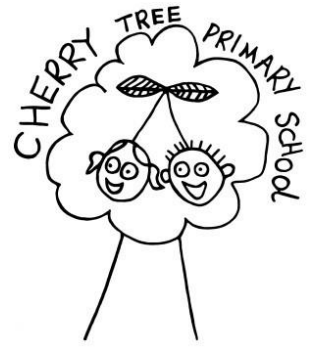


**SPRING TERM  
2020-21  
NEWSLETTER 12**  
Friday,  
8th January

# 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*

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## SCHOOL NEWS

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Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Families,

I sincerely hope that you are all keeping well both physically and mentally.

The introduction of a third national lockdown has brought huge challenges for everyone across the country and within our own community. I am aware that some of our parents are unwell; our thoughts and prayers go out to those who are poorly to wish them a speedy recovery.

After the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, anxiety and stress levels among our community were understandably high. News reports about the virus nationally and locally were shocking.

You may already know that Lymm has one of the highest infection rates in Warrington. This sobering news along with the announcement that schools had to close for the majority of children, brought some members of our community close to breaking-point. Everyone had a very short space of time to adapt, yet again, to tighter restrictions.

Despite the heightened concerns among adults:

- ✓ Our incredible community of children, parents, staff and governors, once again demonstrated that they WILL NOT be defeated.
- ✓ Once again our amazing Cherry Tree community adapted quickly to a new routine and way of working.
- ✓ Once again everyone stepped up in support of each another.

'Lockdown-3' has become an opportunity to work together to make remote learning as effective as possible. We may each have our 'moments' of fear, worry or panic as the week's progress but we are in this together and will continue to support one another. If you are struggling, please do not suffer in silence; the team here can help with any educational or pastoral matters and we can also direct you to wider services if needed.

What I do respectfully ask, is that you continue to treat our staff with understanding and compassion. When stress levels are high it can be all too easy to look for someone to blame; let us not get to that stage as a community. None of this is anyone's fault. We can make it easier by working together.

I work with colleagues across the authority whose determination to keep education going in school is such that they all continue to come to work, now as before, whether site staff, office staff, midday assistants, teaching assistants or teachers to teach and look after your children. The DFE guidance to primary-school teachers that they should not wear masks, the acknowledgement by the DFE that social distancing is impossible within classes and the *uniqueness of schools in being the only workplace where*

### Lockdown Dress Code

- During LOCKDOWN, children are **NOT** required to wear school uniform.
- In order to maintain a school routine and the ethos of productive and valuable learning, please ask your children to be dressed in time for their live lessons and have already had their breakfast if possible.
- Critical Workers' children need to wrap up warm as we keep windows open for increased ventilation.

*both the latter apply* have all been accepted, because we know how important education is. We have dedicated our lives to it and we want the best for each and every child in our care, always.

## Remote Learning Feedback

With the above comments in mind, around working together, thank you to those of you who took the time to give feedback about remote learning so far.

I have had some amazing feedback about all the remote learning, the support for Critical Workers and the commitment shown by all of our staff. Thank you to those who have emailed me.

The only points for improvement have been:

- **A weekly timetable of lessons planned.** This has been mentioned in a letter to parents earlier in the week and will take place from next week.
- **Flexibility around timings required for working parents.** Teachers will set work on Google Classroom and Seesaw. If your child is not able to access the 'live lesson', they should still be able to follow the written explanation and complete the set work at a different time if necessary.
- **Attendance/Registration- it is not always possible for a child to be on at the set time.** This is fine. Children who do not join the live lesson, will still be classed as 'having attended lessons' that day, if they complete and submit work. The attendance register is more about engaging with work set, than physically being on screen; we know this is hard when parents are working online too.

*A document can be found as an appendix to this newsletter, which summarises our 'Remote Learning Policy'.*

## Using Xbox or a PlayStation to access remote learning

If you have either a PlayStation or Xbox at home you can use them to get onto Google Classroom or other internet application and websites:

### Xbox

- Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot.
- Go to my games and apps.
- Find and select Microsoft Edge.
- Navigate to your online learning platform.

### PlayStation

- Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (WWW with dots around it).
- Press the PlayStation logo on the controller.
- Go to the library and find options for games and applications.
- Go to applications and you will find the internet browser.
- Navigate to your online learning platform and log in as usual.

You will be able to access Google on **any device** that connects to the internet and there are apps for Classroom, Drive and Docs that can be downloaded onto Android and Apple devices too.

If you are not able to do the work online, you can still work with pen and paper and photograph it and either email to the class teachers or upload it on Google Classroom.

**Loan of IT Equipment** Some of our families, who did not have the correct/enough IT equipment to support remote learning, are finding things much easier now that they have borrowed a school chrome book. Around 25 requests have been made to borrow a chrome book. It is great to be able to support in this way. In order to manage expectations, I need to let families know that we are close to our limit on the number we can loan. This is because staff also need them to deliver remote learning and we have around 30 to 40 children in school each day who also need a chrome book each.

