

Cherry Tree Primary School
Parent forum meeting minutes
Monday 8 July 2024 9-10am

These are the items that were discussed at our recent parent forum meeting. Should you wish to comment on any of them, please send an email to cherrytree_primary_head@sch.warrington.gov.uk

Key

D Discussion

A Action

Regular agenda items

- **Welcome/Introductions**

HG welcomed everyone to the meeting and a list of parent attendees was taken.

- **Minutes of previous meetings**

Nothing was noted arising from these.

- **Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

Messages home – content and amount – see current agenda item

Building a strong school community – the recent disco was very well received. The PTA will look to organise a couple next year. There was a nice atmosphere at the summer fayre. Events arranged for the next academic year will focus on the whole family.

Cherry Tree's 50th birthday – all the celebrations went really well.

SEND – the first SEND forum took place in June and there was a very good response with 14 families attending. The date of the next meeting will be in the Autumn Term, date to be confirmed. In addition to this there is a Parents and Carers SEND meeting which takes place every week at Lymm library on a Wednesday 10-11am. The last meeting before the summer holidays will be on Wednesday 24 July and then meetings will restart on Wednesday 4 September. For any enquiries please contact Jody on pac@lymmsanctuaryhub.co.uk but this is a drop-in session so you can just turn up on the day.

New agenda items

1. PE Uniform

D

It has not been possible to source a new PE uniform in time for September 2024, and so the introduction of a new PE uniform is on hold. Cherry Tree have been unable to find a reliable supplier who can provide the right colour, quality and style across the range of sizes needed for KS1 and KS2.

A

Cherry Tree will continue to investigate alternative PE uniform but this will not be introduced imminently.

2. New communication app/communication with parents

D

The Reach more parents app has now been introduced. This is being run in parallel with Parentapp but from September 2024 only Reach more parents will be used.

All parents have been sent the details of how to sign up to the app but not everyone has signed up yet. The new app combines all the features of Parentapp and Seesaw. It also has a newsfeed where the most important things stay at the top. Parents can pay for trips on the app. The only thing Parentpay will continue to be used for is school meals.

In order to try to find a happy medium between too many or not enough messages from the school office, and to cut down on unnecessary admin time which the school does not have the funds for, a new approach is being trialled in September.

The office plan to send a message out once a week from September, with details of key things for the following week, such as payment deadlines for trips etc. The office will not then be sending reminders in between.

Cherry Tree simply do not have the resources to be chasing up outstanding trip authorisations and payments, and so it is vitally important that parents read the communications sent and adhere to the deadlines set.

A noticeboard will sometimes be placed in the playground with details of urgent things.

A

Messages to be sent out by Cherry Tree with key reminders for the following week.

Noticeboard to be used in the playground for very urgent communications.

Parents to read communications from school and adhere to deadlines set.

3. Extra-curricular clubs and holiday camps

D

HG asked whether parents would like to see any additional clubs/holiday camps offered at Cherry Tree. She outlined that Stretton FC ran a football holiday camp in half term, that Miss Ali runs a musical theatre/drama club and that there is a holiday camp which runs activities such as those in after school club. Parents felt there may be interest in a netball holiday club.

RB said her son enjoyed the football camp run by Stretton.

CC commented on how positive it is that a range of extra-curricular sports clubs are offered such as running, golf, tennis and hockey. CC also noted that sewing club was enjoyed by her child but it was a shame it had to be cancelled due to low numbers, and that it might be better received in winter months. Baking club and chess club may also be better attended in winter time.

RH stated that Cherry Tree offers a very good range of clubs for a small school and that this is very appealing to parents. It is great that the children have the opportunity to take part in sports they will participate in at high school.

LW highlighted it's useful to have clubs on different nights for the same age group. A clash between running club and netball used to be a problem but KA highlighted how great it is to have Thursday running club now too.

