

**SPRING TERM  
2020-21  
NEWSLETTER 13**  
Friday,  
15<sup>th</sup> 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, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Families,

### Remote Learning

Last week I shared a summary of our Remote Learning Policy within Newsletter 12. The full Remote Learning Policy can be found on our website [www.cherrytreeschool.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreeschool.co.uk) under the 'About Us' tab.

We continue to be very proud of the commitment to teaching and learning that is being shown by our children, our staff and our parents. Many of you have sent positive feedback to the team, with a couple of parents giving suggestions for minor improvements to the online learning offer. Therefore, I am pleased to say that everything is going really well for us; productive, purposeful learning is taking place in all our classes and we have a very high level of engagement from our children. 😊

One issue that we are having is around internet connection. I have been sent this information from the local authority:

*The provision of remote and digital learning has seen a massive increase during the Covid-19 pandemic. What is also now becoming evident is that the network capacity at some schools across the UK is being stretched beyond the demand it was previously designed to cope with. This is being assessed both locally and nationally, however it is recognised that there is no quick fix solution at this time.*

We have been in touch with our IT team to see if purchasing an additional Wi-Fi booster would help the issue. Fingers crossed for improved internet connectivity next week.

### 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 chromebook each.

**If you have loaned a Chromebook we will send an agreement to you next week which we need you to complete and return to us.**

### Covid Winter Grant

Before Christmas we sent information regarding the Covid Winter Grant; a scheme to support those families who are on low incomes and eligible for 'free school meals', (Not the universal free school meal for all infant classes) If you have not yet applied and think you meet the criteria, more information can be found on the Warrington Borough Council website <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/COVID2020-WG>

## Critical Worker Provision

We continue to have a much higher number of children in school than during the previous lockdown.

Warrington LA have informed us that numbers of children in school are high across the authority. A communication is being drafted to go out in the local Press as a plea to parents and carers to consider if their child really does need to be in school.

We know that the children in school do meet the eligibility criteria, but

**If your child can be looked after at home, even if you are a critical worker, you should not send them to school. This is government guidance. It would help if a place was requested ONLY on the days when you need it.**

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 porch doors. Gates will be locked at 9am. Children should be collected at 3:15pm for the KS1 bubble and 3:30pm for the KS2 bubble from the porch doors (Class F collected from their own porch).

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 on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** at a cost of £10 per day, per child. We cannot offer flexibility by splitting the care to either a morning or an afternoon. We have employed staff to cover these days; 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*



### Parental Support

*We felt that if we could deliver any certificates awarded in Praise Assembly, during the lockdown, this would bring a smile to our families. Postage would be rather high to do this therefore I put a plea out to a parent who had offered her help. As a result we now have a team of Year 6 parents who have very kindly agreed to hand-deliver Head Teacher certificates each Friday afternoon to the children who were nominated for an award. They are following restrictions by delivering the certificates while having their daily exercise.*

## Office of National Statistics (ONS)- Covid Infection Study

We continue to be part of the sample of schools across England that are involved in the ONS Covid Infection Study. Following some queries about the study from a few families, we discussed our involvement in the study at a recent governor meeting. The Governing Board and the Cherry Tree Leadership Team feel that our involvement in this study continues to be of great value, not just to our school community but to our country too. We feel this research project is particularly important this term because of :

- the high infection rate
- the new, more contagious variant of the virus
- the current lockdown situation
- 1 in 3 people are asymptomatic

The next round of testing was due to take place this half term, but has been postponed until next half term.

However, there is an opportunity for all our families (new registrations and those already signed up) to take part in anti-body testing. The ONS will post a anti-body home testing kit to families who register for this service. The flyer can be seen on ParentApp and as an appendix to this letter. The text below explains a little more about the test.

## What is an antibody test?

Antibody tests are used to see if you have ever had Covid- 19, even if you never felt ill. They are essential so we can see how active the virus has been in people without symptoms.

A positive result means it is likely you've had coronavirus before but does NOT guarantee you won't get it again. It does NOT mean you cannot spread the virus to others.

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## PTA NEWS

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I cannot thank our PTA enough for their incredible support during the Autumn Term! We have made a raised a record-amount of funds over the Christmas period! Thank you so much to all of our volunteers; those who arranged match-funding and to those who purchased goods or paid for the Christmas Bonanza package.

**THANK YOU**

FUNDRAISING EVENT	£	
Christmas Cards	419	
Christmas Hampers	1,152	Includes matched funding
Christmas Bonanza	809	
Secret Gifts	435	
Christmas Raffle	2,264	Includes matched funding
TOTAL:	5079	



We have also been given a donation of £182 from **Karl Welsh Florist** for the wreaths, plants, trees and flowers sold through our PTA. This brings our Christmas fundraising to a **total of £5261!!** 😊

Our next PTA meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, via zoom. Contact our PTA via their email [cherrytreepta@gmail.com](mailto:cherrytreepta@gmail.com) for more information regarding how to get involved.



