last approx 10 minutes. (The children will go in groups of 8.)

Available to book now on Classlist.

The popular Bottle Tombola stall will be available at the Christmas Fayre. We ask if each child can bring in an unopened and in-date bottle of your choice in exchange for a non-uniform day on the day of the fayre.

This can be from a bottle of bubbly to a bottle of shampoo. The choice is yours.

We will inform you where we would like these placed, next week.

### **Christmas Jumper and Cake Sale**

We will be having a Christmas Jumper and cake sale on Friday 12th December at pick-up at the Learning Den.

If you can donate pre-loved Christmas jumpers, then please place these in the Learning Den.

If you can donate/bake cakes for the sale, please get in touch via email, WhatsApp or c Classlist.

### **Donations Request**

We are asking for your donations for the following:

- Christmas Jumpers
- Cloak hangers
- Stuffed Animals (plushies)

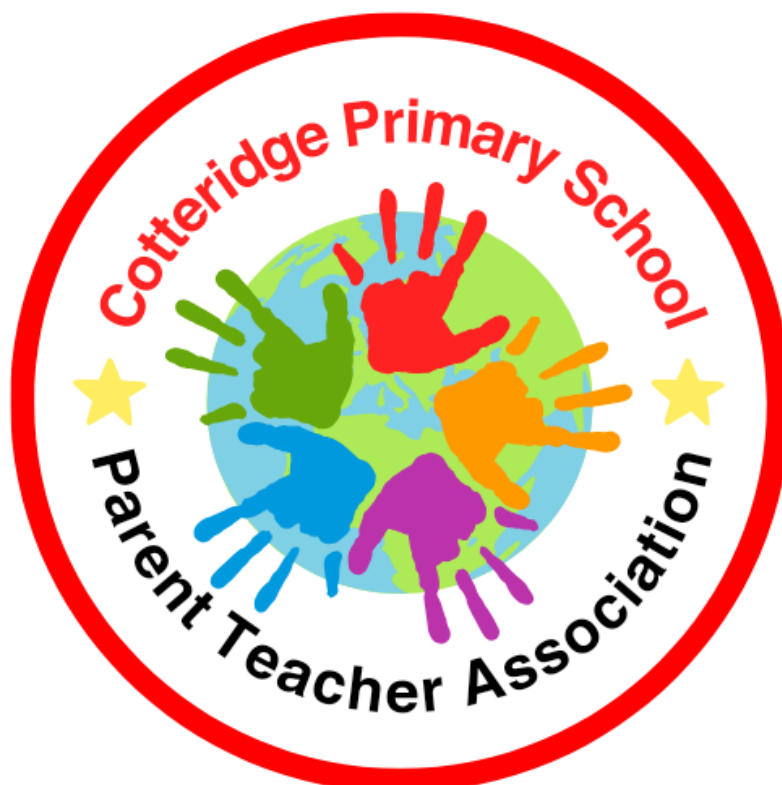
Please, place items in the Learning Den.

NO UNIFORM ITEMS AT THIS TIME PLEASE.

**Next Meeting** - Thursday 26th February at 7:30 via Zoom video link

### **Contact details**

Email: Cotter-  
idgepta@gmail.com



# SATURDAY FOOTBALL SESSIONS



ST THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL  
B38 8AP



**WHEN:**

SESSIONS RUN BETWEEN



**9AM-11AM**

**WHATS ON  
OFFER?**

BOYS & GIRLS AGE 5-12  
GROUPS ORGANISED BY SCHOOL  
YEAR

QUALIFIED & ENTHUSIASTIC  
COACHES

PATHWAY INTO GRASSROOTS  
FOOTBALL TEAMS

INTERACTIVE AND ENGAGING  
SESSIONS

A FUN AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT  
FOR CHILDREN TO MAKE FRIENDS  
AND BUILD CONFIDENCE!

**1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION  
FREE**

**£28.50  
MONTHLY  
SUBSCRIPTION**



IN ASSOCIATION  
WITH  
BOURNVILLE FC.



JGUPPYCLINIC@GMAIL.COM

07917489279



If any parents are interested in anything featured on the next three pages, please liaise with Mrs Burnett:



**BRANDWOOD CENTRE**  
Allens Croft Road, B14 6RP  
0121 443 3310  
brandwoodcentre.co.uk



# *School Careers*



This programme is tailored for individuals who aspire to make a positive impact in the field of education and child development. Our sessions are designed to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in various roles within schools.

Starting on Friday 9th January 2026 , course runs every Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm for 6 weeks (excluding half-term)

- Inductions and Team Building
- Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene
- Level 2 Occupational Health and Safety
- Level 2 Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk
- Get that Job! (Careers in Schools Programme)
- Level 3 Combined Emergency First Aid

**Open to anyone living in Birmingham, 19+ and not in work, education or training**

# Train-To-Gain

Helping You into Work



The Brandwood Centre is excited to announce that it has secured funding from The National Lottery to continue to deliver our successful Train-to-Gain programme, helping you gain the experience and the confidence you need to discover new opportunities and set new career goals.

Our services are free and open to anyone aged 19 or over who is currently unemployed or economically inactive and living in Birmingham. By providing these services we aim to raise confidence, skills and knowledge and increase employability prospects.

We offer a tried and tested back to work training and support package including:

- Employability Workshops
- Accredited Training
- CV Support & Careers Information, Advice & Guidance
- Job Search
- Interview Techniques
- Volunteer Opportunities

Our programme is delivered from the award winning Brandwood Centre, a local community centre which prides itself on offering a welcoming and friendly environment for all.

## Coming Up

Courses & Services available to January and February 2026

Careers in Schools Programme

### Working in Schools Programme – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Are you looking for a job to fit around your children? Have you thought about working in a school? Our new “Working in Schools” package offers accredited qualifications to enhance your CV and tailored job search support to help you find the job that’s right for you!

#### Induction and Teambuilding

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (9:30am-2:30pm)

Come and learn about the Education sector and what it takes to work with children and young people. Socialise and get to know the rest of your group with some teambuilding activities.

#### Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene for Catering

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (9.30am – 4.30pm)

This one-day course is ideal for anyone working in catering, hospitality, manufacturing, or retail setting where food is prepared, cooked, and handled.

### **Level 2 Occupational Health & Safety**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 (9.30am – 4.30pm)**

Understanding the principles of health and safety and accident prevention. This qualification is suitable for anyone looking to gain employment in any industry sector and is a great addition to your CV.

### **Level 2 Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (9:30am – 4.30pm)**

This introduction to Safeguarding course will provide you with a foundation in safeguarding knowledge and skills, helping you feel more confident in recognising the signs of abuse, reporting your concerns. This training is a must for anyone who has regular contact with children/young people and/or vulnerable adults.

### **Get the Job! – (Career in Schools Programme)**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (9:30am – 2:30pm)**

Enter the job hunt armed with the essential tools to find the job that's right for you, tackle application forms with ease and skill, and finally ace that interview. All delivered from the point of view of the recruiter.

### **Level 3 Combined Emergency First Aid**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (9.30am – 4.30pm)**

This one-day course is designed for anyone looking to gain employment in any industry sector, covering emergency first aid, enabling you to act as a first aider in the workplace.

### **Additional Support Services**

As part of our on-going commitment to supporting our community we also have the following services available to all:

- CV Support
- Better off calculations
- Benefit & Debt Advice
- Café & Food Pantry
- Energy Saving Advice
- Carbon Monoxide Safety Advice & Alarms

**Please contact Mrs Burnett if you  
are interested in anything  
featured on the previous three  
pages!**



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**