

**AUTUMN TERM
2020-21
NEWSLETTER 2
Friday,
4th September**

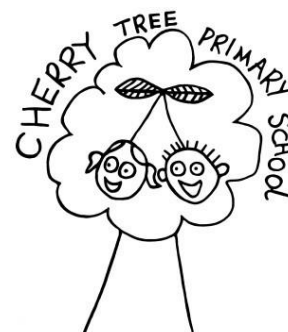
CHERRY TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Friday, 4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

Thank you for your support and understanding as we all familiarise ourselves with new ways of working. Our first two days in school have gone really well. I felt that drop off time today was calm and everyone was safely distanced.

As we all adjust to new routines there are some slight changes that we have made to improve things- always for the benefit of the children and to allow school to run smoothly.

In today's letter, I have provided further information and reminders about the additional measures in place to keep us all as safe as possible.

All procedures in place follow Government, Warrington Borough Council and Public Health England guidelines.

New Telephone System

Having had a new telephone system installed, we needed a new answerphone message. Mrs Lynch put an appeal out to our Year 6 children to submit a recording for the answerphone. Three children sent in cheerful, professional messages for us to choose from. As they were all so good, each of them will be featured for various messages over the course of the year. James Mayne will be the voice of our main message and Sophie Burke and Isabelle Barnes will record messages for our holidays. Well done to all three of them!

A Message from our Chair of Governors- Christine Mitchell-Brown

I was delighted to see all our children return to school this morning after what, for many, was almost a six month absence. Cherry Tree has responded admirably to the challenges over this period and to the demands of home learning. I would like to thank everyone for their efforts during this unprecedented time. I am incredibly proud that our school staff quickly and effectively changed their working practices to support children virtually and have kept up with the almost daily changes in requirements to be a 'Covid-secure' environment. The children have been enthusiastic and resilient and are a credit to both their family and our school community. I have also been impressed with all our parent's ability to juggle home schooling with their ongoing working commitments.



The coming year will no doubt bring many challenges but I am confident that Cherry Tree will tackle them with enthusiasm. The safety and wellbeing of all our children and staff is paramount and, while we will enable as much normality as possible to return to our school, I can reassure you this will remain our key priority.

One of the other big challenges we face this year is a deficit budget. Due to a number of unforeseen factors and as a result of the national funding formula, Cherry Tree has a deficit budget this year. The current pandemic has also had a significant impact with loss of funds from rent and PTA fundraising. We will be doing all we can to ensure that this deficit is effectively managed, while continuing to provide a high-quality, broad and balanced education for all our children. In the spirit of transparency we will continue to keep you updated throughout the year.

REMINDER:

*Please keep the amount of
things that your child brings to
school to a minimum.
Remember to label ALL your
child's belongings, especially
under current circumstances.*

Library Renovation

We have begun to renovate and refresh our library to further develop a love of reading among all of our children. Mrs Bottomley's daughter, Eve, who is a talented artist came into school during lockdown to create a wonderful mural on one of our library walls, depicting famous book characters. Eve voluntarily gave up her time to create this masterpiece for us. We are extremely grateful and are hoping that Warrington Guardian will include a feature in their newspaper about our fabulous new mural.



We have further work planned for our library, using funding provided by the Co-op; we are currently the local charity for the Co-op and hope to receive around £3500 later this year which will be used to purchase new library furniture. Commission from the last book fair is also being spent on new library books.

NEW ROUTINES and SAFETY MEASURES

Does my child need to bring hand sanitiser to school?

No. We have a good supply of hand sanitiser in school with dispensers placed near all entrances into school and in each classroom. Please do send your child to school with their own supply.

Are face coverings being used in school?

No. Face coverings, when used correctly, can provide some additional protection. However, social distancing, good hand/respiratory hygiene, keeping those who are ill or who have symptoms away from school and working effectively with the Test and Trace system remain the most important elements of our school's Covid-19 prevention activity. Primary schools are not affected by the recent change in guidance around the wearing of face coverings. This is not only because there is reasonable evidence that younger children are significantly less likely to catch or transmit Covid-19, but also because the wearing of face coverings would not be practical, safe or effective in this age group.

How will reading books and library books be managed?

Children will be allowed to change their reading book or library book once per week. For those who are reading short books they will bring more than one book home each week. Once their books are returned to school, they will be placed in a box in each classroom. Following government guidance, this box of books will be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours, before being put back onto bookshelves and ready to be used again.





Reading diaries will remain in school for Years 5 and 6. The children will keep their own record of their reading. For the children in Year F, 1, 2, 3 and 4 reading diaries will go home with their reading books. Please record any reading that your child does in the diary. We recommend reading most days where possible, or at least three times per week.

Can my child bring a bag (other than a small bag/book bag) to school?

Ideally no. With a one-way system in place and the need to social distance, we need to free up space by limiting the amount of things that children bring to school. Book bags are ideal for children in Year F, 1 and 2. As the children have their own stationery kit in school, they will not need to bring many things with them.

What shall my child bring to school each day?

All your child will need is:

	A fruit or veg snack	<i>Children in YF, 1 and 2 will receive one piece of fruit or veg for free- please supply a second. KS2 children need one or two fruit/veg snacks for break time.</i>
	A water bottle	<i>Clearly labelled- this is essential to avoid cross contamination.</i>
	A coat	<i>Many lessons, especially PE lessons will take place outside. Being outdoors has many health benefits, plus is safer during a pandemic.</i>
	Packed lunch if not having school dinners	<i>Alternatively, school meals can be ordered daily and paid for via Parent Pay.</i>

How do we use 'SeeSaw'?

