



CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We care, we learn, we succeed.

www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk @copschool
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Sept 2025 issue 2

Please see our current notices.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've noticed increasing congestion outside the school gates during drop-off and pick-up times, and we kindly ask for your support in keeping this area safe and accessible for everyone.

To help ease this, we encourage you to:

- Park and Stride - park a little further away and walk the last few minutes.
- Avoid stopping directly outside the gates, even briefly.
- Be mindful of other families and road users.
- Consider carpooling where possible.

Your support is vital in keeping our school community safe.

Stopping or parking on the crossing and zigzag lines

Please do not pull over or park on the zigzag lines outside the school gates. These areas must remain clear at all times to allow safe crossing and visibility for your children and other road users.

Parking on zigzag lines is illegal and poses a serious risk to student safety. In accordance with our 'Parent, Carer and Visitor Conduct Policy' agreed with Cherry Orchard's Board of Governors, we will be using Birmingham's online reporting tool to report illegal parking from now on. If you would like to read the policy in full, you can find it in the Key Information section of our website

www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk



Walk to School Once at least Once a Week

This year, Cherry Orchard Primary School is once again a part of an initiative to encourage more children and their families to walk to school. Pupils are encouraged to walk to school at least once a week. The aim is to make children feel happier and healthier; to ensure children arrive to school refreshed and ready to learn and to help reduce congestion and pollution at the school gates. If your child can't walk to school, we encourage them to 'park and stride'. This means that families park at least 10 minutes away from the school gates. If children walk (or scooter or bike) or 'park and stride' to school at least once a week, then they will earn a badge. Pupils can earn one badge a month by walking at least once a week.



Year 6 Secondary Transition – Apply online for 2026 entry

If you live in Birmingham you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> between 1 September and 31 October 2025. It is important that you submit your application by 31 October 2025. Applications received after the national closing date of 31 October 2025 will be treated as late applications. Late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools, as these applications will be processed after 2 March 2026, in accordance with Birmingham's coordinated admissions scheme.

If you have any questions about your child transferring to secondary school, in the first instance please visit the website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you will find all the relevant information to support you through this process. Alternatively contact Mrs Emery or Mrs Khatkar.

Birmingham SEND and Inclusion Team News

Birmingham SEND and Inclusion Team work in partnership with the Parent Carer Forum (PCF) who have been working closely with Solihull PCF and together have now published a book called [*Supporting Your Neurodivergent Child*](#). It has been written by parents, for parents. The book brings together real-life experiences, tips, and information from families and people who have stood in similar places. Bringing together information from sources like the NHS, national charities and IPSEA, this helpful source of information provides a wealth of information on supporting a neurodivergent child. Printed copies are being circulated to schools and many other places. You can also see the digital copy on our local offer web page.

New 24/7 Mental Health Text Service for Birmingham and Solihull

Free, Confidential Support – Anytime, Anywhere

A new mental health text service is now available for people of all ages across Birmingham and Solihull. The service is free, confidential, and available 24/7 – offering support at the touch of a button.

Text 'Space' to 85258 to connect with a trained mental health professional.

Whether you're feeling anxious, stressed, low, or overwhelmed, help is just a text away. This service is especially helpful for those who may find it difficult to talk on the phone or in person.

Launched in partnership between **Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust** and **Shout**, the UK's first 24/7 text messaging support service, this initiative aims to make mental health support more accessible to everyone.

In addition to immediate support, texters can be signposted to local services such as:

Talk Therapies
Crisis Cafes
NHS 111 Option 2

This new digital service offers a safe space to talk and is a valuable resource for anyone seeking early help or waiting for further support.

Celebrating Writing at Cherry Orchard

Some children in Year 6 worked INCREDIBLY hard before we broke up for the summer holidays to write, edit and illustrate their own comic book adventure story. In fact, Mrs Standen was so impressed that their work has now been published and is in every KS2 class book corner. The children spoke to the rest of Key Stage 2 in an assembly and have inspired



lots of other children to want to have their writing published too... Great work Gurveer, Sara, Ismaeel, Faariah, Zaki and Ibraheem! We can't wait for the sequel.

So, if you have a story, poem, comic book (or any other type of writing) that you would like to see published at Cherry Orchard, speak to Mrs Standen in 5ST.

Wider personal development at Cherry Orchard

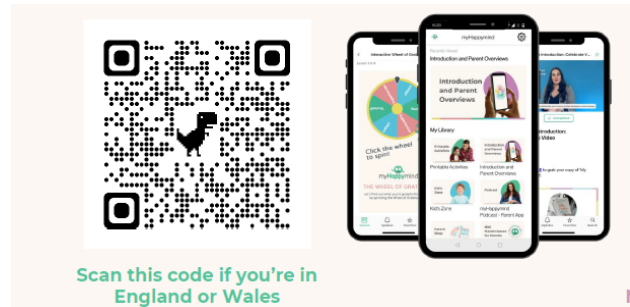
'My Happy Mind' – supporting your child's emotional regulation

We'd like to remind all our parents and carers that you currently have access to the My Happy Mind APP. My Happy Mind is the program we teach at Cherry Orchard to support the children to learn positive habits to help them to regulate their emotions and support their resilience, self-esteem, wellbeing and overall happiness.

