

**SPRING TERM
2020-21
NEWSLETTER 18
Friday, 26th
February**

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, 26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Families,

It was great to hear the news that we have all been waiting; from Monday, 8th March our government and their scientific advisers feel it is safe enough for all children to return to school!! ☺

During the Autumn Term we had stringent safety measures in place to keep everyone safe. These measures will be implemented again from Monday, 8th March. Please see the document attached at the end of this newsletter for a reminder.

As I mentioned in a message on ParentApp, when the children first return to school we will allow additional time for them to talk to their friends, face to face and to adapt once again to the school environment. Activities to support mental health and well-being will be incorporated into the first couple of weeks and an opportunity to talk about their experience of lockdown and any concerns they may have about covid 19 and the vaccination programme.

Although they will have been away from school for 9 weeks, we have had daily, virtual contact with over 95% of our children. The level of commitment and engagement in remote lessons has been excellent across all year groups. This places our school in a strong position as your children return to Cherry Tree. We do not expect their academic progress to have been effected too badly. Any gaps in understanding will be quickly identified and addressed.

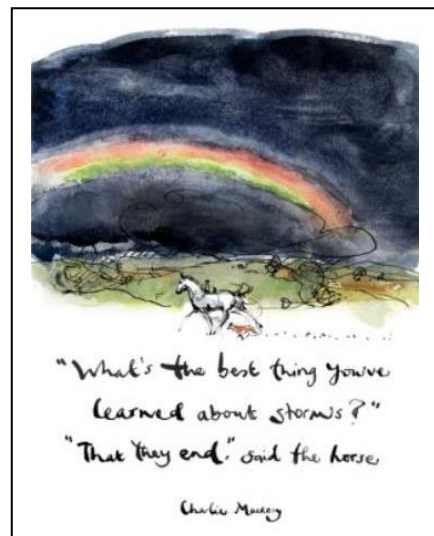
We aim to build into the curriculum opportunities that your children have been unable to do over the past year, such as: class trips; residential visits for our older classes; additional practical activities that have been tricky to do remotely; transition visits for Y6 moving on to High School; possibly a sports morning and a charity assembly.

At this point in time, I can assure you that we will make the remaining months of the academic year as fun, happy, productive and purposeful as possible, without placing any undue pressure on your children. However, I am afraid it is unlikely that we will be able to have assemblies, sports days or a production where we can invite parents to be our audience. This type of event will return next academic year hopefully. I am particularly looking forward to a whole school assembly with the children IN THE HALL!!!

Very soon our calendars will not simply be a decorative item on the wall; we hope to book future school events with a degree of certainty that they WILL actually take place! With that in mind, I have tentatively included planned activities in the 'future events' section of this letter.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are really pleased to inform you that our extra-curricular clubs will re-start from Monday, 8th March. Bookings that were taken for clubs last half term, have been transferred to this half term. Once the children return there will be 4 weeks' of clubs left before the Easter holiday. The 5th week that has been booked and paid for will take place after the Easter holiday- week commencing 19th April. If you booked a place for your child on a club last half term, there is nothing you need to do, apart from be aware that your child will be able to attend the club from the week commencing 8th March.



Next week we will re-publish the club list to remind you of the times and dates of the clubs. There may be a few spaces left at a couple of our clubs, we will notify parents of these next week.

Staffing News

Mrs Perrin's second child is due in April and her official maternity leave will start after the Easter holidays. However, due to the pandemic, the government advice is that anyone who is more than 28 weeks pregnant should work from home until their maternity leave starts. With that in mind, Mrs Perrin will not return to face to face teaching on or after 8th March when Year 6 return to school.

We are very fortunate to be able to have a smooth and gentle transition between staff for our Year 6 children and to be able to cover Mrs Perrin's maternity leave in-house.

I have written to our Year 6 parents separately to outline the cover arrangements for Mrs Perrin.

Internet Issues

We have had some rather frustrating issues with the internet connection this week and occasionally before half term. Warrington Local Authority are aware of this and working hard behind the scenes to address the problem. I have received the following message:

Dear Schools,

Our investigations into the network performance issue continues to reveal no underlying technology problems, other than the fact that the demand on the network has seen a massive surge over the last few weeks with the increase in remote learning by schools.

We have ordered new hardware and larger internet lines, both of which we hope to implement in the next couple of weeks. We will also be continuing with other work already planned, to increase internet capacity for the longer-term.

We appreciate your support during this time whilst we focus on resolving the issue.

Many thanks,

Heather Berry, FBCS, CMgr FCSI

Head of ICT, Corporate Services

FUTURE EVENTS



Book Week- Monday, 1st to Friday, 5th March

To coincide with World Book Day on Thursday, 4th March we are having a 'Book' themed week next week. Scholastic publishers have a schedule of events, free for schools to access next week which we will be dipping into. Teachers will also plan some activities based around books and reading. We are also bringing back 'Mystery Reader'! More information to follow....

Yoga Workshops

We had a day of yoga workshops planned in January where each class would have a session with a qualified yoga teacher. This had to be cancelled. We are in the process of finding a new date and will reschedule these workshops, hopefully before the Easter break.



Office for
National Statistics

Office of National Statistics (ONS)/ School Infection Study (SIS) -
Monday, 22nd & Tuesday, 23rd March

As with any involvement in a project, the governors and I reviewed our participation in ONS Covid study or more specifically the School Infection Survey.