### 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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## REMINDERS

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### Lockdown Dress Code

- During LOCKDOWN, children are **NOT** required to wear school uniform.
- Please ask your children to be dressed before their live lessons and have had their breakfast if possible.
- Critical Workers' children need to wrap up warm as we keep windows open for increased ventilation.

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## FINALLY

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It is hard to believe that just three weeks ago it was Christmas Day! What an eventful start to the New Year we have had!

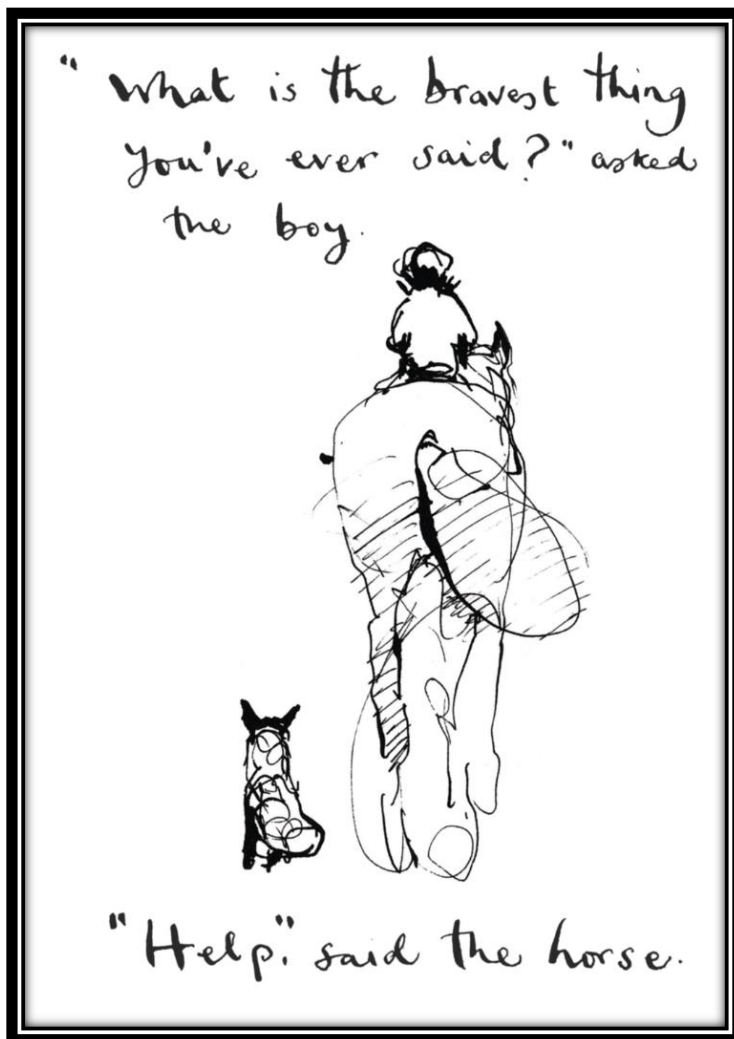
I know it must be hard to be involved in home-schooling whilst working and also being in a national lockdown. Thank you for your ongoing support; we will get through this together!

Kindest regards,

*H Graham*

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)



***Remember to ask for help or support if you need it!***

***We are happy to help.***

# COVID–19 Schools Infection Study

## Yet to take part?

There is still time to register and receive a Home Antibody testing kit.

Thank you to all pupils, staff and parents who have already contributed to this important study. **Your support will inform policies to manage the risks of transmission in schools and help identify ways to protect students, staff and the wider community.**



**“Mobilising the power of data to help Britain make better decisions and improve lives”**

## Not yet registered?

We will be sending antibody home test kits to all new participants or participants who missed previous rounds due to unavailability e.g. absent from school.

**The latest date** that you can register for pupils and staff to receive a home Antibody testing kit is **the 23rd January**, you will also then be included in future school testing days. Sign on via the unique link: <https://www.oc-meridian.com/Desktop/Portal/signup?id=cisschools&referralcode=111150>

- Parents/guardians should select 'NO' for student or staff member on drop down boxes, complete the first page with parent/guardian details and give consent for the first part of registration.
- Confirm the registration by clicking on the validating email which will be sent to you (check spam)
- Login back into the system by entering your email address and password. Click on 'Child Registration Page' and register your child/children, providing consent as required. Your unique school code is: **111150**
- After registering your child/children, click on 'Home' and complete the enrolment survey for each child.