## Homework

At the moment we do not plan to set homework other than asking all children to read regularly and Classes 2 to 6 will have spellings to learn.

## Critical Worker Provision

A total of 54 children are signed up to come into school as part of the provision for 'Critical Workers'. Some of these are part-time places meaning that on average we have 35 to 40 children in school each day. This is 3 times the figure during the last lockdown.

**If your child possibly can be looked after at home, even if you are a critical worker, you should not send them to school. This is government guidance.** Please tell us if you no longer need a place in school.

For those Critical Workers who have no other option and continue to need our support, please bring your child to school between 8:45am and 9am. They will enter through the playground middle porch door. Gates will be locked at 9am. Children should be collected at 3:30pm from the same playground porch door.

We are able to offer flexibility for parents who work shifts. If this applies to you, please let us know by midnight on Thursday of each week which days are needed the following week using ParentApp.

If you simply need the same pattern of schooling each week you only need to let us know once if there are any changes.

The After School Club which operates from our hall is organised by a separate committee; they have closed for the period of lockdown and have furloughed all staff. To help our parents who are Critical Workers we are able to offer wrap around care from 8am to 5pm from Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January at a cost of £10 per day. We cannot offer flexibility by splitting the care to either a morning or an afternoon. We have employed staff to cover each day; if this childcare is needed it is a flat rate of £10 per day. Please book via ParentApp.



## Happy NEWS This week's uplifting news



### Volunteering

*One of our Year 5 pupils, Bea Gowland, works alongside her mum each Thursday evening to support the Leave No-one behind in Lymm charity (LNOBIL). Bea helps to prepare food parcels for members of our local community who are in need of support. Her mum is hugely grateful to Bea for her calm, efficient approach when carrying out this role.*

*Well done Bea, we are proud to hear that you are making a difference to our community.*

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## PTA NEWS

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I look forward to informing you of the final profits made with each of our Christmas events after our next PTA meeting which is the 19<sup>th</sup> January.



### Amazon Smile

Online shopping is our saviour at the moment! Please remember to select **Cherry Tree School Association** as your chosen charity. Amazon is thriving as a business during the pandemic; they can easily afford to give our school a donation each time you purchase eligible products, so please help us to gain this extra funding at NO COST TO YOU.

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## FINALLY

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I wish you all a happy, safe and enjoyable weekend! Please get in touch if we can help in any way!

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)

## Summary for Parents: Effective remote learning at Cherry Tree



Interactive lessons are most effective in aiding pupils' motivation and academic progression so we will regularly recreate aspects of 'in-person' interactivity, e.g. live lessons with questioning and discussion. We will prioritise factors that have been found to increase the effectiveness of remote education for example:

- Ensuring pupils receive **clear explanations**.
- Supporting growth in confidence with **new material through scaffolded practice**.
- **Application** of new knowledge or skills.
- Enabling pupils **to receive feedback** on how to progress.

### Communication

We will maintain effective communication with parents and children in the following ways:

- Send out a timetable of lessons for the forthcoming week.
- Send a message daily on Seesaw by approx. 8am, outlining the tasks for that day. This will be sent to staff who are in school supervising our Critical Workers' children.
- Two 'live' lessons per day will be provided for each class. (Not Foundation Stage/Class F)
- Communicate arrangements for any 'live' classes, e.g. Google Meets, no later than one day before the allotted time and kept to a reasonable length of no more than one hour per session.

### Attendance

Attendance continues to be crucial to learning and progress. Teachers or Teaching Assistants (TAs) will keep a daily register of which pupils are engaging with the work set and the live lessons for all pupils both in school and home learners.

Children should access remote learning and aim to **complete ALL activities, between 9:00am and 3:30pm from Monday to Friday**.

A member of staff will contact parents via a phone call or email if a child is not completing their schoolwork or their standard of work has noticeably decreased.

### Teaching

Teachers will deliver at least 3 lessons per day, 2 that are live. (Maths, English and one other foundation stage subject.) Pupils will have meaningful and ambitious work each day. Tasks will be differentiated and work set for pupils with special needs will be appropriate.

Additional challenge activities will also be available on a daily basis- these are optional.

Teachers and TAs will assess progress by using questions and other suitable tasks and will be clear on how regularly work will be checked or when feedback will be given.

Teachers/TAs will check Seesaw, Google Classroom and email messages regularly. Staff are **NOT EXPECTED** to respond after 5pm. (Although some staff may choose to do so.) To ensure marking and feedback can happen, **WHERE POSSIBLE** work needs to be submitted by 4pm please.

There is no expectation of teaching staff to work outside of their normal working hours.

### Foundation subjects

We will provide a broad, balanced curriculum. Certain subjects are more difficult to teach remotely, e.g. music, practical sciences and P.E. When this is the case, effective substitutes for in-person teaching such as video demonstrations will be used e.g. Oak Academy, BBC Bitesize.

We will build in regular physical exercise and mental well-being activities.