

## **Cherry Tree Parent Forum Minutes**

**Monday, 1 December 2026, 9 – 10am**

Parent Forum is an opportunity to share ideas for the good of the school. It is not a decision-making group, but the views of parents are important in informing school decisions.

Should you wish to comment on any of the items discussed at parent forum, please send an email to the Parent Forum Chair Lisa Wee ([lisavwee@googlemail.com](mailto:lisavwee@googlemail.com))

### **Welcome/Introductions**

LW welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a list of parent attendees was taken.

### **Minutes of previous meetings**

Nothing was noted arising from these.

### **1. Headteacher appointment**

Laura Halpin has been appointed as the new Head Teacher of Cherry Tree Primary School and will begin on the first day of the summer term. Mrs Halpin is currently Acting Headteacher at Beamont Primary School in Warrington. Mrs Halpin has experience as an acting Headteacher and has worked closely with the maths hub, so she brings expertise in that area. Mrs Graham is meeting with Mrs Halpin next week and will ensure an effective plan is in place to ensure a smooth transition. Staff and children will be given the opportunity to meet Ms Halpin prior to her starting.

### **2. Midday/after school vacancy**

Cherry Tree currently has a vacancy for a midday and after-school assistant.

**Action:** Mrs Graham asked people to spread the word and encourage anyone interested to apply.

### **3. Preschool**

Cherry Tree is keen to increase the number of children at preschool. There was a discussion of different ways in which to market the preschool. Cherry Blossom offers extended hours, and the ease of transition to Cherry Tree is an excellent selling point for the preschool.

**Action:** Preschool will put a post on Love Lymm locals, and Lisa, Claire and others will all give it a good recommendation. Potential for preschool to post about Christmas decorations they are making, and for others to contribute to the discussion about the decorations their children made at the preschool in the past, to generate engagement and interest.

### **4. Newsletters**

Cherry Tree was keen to understand whether parents valued the class newsletters. They take time to compile each week, and teachers want to understand if people are using them. Feedback indicated they are helpful, particularly for understanding homework requirements and for reminders about upcoming events. In many classes, one parent adds a photo of the newsletter to the class What's App group. So, while it may look like people aren't accessing it, many are seeing it via WhatsApp. Discussed the potential to include a 'Child of the week' element to try to raise engagement, but there are difficulties with this in terms of sharing images etc.... Potential to reduce teacher workload by bullet-pointing information, rather than paragraphs of text.

**Action:** Agreed that the newsletters were of value and should continue.

## **5. Website**

Cherry Tree was keen for feedback on the new website. Parents felt that the website was generally effective for finding information on items like term dates etc... which was what most parents used the website for. It was agreed that it was an effective window into the school, but it was identified that there was no mention of Cherry Blossom Preschool on the site.

**Action:** Preschool should be added to the homepage at the top by the Cherry Tree logo. Ideally, the Cherry Blossom logo should also be included on the homepage. A new Cherry Blossom preschool page should be developed, which shows images of the preschool environment and explains our approach to early years education.

## **6. Homework**

Cherry Tree was keen to understand if the amount and type of homework was appropriate. Parents agreed that the amount of homework was appropriate. Concerns were raised about the My Maths website. Parents had experienced issues with the site, including losing all the previous answers if a child swiped the page incorrectly and that the wording of some of the questions was incorrect. Mrs Graham explained that the Year 6 children had trialled My Maths and preferred it to Mathletics. My Maths was also £1000 cheaper than Mathletics and so a decision had been taken to change providers. A parent also commented that her children didn't enjoy using the CGP books each week and that perhaps a variety of approaches would be beneficial. Mr Adams explained that his class would be moving towards using a comprehension book, rather than just individual sheets of paper.

**Action:** Mrs Gaham to feed concerns back to My Maths regarding the issues raised.

Mrs Graham to remind teachers that variety in homework approaches may be beneficial, whenever possible.

## **7. Year 6 access to school app**

Cherry Tree can give Year 6 children access to the school app to encourage independence in preparation for high school. Would this be valuable? There was a discussion around whether encouraging children to use more screen time was beneficial. Some felt it would be good for children to be able to see what is going on that week and other were ambivalent. Recognised that some children in year 6 did not yet have phones, but the app can be accessed via a laptop or alternative device.

**Action:** Cherry Tree will do a trial after Christmas to see if it is beneficial to year 6 children. It was agreed that it would not be required for children to access the app, but that a parent would make the decision based on whether it would benefit their child.