



CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We care, we learn, we succeed.

www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk @copschool
0121 5540862 enquiry@cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk

Feb 2022

Dear parents and carers

Here are the latest notices from Cherry Orchard.

Changes to dates

Please note there is no Teacher Day on Monday 28th February – this is the start of the new half-term for all pupils.

Please note that due to a timetable clash with our involvement in a Commonwealth Games project, we have changed the 11th July Teacher Day to Monday 4th July 2022.

Health for Life Award



We have recently been awarded the Health For Life Award following months of work developing our curriculum to include more physical activity

as well as growing and cooking our own fruits and vegetables.

Mrs Hussain did a fantastic job leading on this project and even came into school to dig the raised beds.

Thank you Mrs Hussain – you're a star! All of the new projects are now part of our curriculum so all the children will benefit for years to come.



Our class libraries have new furniture!

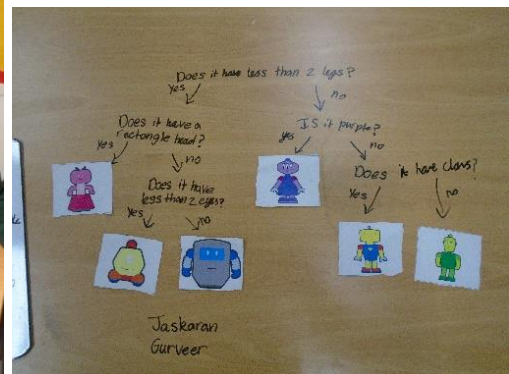
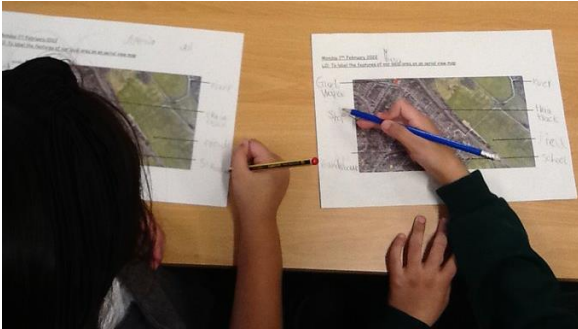
We've been so impressed by how much more reading the KS2 children have been doing since we invested in a wider range of books for the classrooms that we decided to create welcoming library areas in each of them. We've started in Year 3 and we're aiming to get all the classrooms done by the end of the spring term. Year 3 love using their new class library!





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!

Below are just a few examples of the photographs that have been shared over the last few weeks. Look out for your child wearing a sticker to say they have been tweeted and follow us to like their photograph. We're so proud of all their hard work.



Safer Internet Day – Warnings for Parents

Discord

As part of Safer Internet Day on Tuesday, we talked to the children about being safe when playing and chatting online. One social networking site that the children mentioned is called Discord which has a 13+ age rating, although Apple suggests a 17+ age rating.

With any social networking site, there are benefits but there are also risks such as being contacted by people they do not know and being sent inappropriate 18+ material. Discord has no parental controls, however, there are privacy and security restrictions to stop children accepting friendships online with people they do not know.

Please read the following user guide to find out more about Discord.

[Discord Parent Guide](#)

Roblox

The Birmingham Safeguarding team have received several reports from parents and school staff recently about harmful content on **Roblox** including worrying accounts of young children being sent 'friend requests' from strangers, and in-game characters imitating sex. Our Online Safety partners have conducted further research and created the [Roblox Parents Guide](#) to help you understand how to keep children and young people safe on Roblox.

Monitoring

Please could you monitor closely your child's online activity. Here are some figures from the Internet Watch Foundation. Last year there were 252,194 reports confirmed as child sexual abuse imagery shared online which was a 64% increase from 2020. Of these 252,194 images, 73% included 'self-generated' imagery where children had sent images of themselves online to other people. 11 to 13-year-old children were the most seen age group, however, abuse in the 7 to 10 year old age group is the fastest-growing group. With these figures it is important to ensure children's safety.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Emery

Deputy Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead for Online Safety

Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers

Unfortunately, Birmingham Local Authority will not be distributing supermarket vouchers for the half-term holiday period to families whose children have free school meals.