The APP includes materials to help you understand the program and what your child is learning, so you can engage with them and use similar principles at home.

The APP also includes activities that complement the program, for you to do with your children at home.

If you haven't already done so, scan the QR code above to download the My Happy Mind APP. The Authenticator Code is 103178. Please let us know if you need any help.



Comments from parents about My Happy Mind (February 2025):

My daughter came home and said, 'Mummy, my brain gets stronger when I learn!' She used to get frustrated, but now she says, 'I just need to keep trying!' myHappyMind has really helped her confidence.

My child always enthusiastically tells me about what is covered in myHappyMind lessons and absolutely loves it. They then apply what they have covered to situations outside of the school. I am extremely happy and grateful to the school for making mental health and learning about things outside of the academic side, a priority.

MyHappyMind helps my child to express their feelings. My child thinks that the myHappyMind sessions are really good.

This is a great resource to help children with their mental health. Sometimes parents don't understand what's going through their little heads. This helps them to understand and regulate their emotions better.

My child is neurodiverse and she uses the breathing techniques taught by school at home to keep calm. The modules are meaningful for her as it gives a description, understanding and explanation of her feelings without the challenges she faces in expressing herself. This has all been supported and facilitated via the myHappyMind ethos.

When my child is upset she knows how to regulate herself and myHappyMind lessons have helped her with this. It's doing great for her so keep up the hard work.

My child enjoys myHappyMind she also showed her uncle the different types of Happy Breathing.

My child regularly talks about the different myHappyMind techniques and uses them at home and school. My child loves the myHappyMind lessons.

Extra-curricular Clubs

Here is a timetable of the extra-curricular clubs being offered this term.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 8:15 – 8:45	Multi-sports	Multi-sports	Multi-sports	Multi-sports	Physical Friday – walking (8:30 – 8:45)
After school 3:30 – 4:30	Year 6 Multi- sports	Years 3 and 4 Multi-sports	Year 5 Multi- sports	Years 1 and 2 Multi-sports (places are running out)	Karate

Multi-sports sessions are £3 per session before school and £5 after school. Please contact Harry Cockbill in the school office if you are interested in your child attending.

In term time, Rikai Karate Club will continue to run in the Junior Hall on Fridays after school for children in Reception to Year 6. Please contact Sensai Pansy Wright on 07970452277 or e mail her on rikaimartialartacademy@gmail.com

★ Stars of the Week ★

12/9/25	Benjamin 1RA, Isaac 1JA, Hameedah 2D, Areez 2R, Yusuf 3B, Nurah 3J, Ciyona 4L, Anabeeb 4H, Inaayah 5SA, Siyana 5ST, Ekamjeet 6K, Brilliance 6B, Reighan RB
19/9/25	Yuri RA, Taijon RH, Muaaz 1JA, Ayra 1RA, Ariya 2R, Blossom 2D, Abubakar 3B, Ajani 3J, Zahraa 4L, Aaniya 4H, Jeevan 5SA, Aayat 5ST, Alivia 6K, Hannah 6B
26/9/25	Sophia RA, Jannat RH, Meira 1RA, Hasan 1JA, Karanveer 2R, Fatima 2D, Ishpreet 3B, Hajaar 3J, Ekam 4L, Hayat 4H, Aisha 5SA, Mustafa 5ST, Knamari 6B, Timotei 6K, Kajus RB

Attendance

Our whole school attendance figure for 2025-26 so far is **96.3%**. This is slightly below the national average at the moment and we aim to be above average as a school, so attendance will continue to be a priority.

Congratulations to 2D, 3B, 3J, 5SA, 5ST and 6B for reaching or exceeding the target of 96%. Well done!

RA	91.8%	RH	93.8%
1JA	95.4%	1RA	91.3%
2D	97.2%	2R	95.6%
3B	96.2%	3J	96.2%
4H	95.8%	4L	95.8%
5SA	99%	5ST	97.1%
6K	94.1%	6B	97.2%
RB	95.5%	NUR	91%

Please see the table below which shows how crucial it is that your child attends school on time each day.

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks' absent	which means this many lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

Umrah

We have recently received a number of requests for term-time leave for Umrah. Please note that schools are not able to authorise leave for Umrah. This is because Umrah is a non-obligatory Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, that can be performed at any time of the year, unlike the mandatory Hajj pilgrimage which has fixed dates. Therefore, any parents or carers wishing to take their children for Umrah should do this in the school holidays. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming dates for your diary

- 01 Oct Black History month
- 07 Oct Year 5 Basketball – Engage event
- 10 Oct KS1 HSBC workshops
- 16 Oct The Hub – Sea life Centre visit
- 17 Oct Y2 Diwali assembly 2:30pm
- 17 Oct KS2 HSBC workshops
- 21 Oct Parents' Evening 4:30 – 7:00pm
- 21 Oct Year 3 Girls Football – Engage event
- 22 Oct Parents' Evening 3:30 – 6:00pm
- 24 Oct End of half term**
- 03 Nov School Closed – teachers training day**
- 04 Nov School open for pupils**
- 04-07 Nov Book Fair
- 18-21 Nov Year 6 Pioneer Centre residential visit

