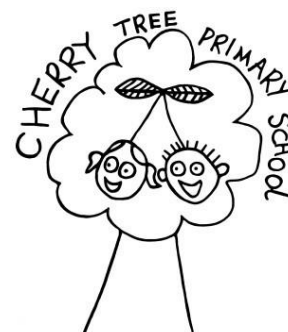


**AUTUMN TERM
2020-21
NEWSLETTER 1
Tuesday,
1st September**

CHERRY TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Our Mission Statement

*Bringing out the best in each other as we
blossom & grow*

Our Values

Happy, Aspirational, Resilient, Independent, Open-minded, Compassionate

SCHOOL NEWS

Tuesday, 1st September 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back to a new academic year and a fresh start!

I hope you have had a lovely summer holiday in whatever format that has taken and that you and your families are happy and healthy, in body and mind.

It has been just over 5 months since our whole school community was together. I am very much looking forward to welcoming all of our year groups back to school. I have sent some information via ParentApp to reassure you from GOV.UK regarding advice and scientific research on returning to school.

Within this letter, you will find more information regarding how we have implemented the government's guidance for our full re-opening on Thursday.

School Dates

The term dates for the year can be found on our website (www.cherrytreeschool.co.uk) or on our app-ParentApp/PA Connect.

Although school will be open to all year groups, one of our key priorities during this pandemic is to limit contact between people. We are not allowed to host any large gatherings or invite parents into school without an appointment. This will affect the usual planned events for the school year. Much as we like to be organised, and give parents advanced warning of any notable dates, such as assemblies, this year we are going to have to be more pragmatic. I will try to give as much warning as I can of any future events. I ask for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Attendance

Below is a section of text taken from the GOV.UK document: 'Guidance for full opening: schools'. Please work with us to maintain good attendance and punctuality.

Attendance expectations

In March, when the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

REMINDERS ABOUT THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

How will school have changed in September?

There will be some changes to the usual routines in September in order to control the virus and keep our community safe. In essence there will be two main aims:

- To limit the contact between all members of our community
- To implement increased hygiene measures

The physical set up of the classroom will be slightly different and we will be unable to gather for assemblies. However, we will continue to provide a high quality, broad and balanced curriculum and as always, ensure that your child enjoys coming to school and feels safe.

Who will teach my child in September?

A reminder of who is working with each class.

Class	Teacher	Teaching Assistant	Additional Support/One to One TA
F	Mrs Baines	Mrs Bolger	Mrs Gibson (afternoons)
1	Mrs Kinzett/ Mr Hughes	Mrs Leung	
2	Mrs Greason	Mrs Brooks	Miss Slater, Miss Metcalf
3	Miss Flower	Mrs Sampson	
4	Miss Birchall	Mrs Gibson/Mrs Strong	Mrs Sampson
5	Mr Adams	Miss Metcalf	Mrs Stagg, Mrs Kershaw, Mrs Adams
6	Mrs Perrin/Mrs Bottomley		Mrs Fothergill, Miss Johnson, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Strong

Please note- some classes have a higher number of children who have special needs and require 1-2-1 support than others. This is why allocated support may look heavily weighted in some classes.

Do you have a one way system?

A clockwise one way system is set up from the gate nearest St Mary's Pre-School, around the back of school and down the steps back onto Hardy Road. Prams and wheelchair users may exit behind the Class F play area, through the car park. Please follow this one way system for everyone's safety.

We also have a clockwise one way system operating in the school building.

How will school manage the initial return?

From Thursday, our classes will be back to their normal size of approximately 30 and timings will be largely the same as our usual routine. However, we have made a couple of changes. In order to facilitate social distancing, **we will be opening our school doors for a 15 minute period between 8:45am and 9am**, meaning that you will be able to arrive and drop your child off straight away, rather than waiting on the playground. Purposeful, learning activities will begin as soon as the children arrive in school.

Official registration is at 9am, **children must be in the building, ready to start by 9am**. Our pedestrian gates will close at 9am. Anyone arriving after this time must enter through the front office entrance and will be marked as late. (After the initial few days of settling back in we will tighten up on punctuality.)

Please do not arrive before 8:45am. We want to avoid the need for parents to wait, and gather in groups on the playground.

I appreciate that the first few days back to school may be difficult to get back into the routine, but please do everything you can to be punctual. Any late attendance will start to be monitored from 14th September onwards. As we have a community of families who work closely with us, we feel that these arrangements if followed, will allow social distancing and minimise any disruption for parents- especially those who have children in more than one class. If however, the measures do not work to support social distancing we may need to move towards different drop off times. Please work with us to minimise disruption for everyone's benefit and in particular to prevent disruption to learning.

Children in Year 5 and Year 6

We always encourage our oldest children to be responsible and independent. If possible, we would prefer the children in Year 5 and Year 6 to come onto the playground by themselves, without a parent. We have a member of staff on duty to support all children arriving and to ensure their safe entry into school. Please drop your child off near the gate and allow them to come in by themselves. If your child does not feel confident doing this straight away, that is fine, but please try to build their confidence (and yours) towards this.

Will pick up times change at the end of the school day?

Again in order to facilitate social distancing we are having three pick up times as follows:

- Year F, 1 and 2: Collect at 3:15pm (from the green gates- YF/ playground porches for Y1 and Y2)
- Year 3 and 4 collect at 3:25pm (from the playground porch doors)
- Year 5 and 6 collect at 3:30pm (from the playground porch doors)

What transition arrangements are happening for the New Intake 2020?

Transition for the new Class F in September 2020 will be slightly more gradual than in previous years, to ease them in gently. Transition for these children will take place during the week commencing 7th September. Their **first time in school will be for a transition visit on Tuesday, 8th September**. This visit is with one parent/carer accompanying them.

Our aim is to have all of our new children in school, full-time by Thursday, 17th September. A separate letter has been sent to the relevant families.

How will you help our children to 'catch up' missed schooling?

In September, our teachers will carry out a range of assessments to help them establish the academic ability and progress of each child. If gaps in learning are highlighted, lessons will be planned to address these gaps before moving on to the next year's curriculum.

We are optimistic that thanks to the cohesive Cherry Tree community working together, the majority of children will not have fallen behind where they should be.

We also aim to apply for the government 'catch up' funding that has been promised.

Any new arrangements in place due to COVID-19 will be under constant review. If we need to increase measures we will let you know. Hopefully we will be able to relax measures as time goes on. As always, the safety and welfare of your children is our number 1 priority.

FINALLY...

As I said in my final newsletter in July, all the staff and governors at Cherry Tree are grateful to work with a community of supportive families and children who trust us. During the past 5 months, we had a very high attendance rate for the year groups that were allowed back in school. You trusted us at a time when many people were fearful for their health. The virus has not gone away and we take our duty to keep your children safe very seriously. We do not underestimate your faith in us.

As a strong community we can get through this unusual time together.

In the words of the philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson "What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Kindest regards,



Helen Graham
Head Teacher

Please feel free to contact me with any queries, [CherryTree Primary Head@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:CherryTree_Primary_Head@warrington.gov.uk)