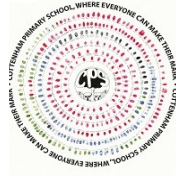


CPS Newsletter

4th April 2025



A message from Mr Kilsby

As part of ensuring that all children are able to find their voices and develop their confidence and sense of self-esteem, we have introduced a number of approaches across the school. These have included 'sentence starters' displayed around the classrooms. These are visual aids that support the children in sharing whether they agree, disagree or want to 'build on' what has previously been said. To help reduce the risk of children experiencing any excessive anxiety about sharing their ideas, we also have a range of displays about what they can say if they are struggling to find an answer (see some of the photographs over the page).

Another new initiative has been inviting the children to stand up when they want to say something, but then waiting until all of their peers are looking at them before starting to speak (what we call, 'tracking the speaker'). This is taking place in all year groups from Reception through to Year 5/6, as well as in our assemblies and at lunchtimes, where pupils are invited to come up with and then ask a 'Five Minute Question' to their peers.

It has been remarkable how quickly the children have taken these approaches in their stride. Indeed, when asked whether they enjoyed standing up to speak, a Year 6 pupil replied, 'I love it! I can see everyone listening.' In every class that I have observed recently, children were fully engaged in discussing their responses to the teacher's questions, and then sharing their ideas with their classmates.

The School Council have also canvassed the views of the children on what is helping them to find their voices and how they could they be supported to further. The responses have included comments about the 'joy' of speaking to the class and how their courage has grown.

We realise that we have a long way to go, but the early signs are incredibly positive. I would encourage you to talk to your child about the approaches shared above and how they feel about them.

Tier 2 Vocabulary

Please be aware that the following Tier 2 vocabulary is currently being shared and taught across the school:

EYFS	Frightened; Puzzled; Cheerful;
Year 1	Urgent; Luckily; Destruction
Year 2	Raged; Heaved; Exhausted
Year 3	Outraged; Vicious; Fearsome
Year 4	Vow; Resume; Alternative; Deed
Year 5/6	Surprised; Disguise; Prevent

NB., For Tier 3 Vocabulary, please refer to your child's Knowledge Organisers

Coming up...

- 22nd April: First day of term (pupils in school)
- 23rd April: St George's Special Menu
- 24th April: Parent Helper Induction Session
- 5th May: May Day Bank Holiday
- 7th May: Class Photos
- 9th May: EYFS Trip to Church Farm
- w/c 12th May: Y6 SATs Week
- 15th May: Special Menu Italian Day
- w/c 26th May: Half Term Week
- 2nd June: Y6 Hertfordshire Zoo Trip
- 4th-6th June: Y6 Residential Trip to Hilltop
- w/c 10th June: Year Phonics Screening Check
- 11th June: 1/2GT, SR & TO Trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park
- 12th June: Y3 Production
- 17th June: 1/2LW, & HR Trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park
- 17th June: Special Menu - The King's Birthday Party
- 27th June: Professional Development Day (pupils not in school)
- 30th June: Y3 West Stow Trip
- 2nd July: EYFS & KS1 Transition Afternoon
- 3rd-4th July: Y5 Grafham Water Trip
- 8th July: Whole-school Transition Day & CVC Step-up Day
- 9th July: Y1/2 Sports Day (am)
- 10th July: Y5/6 Sports Day (am)
- 10th July: EYFS Sports Day (pm)
- 11th July: Y3 & Y4 Sports Day (am)
- 16th July: Y1/2 Grandparents' Picnic
- 17th July: CPS PTCA Summer Fair (5:30—7:30pm)
- 22nd July 2pm: End of term (2pm)

Note: more dates and details will be added as events are confirmed

A polite, but firm, reminder that for a range of reasons, including safeguarding, mobile phones are not allowed in school. As such, please can you desist from using your phone on the site.

Assembly Music

Recent music in assemblies has included: "Beggin'" by Frankie Vali & the Four Seasons; "Maybe I'm Amazed" by Paul McCartney; "Stop Crying Your Heart Out" by Oasis; and "Salisbury Hill" by Peter Gabriel.



For the latest information about what is happening in school, why not follow us on X (formerly Twitter) at @cpsprimary?



CPS Newsletter

April 4th, 2025



Cottenham United Colts

I am delighted to share some very exciting news from the community, which involves a large number of former pupils of CPS. Cottenham United Colts have been working alongside both the Cottenham and Avrille Twinning Association to secure entry for 3 teams into the FC Avrille Football Tournament over in France this June.

One of the coaches, Tom Webb (who is also a parent of the school), has explained how the Cottenham Boys U13 & U14 teams and the Cottenham Girls U14 team, will play in the Macron Cup alongside 14 French teams. As Tom says, 'This is not just a tournament: it's an opportunity of a lifetime for these young athletes to showcase their skills and represent our community with pride.'

This exciting adventure comes alongside the challenge the club faces to raise in the region of £20,000 for a new, state of the art 3G pitch at Cottenham Village College. If successful, the facility will provide the children of Cottenham and surrounding villages, with the chance to continue their development as footballers, as well supporting their mental and physical wellbeing.

We think this is a fantastic cause and should any of you wish to support the project and make a contribution, please click on the following link: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thomas-webb-5?utm_term=2N6X7wQrZ.

If you do drive your car to school, a reminder not only to refrain from dropping off in the layby at the front of the school, but also to give serious consideration to how and where you park your car. We have been informed of a number of 'near misses' recently, involving cars that are not only parked illegally, but are then moving off without checking it is safe to do so. Please be aware that this is an issue that we share with our professional partners, including the police.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College