Most of you will already have a seesaw account from the previous academic year. For our new parents this is an app which we use to communicate between teachers and parents. Messages and reminders can be posted on here by the class teacher and images of your child's work or them engaged in lessons can be shared with you. SeeSaw was particularly helpful during the lockdown as it enabled us to maintain close contact with all families.

As each child is now in a new class, we have been setting SeeSaw up with the correct teachers/TAs. Apart from Class F, who will be set up next week, everything should continue as normal.

Can invitations be given out in school?

Ideally no. We would prefer invitations to be delivered outside of school. A great opportunity for a family walk around the local area to deliver them! If this is not possible, we can send a whole class message/invitation via 'Seesaw'.

When does my child need to wear their PE kit?

Children can come into school in their PE kit, on the days that they have PE and stay in their kit for the full day. We also use the running track frequently therefore if your child has a spare pair of trainers, it would be really helpful if they could bring these to school with a pair of socks and leave them in school. Please ensure all belongings are labelled.

Our PE timetable is as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Y2		Y1
	YF	Y3	Y5	Y6
Y3	Y4	Y1	YF	Y2
Y4		Y6		Y5

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.

Arriving and leaving school

Thank you for keeping your distance from one another at pick up time. We hope that this will become more efficient as we all settle into our new routines. Remember to follow our one way system.

Our three pick up times are as follows:

- Year F, 1 and 2: Collect at 3:15pm (from the green gates for Year F/ 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.

When will homework be set?

From next week, each teacher will set homework remotely, via Google Classroom or Seesaw. If you do not have a login or have problems downloading homework tasks, please contact school. Homework will be set on a Friday and there will be an expectation that this is completed, electronically by Wednesday of the following week. Homework does not need to be printed out unless the teacher requests this.

Can parents come into school?

The only adults allowed into the school building are members of staff and those who are supporting the delivery of the curriculum or supporting children. Any contractors who maintain our building will carry out their visits, beyond the school day when practicable. Parent volunteers are allowed in school. If any of you need to speak with a teacher, please either make an appointment. Where possible meetings will be held remotely or over the telephone.

What about extra-curricular clubs?

There are huge benefits to be gained when children attend extra-curricular clubs. Therefore we will begin by holding outdoor activity clubs that are run by members of our team. Next half term we will re-introduce further clubs, gradually building up to the extensive range of clubs that we usually provide. Children who are booked onto a club may bring any necessary kit to get changed into at the end of the school day.

Currently there are no clubs for Class F children. We find the majority of our new pupils need lots of adult support when getting changed into sports kit, this is something we cannot currently help them with.

How can child care vouchers be used?

Child care vouchers can be used for holiday camp, breakfast club, after school club or any other before or after school childcare provision. This does not include extra-curricular clubs for children such as football, swimming, dance, rugby and any of the 3:15/3:30 to 4:30 clubs that we run after school. These are NOT classed as childcare. Childcare vouchers cannot be used for school meals.

Will assemblies take place?

Assemblies are really important to us at Cherry Tree, but currently they cannot take place with the whole school or with parents being invited. We will however, have small assemblies with each 'bubble' being invited in turn. Today our Upper Key Stage 2 'bubble' (Year 5 and 6) attended Praise assembly in the hall, while the other bubbles watched a live stream of the assembly on their classroom screens! ☺

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.*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Misinformation alert - Covid testing and children

PHE has been made aware of rumours circulating on social media which **incorrectly** suggest that, under the Coronavirus Act, school children displaying COVID-19 symptoms can be taken and detained by the state in a government testing centre and held for 14 days, plus tested without parental consent, according to a letter from the Children's Commissioner.

Messages have been circulating on social media and community WhatsApp groups, specific areas that these messages are known to have been circulating are; Bradford, Oldham, Peterborough and Leicester. PHE has been distributing a document with links to materials to help support councils and community groups in relaying the correct information to their communities. This document will be forwarded to you separately. Please send any feedback you have on this matter to Tessa.EydmannPeel@phe.gov.uk.

Travelling to school: a message from the council

Over the next few weeks, members of the Warrington Transport Directorate will be visiting schools in the area to monitor and assess the impact COVID is having in relation to the way parents and pupils are making the journey to and from school and what impact staggered start times is having on the school environment. All officers will be displaying their ID.

They are hopeful that the significant increase we have seen nationally in walking and cycling will bring about a positive change in the way pupils make their journey to and from school. The message we hope you will share with your families is to walk, cycle or scoot whenever possible, and park away from the school if driving is necessary. We are mindful that parental choice may be to drive their children to school and this is something we need to monitor as this could have a detrimental impact on the health and safety of the pupils, as well as an increase in congestion and inconsiderate parking. We are also aware that the need to social distance could have an impact on the available pavement space for pupils, parents and other pedestrians.

There may be a need for us to take photographs of the situation outside the school but all officers will be made aware of the sensitivity of taking such photographs and any images will be held on council equipment and will be in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

FINALLY...

Following on from parental feedback in the past about children's birthdays, we no longer allow children to give out sweets when it is their birthday. Since this was agreed, as a school we decided to introduce celebrating a child's birthday by awarding them with a 'Birthday Pencil' in Praise Assembly. The first pencils will be awarded today! ☺

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Kindest regards,



Helen Graham
Head Teacher

Please feel free to contact me with any queries, CherryTree_Primary_Head@warrington.gov.uk