



Important Calendar Dates

28th September – PTA
AGM

13th October – Flu Jabs

18th October – Individual
school photos

19th October – Year 6 Trip
to Wells Literature Festival

21st October – Halloween
Disco (More Information
to follow)

17th October – 4-6pm
Parents Evening

19th October – 4:30-
7:00pm Parents Evening

22nd October – Year 5
Optional Trip to Yeovil
Octagon Theatre

24th til 28th October -
Halfterm

31st October – Bank
Holiday

Catcott News

Version 3 – 23rd September 2022

Dear Families,

Meet the team – Your feedback

Thank you to everyone who came along to our '**Meet the team**' evening on Wednesday, it was lovely to meet so many of you and learn more about the families that make up our school. From these conversations there were some common questions across all year groups that I would like to respond to here.

What's happening with homework?

Earlier this term I sent home a survey to all families inviting feedback on homework, was there enough, too much or not enough? Did the structure work well? What we could improve. Whilst we have gathered the responses, we have offered a stripped back approach to homework centred around reading, spelling and times tables. Many families have said they prefer this whilst some are concerned that this will not stretch children who are wanting to extend their learning.

The results of this survey have shown an understandably mixed response. Some families are keen for more homework, particularly research around topics. Others find homework a source of great stress at home and would rather there was a minimal amount. For children attending clubs or other activities outside of school there was also the consideration of how much time should be spent on these activities.

Moving forward, our core offer will remain the same focussing on the core skills of reading, spelling and multiplication. From half term, teachers will set additional tasks via Class Dojo linked to the class projects, these tasks will be optional. In Year 6 we have a range of SAT Buster CGP books, if you would like your child to access these, please let Mrs Brogden before half term if you would like to take this offer, these will be optional.

Whole School Attendance Figures

19th September – 23rd September

90.88% Attendance

(In 2021 our third week attendance was 95.95%)

Why can't hot dinners and packed lunches sit together?

It is my vision that all children have the maximum opportunity to enjoy recreational play at lunchtime, in order to achieve this, we needed to find a more efficient way to serve the children enabling them to leave the hall when they have finished.

In seating the children separately, we can serve hot dinners quickly whilst the packed lunch children can eat and go if they choose. What we have found in this approach is that children are now having nearly 45 minutes of recreational play across 2 sessions. Previously they had a maximum of 30 minutes and were asked to stay in the hall for 30 minutes. Children who are enjoying being in the hall with their friends and would like to stay for longer are able to do this, it is their choice.

In order to improve our play offer at lunchtime, all support staff now supervise 'zones' across the school, these include a daily sports club led by Mrs Varney, a quiet area for books and games, skipping, drama, ball games and the trim trail. The feedback from the children is that they are enjoying the opportunity for more time outside.

These changes will be regularly reviewed and feedback from the children will help us to shape any future changes to lunchtimes.

Why can't parents go into the classrooms?

We have found that the children find it much easier to settle if they leave their families at the gate than if families come into the classroom. For children who struggle to separate from their families it can be much harder with those adults in the classroom.

The start of the day is a very busy time with teachers preparing for their lessons which begin at 9am and sharing learning intentions for the day with teaching assistants. Teachers are available at the end of the school day. Urgent messages for the day ahead should be sent via the office email.

Guitar Lessons

There is currently availability for guitar lessons with our guitar tutor Joe Winn. If you are interested in your child starting guitar lessons, or have any queries at all, then please contact Joe directly at Jwinn guitartuition01@gmail.com And he will provide more information. Lessons at the school are held on a Wednesday during the school day.

Why can't children have seconds at lunch?

The Government has given very clear guidance around portion sizes and food groups offered at school. All children's meals meet specific weight requirements. Please see the guidance below for further information.

[Portion sizes and food groups - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

I need to speak to my child's teacher, but I don't want to share the details in an email. What should I do?

There may be times when you would prefer not to share potentially personal information in an email, in this case please email the office and ask for your child's teacher to call you back. The teachers will receive this message and will respond as soon as they can.

Why can't I use dojo/the communication book?

We cannot guarantee that your message will be seen or responded to quickly enough.

Where messages are sent to specific teacher via Class Dojo they will be missed if that member of staff is absent or in the case of part time teachers the message will not be seen by the other class teacher.

All messages which are sent to the office will be passed to the class team on the same day ensuring messages can be responded to. Communication books are now used as reading records.

Why has the clap gone?

In the classrooms we were looking for a calmer way to gain the children's attention at the end of an activity. The clap is an effective but often distracting way of doing this, often needing to be repeated or an adult raising their voices above the children. A hand up approach is a much calmer way to get the children's attention and creates a hush in the classroom meaning the teacher can give their next instruction quickly.

Will there be a Christmas play?

YES!



New Intake Tours

For Reception Intake 2023-2024 we would like to offer you the opportunity to come and join us for a tour of our school. You will have the opportunity to meet the Reception team and see the school in action. Below, you will find the dates of these events. If you would like to come along to any of our tours, please email office@catcottprimary.co.uk with your name and contact number so we can book you in.

Date 1 – 12th October
9:30

Date 2 – 18th October
13:30

Date 3 - 1st November
16:00

House Captains

This week the Year 6 children had the opportunity to run for House Captain, they prepared a short speech explaining why they wanted this role and what they would bring to it. These children all chose kindness and compassion as key attributes for this role, they have some wonderful ideas and I look forward to working with them this year.

Congratulations!



Class Dojo – Year One

Thank you for sharing that many of you are struggling to connect to Class Dojo, the page was re set last week and new invitations were sent, if you haven't received one please let us know and we can re send them. We are working with our IT support service and Class Dojo to resolve this problem. Thank you again for your patience.

One big question...

Each week we will be looking at one big question as part of our assemblies,

'Could we live our lives without plastic?'

TAKEHOME



Could we live our lives without plastic?



In the news this week

A housing association has built Europe's first virtually plastic-free housing development in the UK. Built by Green Square Accord, the £1.3m project in Redditch, Worcestershire consists of 12 affordable one-bedroom homes built using plastic-free alternatives to reduce environmental impact. Each apartment features many alternatives, such as wooden kitchen units and aluminium window frames. The wiring uses a mineral-based insulation rather than the usual plastic, and solar thermal heating systems are also installed.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your thoughts on this week's story. Do you think it's a good idea to create virtually plastic-free homes? Did you realise there was so much plastic in home building?
- Think about your usage of plastic in a typical day, how much do you encounter in your everyday life?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Running Club

It was great to have families join us for our first Friday fun run! Every child achieved their 1km or 1 mile and are now working towards their certificates for 5 miles! Hopefully see you all there next Friday, 8.30 on the field...bring trainers!



Yours sincerely,

Laura Constanza

Laura Constanza



Clubs Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Yoga KS2 Science KS2	Gymnastics KS1	Dance KS1
Thursday	Friday	15:30- 16:30
No Clubs	Football KS2	All clubs can be booked on Parent Mail.

