



CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We care, we learn, we succeed.

www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk @copschool

0121 5540862 enquiry@cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk

October 2022

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back!

It has been an enjoyable first half-term, and it felt particularly good to welcome parents back into school for our parents' evenings this week. We are very proud of the learning the children have been doing so far this year, and we continue to look at ways to develop our practice to support all of the children to become even better learners and Cherry Orchard citizens. Please remember if you have any questions or concerns, you might find the answers on our website or in your child's school planner, or you can call or email the office and someone will get back to you.

Here are the latest notices from Cherry Orchard.

Attendance and leave in term time

The governors would like to share with parents how important attendance is to your children's education. Attendance is one of the measures Ofsted uses to grade schools, and inspectors will want to see that the school is following government guidance robustly.

At the beginning of this school year, I shared the updated government guidance for leave in term time, which Cherry Orchard follows. It states that **schools can no longer authorise any days of leave for term time holidays**, even if you are travelling to visit family abroad.

Birmingham's attendance policy states that once your children are age 5 or above, **a penalty notice may be issued if they are taken on an unauthorised leave of absence from school for a minimum of 5 consecutive days**. The fine is £60 per child, per parent, so it would cost the family £120 for **each** child.

Despite the large number of requests I have already received since the start of term, there are very few circumstances in which I can authorise any leave in term time. Please see our attendance policy on our website for further details.

Therefore, unfortunately, a number of our families will be receiving fines for unauthorised leave already taken this academic year, and this is something I really do not like to do, especially during the current cost of living crisis. **If you are thinking of taking your children out of school during term time, please call the school to speak to me for advice before booking any flights. I will make it my priority to speak with you as soon as possible.**

As always, all pupils who achieve an attendance rate of 98% and above will receive a certificate celebrating their **outstanding attendance** at the end of each term, and those who achieve 100% will receive a **100% attendance certificate**.

Travelling to and from school

Cherry Orchard Primary School has signed up to the Modeshift Stars initiative and is developing a travel plan to support cycling, walking, park and stride and other forms of sustainable and active travel. This in turn should reduce the congestion on Cherry Orchard Road during school drop off and collection times which has an impact not just on school but the local residents. We will be working with all of our pupils, parents and community as part of this travel plan. Look out for more information.



And to the parents who currently drive their children to school: please consider leaving earlier so that you can take the time to find an appropriate place to park and walk with your child to the school gate.

No stopping and dropping on the road.

PARK FIRST! Don't let your children out of the car on the road.

Take care with where you park – do not park illegally on the zigzags or pavement.



Active Travel

Birmingham City Council is hosting the [Active Travel Birmingham Challenge](#) which will encourage people of all ages to form greener, healthier travel habits by walking, cycling or using public transport for their everyday trips.

Participants will download the Active Travel Birmingham app and start recording their journeys, gaining points for walking, cycling, scooting and using public transport. From walking to school, taking the bus to work or cycling to the shops, every journey logged will gain points and help you climb the leaderboards. Click on the link above to download the app.



Black History Month Competition Winners

We'd like to thank all the children who entered our Black History Month Competition this year. Here are the winners from across the school – we hope they enjoy spending their well-deserved book token. All of the entries were wonderful to read and they were presented beautifully and in such creative ways. Many of the children spoke about being proud of their heritage, of following our core values and of the varied talents they have worked hard to develop. We are proud of them all.



Please also see the flyer attached to the email with details of the HAOS (Handsworth Association of Schools) Black History Month Competition. The closing date is 31st October so this could be a project to get into over the half-term.

Year 2 Diwali Play



The Year 2 teachers and children were very excited to welcome parents into school to watch their Diwali play for the first time in 3 years. They all did a fantastic job of telling the story of Rama and Sita. We hope everyone who is celebrating Diwali has an enjoyable time.

Reception parent workshop

Thank you to all of the Reception parents who attended Miss Amphlett's workshop last week. Our partnership with you makes all the difference to your children's progress, so we were pleased to welcome so many of you into school to learn more about how we help your children to learn. The feedback has been very positive so please look out for notices of further workshops to come.



School Games Silver Award

We are delighted to announce that we, Cherry Orchard, have achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award for the 2021/22 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognise school's engagement (provision and uptake) in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping young people active, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our events possible. We are committed to using the School Games to try and engage those young people who haven't previously been active or represented our school and to try and ensure that all our students have a positive experience and want to try out new activities beyond school too in our community. We believe in the power of physical activity and school sport as a school and give opportunities to those young people that need it most either as a participant, leader, official or volunteer. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas linked to the five School Games outcomes and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. We look forward to applying once again in 2023!

Parent Governor Vacancy

We still have vacancies for two parent governors on Cherry Orchard's board of governors. It is vital that we have a full governing board and that we have adequate parent representation. Our governing board is a happy team and are committed to working with school leaders to ensure Cherry Orchard offers the best it can for your children. Over the course of the academic year, each governor is required to attend seven meetings (usually held at 5pm) and to visit the school once during a school day.

I would be happy to speak to anyone who is considering volunteering for this role and requires further information about what it entails. Please contact the school office if you would like to arrange to discuss this with me.

Homework

Just a reminder that homework is set online each week according to our homework policy. This is available to view on the school's website under the Key Information section and then Policies.