CC also highlighted that it is the intention of the PTA to meet with PTAs from other local schools to share fundraising ideas. Break the rules day and junior fun night work very well for Cherry Tree, and there may be other ideas we could implement that have been successful at other local schools.

A

Netball holiday camp to be considered.

PTA to meet and share ideas with other local PTAs.

4. Sporting events and competitions

D

HG highlighted that Cherry Tree take part in a range of sporting events and competitions. These have different purposes as follows:

- To introduce a new sport
- To have fun and not compete
- To compete.

When Cherry Tree takes part in a competitive sports event the team will be selected in conjunction with the class teacher, PE lead, sports governor and the children themselves. The strongest players will be selected, in the same way they are when Maths competitions have been entered.

Teams are selected by the above people, and commitment to the sport is also considered, along with attitude and behaviour.

The Department for Education provide sports premium to fund participation in competitive events as well as non-competitive ones. This is across KS1 and KS2.

HG feels the range and balance of sporting events and competitions that Cherry Tree take part in is good, and the above approach has been discussed with the governing board who back the approach wholeheartedly.

RH highlighted that children need to be prepared for the next step of their journey which is secondary school. Children need to be able to manage disappointment and build resilience, and it is therefore important that children are exposed to team selection for competitive events. If parents do not want their child to take part in competitive events then they can choose not to give consent on the app.

DA commented that some schools draw names out of a hat for competitions, and some take their strongest team. Cherry Tree give an opportunity to many more children as they have taken two teams to events – one team which is made up of the strongest players, and another which allows more children to take part.

LW commented that the dance competition at Parr Hall was a great opportunity for lots of children to be involved and they all had fun.

RB stated that she feels Cherry Tree is very inclusive and that there is an excellent range of opportunities on offer for the children. Both her children have different levels of sporting competence and competitive instinct but both have been very happy with the opportunities afforded to them at Cherry Tree. LW agreed this is the case for her family too. Children can be competitive in different ways - in sport, in being the best buddies, in musical accomplishment. AB highlighted that Cherry Tree's competent musicians often play in assemblies.

DA commented on overhearing 'Cherry Tree are really good at everything' in the local community. Cherry Tree's success in sporting events etc raises the profile of the school, increases the children's sense of pride in their school and makes Cherry Tree an appealing school to attend. This is vitally important to ensure that the school is full and hence the budget can be balanced.

It was highlighted how hard JF and GW have worked to improve Cherry Tree's sporting results over the last decade, and how positive it is that Cherry Tree now has a reputation for being a school that provides children with the chance to take part in lots of sporting opportunities, as well as developing competitive teams.

A

No action required.

AOB

- **Summer fayre**

D

As noted above there was a positive atmosphere at the summer fayre. RB said parents had welcomed the change to a Friday evening rather than a Saturday, but CC said she had had the opposite feedback. The proceeds of the fayre are to be calculated and then CC suggested a poll be sent to parents and staff to canvas whether Friday evening or Saturday would be more popular for next year's fayre.

RB said it might be a good idea to reduce the time the year 6 children spent on their stalls as two hours was a long time, and that it would be good to publish on the flyer if card or cash is accepted.

A

Poll to be sent to parents/staff.

Timing of year 6 stalls to be considered.

Cash/card payment to be publicised.

- **School football kit**

D

DA noted that many primary schools have specific school football kit, and it would be great if this was the case for Cherry Tree.

A

HG said a parent had been in touch to offer to sponsor a football kit for Cherry Tree.

- **Parent forum**

D

RB highlighted how valuable the parent forum is and how much she has appreciated it over the last 10 years. The forum encourages more understanding and teamwork between parents and the school and has led to really important changes over the 10 years she has been attending – holiday dates, uniform, celebrations of achievement etc. RB hopes more parents will attend in the future; it's a great opportunity to engage which many schools don't offer!

A

LW to talk about the parent forum at new intake meetings to encourage more people to attend.