However, there is an opportunity to apply for [emergency funding](#). If anyone is concerned about being able to feed their children during the forthcoming half-term holiday, please contact Mrs Fletcher on our Pastoral Team and she will support you with your application. You can also contact the Perry Barr Family Support Team on 0121 7521900 or email them at

PerrybarrEHnetwork@spurgeons.org



Streetsafe Pilot Service

Good afternoon,

StreetSafe is a pilot service for anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where you have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues, eg street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism and/or because of some behaviours, eg being followed or verbally abused.

Please note: 'StreetSafe' is not for reporting crime or incidents.

If something has happened to you or someone you know (including in public spaces online) you can call us on 101 or [find out what online reporting services are available](#).

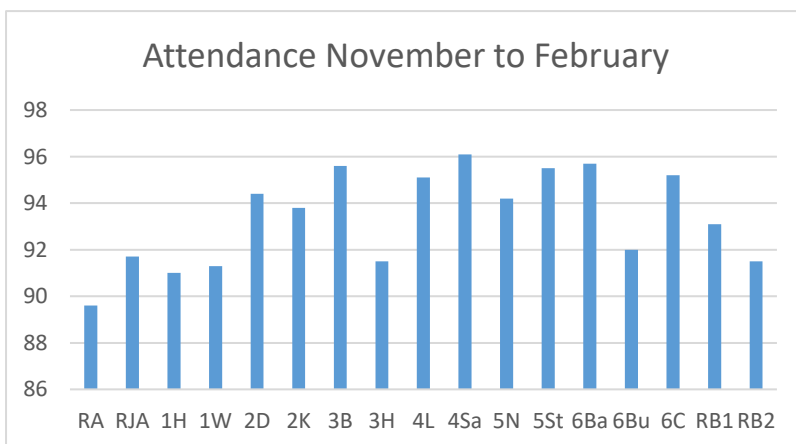
Encourage people you know to use StreetSafe too. With more reports, we are able to spot common issues around safety in certain areas.

[Visit the national police website to make a report on StreetSafe.](#)

access the StreetSafe reporting tool: <https://www.police.uk/pu/notices/streetsafe/street-safe/>

Remember, StreetSafe is not a crime reporting tool. If you want to report a crime you can live chat 8am – midnight on our website or call 101.

Attendance



Obviously, this has been a disrupted period for many children who have had to isolate because of Covid, but we are really pleased with the children's attendance overall and would like to thank you for your support.

The national attendance figure for primary schools for the same period was approximately 91% so all but one of our classes are above the

national average for attendance, and some are well-above so well done to everyone and **congratulations to 4SA for achieving the highest attendance at 96.1%**! This is the figure we are aiming towards for all of our classes by the end of this academic year so thank you 4SA for leading the way so far.

Covid Procedures

As restrictions are reducing nationally and the numbers of cases at Cherry Orchard seem to be subsiding, we no longer require parents and carers to wear face masks outside the building.

However, after much discussion, we have decided to continue to use the back playground for KS1 drop-off and pick-up. This is because it allows more contact between teachers and parents/carers on a daily basis and also frees up the teaching assistants to work with children rather than standing on the doors at the beginning and the end of every day. We realise that some of you may prefer to go back to the shorter drop-off and pick-up route but hope that you can appreciate that this is one Covid procedure that has led to unexpected benefits that we would like to maintain.

Upcoming dates for your diary

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|---------------|---|
| 05 Jan | Start of term for pupils |
| 18 Feb | End of term |
| 28 Feb | Start of term for pupils |
| 03 Mar | World Book Day (more information to follow) |
| 18 Mar | Red Nose Day (more information to follow) |
| 08 Apr | End of term |
| 25 Apr | Start of term for pupils |
| 02 May | Bank Holiday (school closed) |
| 27 May | End of term |
| 06 Jun | Start of term for pupils |
| 04 Jul | Teacher training day (school closed to pupils) |
| 21 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.