In Years 1 to 6 pupils access their homework via Google Classroom. All children are given an individual log in to access this. Children are encouraged to record their log in in their planner so they do not forget this.

Homework is located in the 'Classwork' section of Google Classroom. Once completed, children 'turn it in' or mark it as done.

Class news is also shared on the 'Stream' section.

Should you no longer have your child's log in details for Google Classroom, please could you contact your child's class teacher or the office.

The Bookfair Is Back!

Our annual Scholastic Bookfair will run from **Tuesday 8th November – Friday 11th November in the Junior hall. It will open at 3.30pm and close at 4pm each day.** There will be the usual wide range of excellent children's fiction and non-fiction to choose from. We can take cheques made out to Cherry Orchard Primary School or we can take cash, but please can you bring change if you have it. Also, please be reminded that books can be ordered if we run out in the hall – if you place and pay for your order by the end of the Wednesday session, your child should receive their book on Friday 15th November.

If you spend over £1000 during the week, the school receives 60% of it back to spend on books for the classrooms and library so please come along and support this event. We've achieved this every single year for the last 16 years that we have run the Bookfair so I'm sure we'll reach the target again this year! Furthermore, every child who makes a purchase will receive a raffle ticket that goes into a prize draw at the end of the week. Five lucky winners will get to select a book from the shelves worth up to £5.



Free half-term activities for families

We have some exciting half term activities for families coming up soon at The Exchange, which is located in Centenary Square, Birmingham. From 26 – 28 October, we will be running free activities including giant drawing inspired by home, rangoli pattern making and bug hotel making and it's all FREE!

I have attached a flyer with further information, and I would be grateful if you could share with your network of parents and carers. If families would like to book a space they can do so here <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/the-exchange>

Local sporting activities

Swimming

As a school, we promote healthy and active lives for our children. This is essential for pupil's physical fitness but also for their long term mental health and well-being.

By the end of year 6, pupils are expected to swim at least 25m using all four strokes. We take our Year 5 pupils swimming for an hour each week, however, children would benefit from swimming outside the school day.

One of our local swimming clubs is Perry Beeches Swimming Club. <http://perrybeeChesswimming.co.uk/site/>

They have spaces in their 'Learn to Swim' programme at Handsworth Leisure Centre as well as other local venues. For children who can already swim and would like to train to swim competitively there is also availability.

To find out more information, please contact Mandy Blizzard on the following phone number: 07793560698 or e mail on: contact@pbsss.org.uk

Karate

Cherry Orchard Karate Club takes place after school on a Friday in the KS2 hall. This is run by the Rikai Karate and Kickboxing Club. Your child can try two classes before joining, free of charge. During the holidays, it meets at Erdington Methodist Church Station Road.

To find out more information about availability and prices call Senior Instructor – Sensei Pansy Wright on 07970452277 or e mail on rikaimartialartacademy@gmail.com

Applications to start Reception class in September 2023

If your child will be 4 years old before 1st September 2023, you can apply for a place in Cherry Orchard's Reception class.

You will need to visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and submit an online application by 15th January 2023 (the final closing date).

Our open day will take place on Wednesday 9th November between 9:45 and 10:30 and then again in the evening between 17:30 and 18:15.

Secondary School Place Applications for September 2023

Families with children due to start secondary school in September 2023 (i.e. those children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012) are now able to apply online for secondary school places.

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2022 at 11:59pm and places will be offered on 1 March 2023. All the information families need to make their applications is on our website: [Before you apply: researching schools](#)

It is particularly important that families carefully consider schools' admission criteria and name at least one school on their application where their child would have been offered a place in previous years. **Parents who apply late are less likely to be offered one of their preferred schools.**



Online Safety

At Cherry Orchard we constantly reinforce the importance of staying safe online. Our website has a link to online safety on the parents and children sections.

Since the C19 pandemic more children than ever play and learn online. Find out how to keep your child safe online by visiting: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Use of mobile phones on the school site

Please be reminded that parents and visitors are requested not to use their mobile phones in the school building or on school grounds unless permission is given by a member of staff. Please see our Use of Mobile Phones and Wearable Technologies Policy on our website for further details.



Please follow us on Twitter @copschool for news and updates on learning and fun at Cherry Orchard. You can also find our Twitter feed on the home page of our school website.

Thank you!

Upcoming dates for your diary

31 Oct	Teacher training day (school closed to pupils)
01 Nov	Start of term for pupils
15 – 18 Nov	Year 6 - Pioneer Centre
07 Dec	Year 3 – Think Tank visit
08 Dec	Year 2 Pantomime Blue Orange Theatre – Cinderella

09 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
16 Dec	End of term
03 Jan	Teacher training day (school closed to pupils)
04 Jan	Start of term for pupils
17 Feb	End of term
27 Feb	Teacher training day (school closed to pupils)
28 Feb	Start of term for pupils
31 Mar	End of term
17 Apr	Start of term for pupils
01 May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
26 May	End of term
05 Jun	Start of term for pupils
10 Jul	Teacher training day (school closed to pupils)
25 Jul	End of term

Additional Information

You will find lots of additional information on our school website. Please go to www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk. If you cannot find the answer to your question, please ask a member of staff. The office number is 0121 5540862.