

Cherry Tree Parent Forum Minutes

Monday, 2 March 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)

Welcome/introductions

LW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of previous meetings

Summary of the minutes given. Noted that small changes have been made to the school website, however further changes would be made once Mrs Halpin begins as the new headteacher.

School meals

Mrs Graham offered an update on school meals, explaining that the quality of meals had improved, but that the Warrington Meals Service was not able to provide three kitchen staff on a regular basis. This meant that some menu options weren't possible and they were using disposable boxes to reduce washing up. Warrington Meals Service has been unable to provide an updated menu and ensure its consistent delivery. Cherry Tree are keen to have greater control over the menu in future to offer meals that we know are popular amongst our pupils.

Comments from parents included:

- Quality has really improved.
- Children like the meals.
- Visibility of the menu is very important, and this has been an issue of contention recently. If parents knew what the menu for the week was and there weren't many last-minute changes, the number of pupils having school meals would rise.
- Year 6 children regularly complain that the portions aren't large enough and they are hungry.
- Laura, Cherry Tree cook, is excellent and always happy to help with PTA events. The food that she provides for events is of very high quality. PTA are very grateful for all her help and enthusiasm.

PTA events

School was keen to get a view from parents on the types of PTA events that they like and any ideas for future events.

Comments from parents:

- Junior fun night is a favourite
- Film night – large numbers attending the last event meant it was difficult to manage. Discussions ongoing about potentially having two events for KS1 and KS2.
- School disco works well. Following parent feedback potential to lessen the volume so it is easier for adults to speak to one another.
- Christmas bonanza – excellent
- Santa dash – excellent and should submit it to the Warrington Guardian next year to gain extra coverage
- Break the rules day – excellent
- Ice pop Friday - excellent
- Colour run – potential to get people to provide their own old t shirts and collect in the sun glasses at the end of the event to reuse to increase funds raised.
- Easter hunt in school time is an idea for a potential future event
- Tea towels – every three years
- No Christmas cards
- Karaoke potential future event

Charities

Cherry Tree holds a number of days supporting external charities. They usually do one local charity (foodbank), one national mental health cause ('Hello Yellow day') and one national charity ('Dogs Trust').

Parents felt that this was about the appropriate number of charity days. Parents felt it was a good idea that children suggested the charities themselves via the parent council.

Parents noted it would be good to get more publicity for the events that the school did. For example, submitting a news release and picture to Warrington Guardian of the Santa Dash.

Theme days

General consensus was that parents preferred non uniform days rather than days where you wear a particular colour or had to dress up.

One possible idea was that you could wear 'trash fashion' and pupils had to create an outfit from recycling items but non uniform was the preferred option.

As part of our second-hand uniform collection/sale we should also collect coloured t shirts for sports day.

Suggested that rather than themed meal days, we should do things like £1 for a heart-shaped cookie on Valentine's Day or a piece of cake to mark a special occasion. Parents suggested there was potential to say at the beginning of the year that there will be 5 themed treats this year, and we would like a donation of £5 for these, rather than £1 each time.

One potential theme suggestion was to do a collaboration with GruBarbs to encourage children to eat local produce, and the treat would be made from local ingredients ie local honey etc...

Head teacher transition

Mrs Graham was keen to reassure parents that there is an extensive handover process underway.

Mrs Halpin is coming into school each week this half term, is attending lots of different meetings, and getting to know the children. Mrs Halpin will be attending pupil progress meetings between Mrs Graham and class teachers this term so she understand the needs of pupils. She is also attending governor meetings.

AOB

100% attendance awards

Parents raised concerns that the 100% attendance award was driving the wrong behaviours, causing pupils who are ill to be concerned and anxious about missing school and was discriminating against pupils with long-term health conditions. It was agreed that only high attendance stickers would be issued, no longer 100% attendance awards.

Mobile phones

Parents not attending the meeting raised the concern that they weren't allowed to film their children at events and take pictures when other primary school in the area were allowed.

Mrs Graham explained that this was best practice in terms of safeguarding and that we had children in the school that could not be photographed. It was felt that other schools would eventually be doing the same.

Parents noted that the school photos were excellent this year and commended the school for doing them. On this basis, could we potentially borrow a video camera and film the school play? Then make it available for a small fee. It would need to be made very clear that it could not be shared on social media. Potential to do similar with class assemblies for those who cannot attend.

Classes could potentially do a photo board of class trips and encourage parents to come and see it at pick up or parents' evening, etc.