It was unanimously agreed that being part of the survey has been a worthwhile exercise for our school community and we will continue to be part of this study until the end of the summer term. We have had a total of 11 confirmed and reported cases of Covid-19 at Cherry Tree. Within these figures, the SIS identified three asymptomatic cases in our school. Not only did the survey help us to reduce transmission within our school community but the data gathered is helping scientists and government to understand the virus and pandemic. It also informs policies to manage risks of transmission and helps to get everyone back to school safely. Further information about the study and how you can sign up if you have not already done so will be sent home next week. The 'comms' team who work for ONS / SIS have worked hard to improve upon the clarity of information they send home and have increased their capacity in terms of support via the telephone helpline.

Virtual Parents' Evening- 27th 28th 29th April

Under normal circumstances, we have a Parents' evening in the middle of March.

As all know, this year has been far from normal. Therefore, the decision has been taken to delay parents' evening to April. This will allow our teachers to carry out informal assessments with your children in school and to gather a full picture of the progress your children have made during lockdown. Any identified gaps in understanding can then be addressed and shared with you during the meeting.

Appointments will be 10 minutes long and will take place via zoom. Booking details will be available soon.



PTA NEWS

The next PTA meeting is on Wednesday, 3rd March at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome to join our PTA. Please contact our PTA chair, Mark Swettenham if you would like to attend the meeting via cherrytreePTA@gmail.com

Zoom links will be sent to everyone who has expressed an interest.

PTA Book Club Thursday, 18th March at 8pm



Cherry Tree PTA presents a Book Club with a difference. Tickets are available for £5 to join a live chat with Yvonne Battle Felton, author of 'Remembered'. Yvonne won the Northern Writer's Fiction Award for this book. It is a beautifully written story set in two different periods of history examining the themes of motherhood, slavery and the bonds that keep people together. A story that will remain with you for some time.

Tickets are priced £5

For Cherry Tree Parents please purchase your tickets through ParentPay.

***For those outside of school tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite, contact vardye@gmail.com for details
Once registered you will be sent a Zoom link.***



FINALLY

Finally, I wish to once again express my thanks and appreciation to our families for their resilience and patience throughout the last year and particularly this last lockdown.

Our community has had to face challenges which we have not experienced before, and would have found hard to envisage 18 months ago. Yet we did it; we worked together for the benefit of the children and have grown stronger together. Thank you.

If you need support with mental health issues for anyone within your family or local area, please refer to Newsletter 15 posted on 29th January which has a number of links to services in our local area.

Kindest regards,

Helen Graham
Head Teacher

**Please feel free to contact me with any queries,
CherryTree.Primary.Head@warrington.gov.uk**

NHS
North West
Boroughs Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

**Need urgent help with
your mental health?**

Live in **Halton, Knowsley,
St Helens or Warrington?**
Call us on our new **Freephone
number!** We can help.

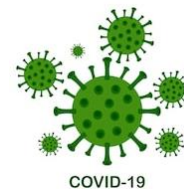


0800 051 1508

www.nwbh.nhs.uk/help-in-a-crisis

Cherry Tree School

COVID SECURE Measures



A REMINDER OF MEASURES IN PLACE TO REDUCE RISKS

1. Health and safety is everyone's responsibility

As a community we need to work together to continue to keep everyone safe, thus enabling risks to be reduced and children to be able to return to school safely.

2. Social distancing continues to be VERY IMPORTANT

Adults on the school site must maintain a safe 2 metre distance from others.

Please follow our ONE WAY SYSTEM when dropping off and collecting your child from school.

Do not linger on site for social interaction. Play areas are out of bounds before and after school unless being used by school staff.

Wherever possible ensure that you are not a close contact of someone else. As defined by:

- *Being coughed on*
- *Having a face to face conversation within one metre*
- *Extended close contact with an infected person, defined as: between 1m and 2m for 15 min or more*
- *Any contact within 1 metre for more than a minute*

3. Face Coverings *Face coverings must be worn onsite both inside and outdoors for anyone over the age of eleven. When teaching, face coverings can be removed by adults but maintaining a safe distance from the children is advised.*

4. Visitors

Visitors will continue to be kept to a minimum. Any visitors MUST wear a face covering at all times apart from if delivering a lesson to children. Visitors are asked to keep 2m away from the children at all times.

5. Communication

Any updates will be quickly and succinctly communicated to our community via ParentApp.

6. Classroom layout

Over the past year, we have carefully considered how we can reduce any risks of transmission in the classroom. This work will continue by:

- *Removing non-essential furniture to create more space.*
- *Considering whether teaching children in forward facing rows is workable. (Not in our youngest two classes.)*
- *Minimising the need for children to move around the room or school.*

7. Ventilation

Windows will be open for increased ventilation. If it is really cold, the doors will be opened at break times to purge the air, then closed when the children come back in.

8. Sanitisation / Hygiene

- *Children will be supervised as they come in and out of school to ensure that they sanitise or wash their hands.*
- *Any resources that need to be shared such as chrome books, tables, PE equipment, etc. will be wiped down / after use. A sign will indicate this has happened.*
- *Touch points will be wiped down each morning and again at lunchtime.*

9. Outdoor as much as possible

Where practical and weather conditions permitting, lessons to take place outdoors. Increased use of the running track to improve overall fitness. Outdoor PE lessons.