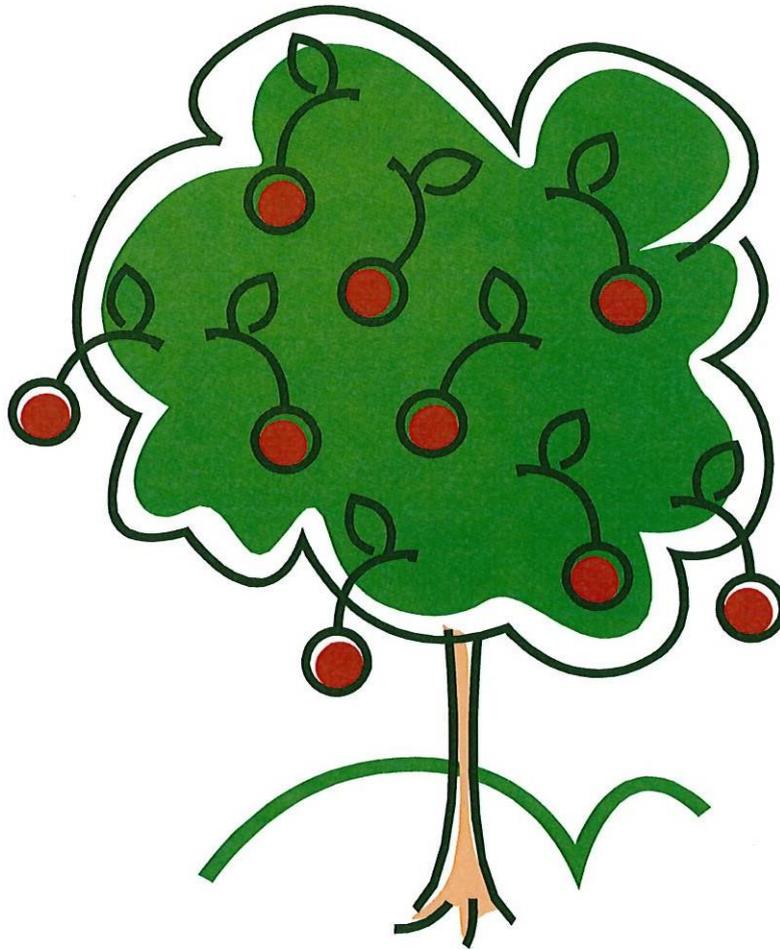


**Cherry Orchard Primary School**  
*'We care, we learn, we succeed'*

WELCOME TO RECEPTION!



GETTING READY TO START SCHOOL

2021-2022

## RECEPTION

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

#### **Aims**

We aim to:

- Provide a safe, challenging, stimulating and caring environment, which is sensitive to the individual needs of the child.
- Provide a broad and balanced, relevant and creative curriculum that will set in place firm foundations for future learning and development in KS1 and beyond. This includes children learning about the Unicef's Rights of the Child.
- Provide opportunities for children to learn through planned, purposeful play in all areas of learning and development.
- Use and value what each child can do, assessing their individual needs and helping each child to progress.
- Enable choice and decision-making, fostering independence and self-confidence.
- Work in partnership with parents/carers and value their contributions.
- Ensure that all children, irrespective of ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties, disabilities, gender or ability, have the opportunity to experience a challenging and enjoyable programme of learning and development.
- Monitor the children's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary.

#### **Home / School Links**

We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers throughout your child's time with us. You will be able to discuss your child's progress at Parents' Evening which is held three times a year. A written report is also provided mid-way through and at the end of each school year.

We also run various parent workshops throughout the year, some of which will be with your child.

Should any problems arise; staff will always see parents outside the teaching sessions.

We also communicate with parents/carers via Google Classroom and Class Dojo.

## **Equal Opportunities**

All children have an entitlement to access the programmes of study at an appropriate level. Cherry Orchard will ensure that, through reasonable adjustments, all pupils will have full access to the EYFS curriculum taking into consideration the entitlement of:

1. children with special education needs;
2. gender and positive encouragement to study
3. children with specific physical needs.

We make sure we consider issues such as race, colour, culture and creed both in our approach to teaching and the materials we use.

## **Special Needs**

Cherry Orchard Primary School is committed to enabling every child to be educated to the best of his/her ability and we will ensure that every child develops appropriate skills and knowledge.

We will also make provision for children with Individual Educational Needs. When a child has been identified as having a special need, his/her name is entered on the register of Special Needs and parents are invited to discuss provision before any outside help is requested. We can seek help and advice from our Inclusion Leader in school. We also have contact with outside agencies such as Speech Therapy, Visiting Teacher Service and an Educational Psychologist. We aim to help all children by working together.

## **Introduction**

Cherry Orchard has two Reception classes. Each class has up to 30 children. There is a class teacher and a full time teaching assistant in each class. There will also be an additional teaching assistant to support across the year group.

Class: RJA Mrs Allchin and Mrs Jones (Class Teachers) Miss Caulkin (TA)

Class: RA Miss Amphlett (Teacher), Mrs Power (HLTA) Mrs Kaur (TA)

## **Times**

The Reception classes open their doors at 8.50am and the children will come in and hang their coats up ready to start the session at 9.00am. We would ask all parents to bring their children to school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning as lessons begin straight away.

The staff will open the door at the end of the day at 3.20 pm. The children will be sent to the person who is collecting them by a member of staff. This will ensure that no child leaves unaccompanied. If you are late picking up your child, please inform the school office. If you are any later than 3:30 pm, your child will be taken to the main school office and you will need to collect them from there.

**No child may leave in the care of anyone who is under the age of 16 years.**

**Please inform the school office or the class teacher if anyone different is collecting your child. You will be expected to provide a password and the class teacher will ask the person collecting your child for this password at the end of the day.**

### **Attendance**

Attendance is strongly encouraged. Ofsted noted that 'the school has excellent procedures for monitoring and improving pupil attendance.' We have class charts, together with a whole school chart to monitor the rate of attendance. We award stickers, certificates and a weekly class cup to promote this issue with the children.

A 'lates' book is kept and regularly monitored by the Headteacher and the Governors. Punctuality is considered to be of the utmost importance as lessons start promptly at the beginning of the school day. The Pastoral Team will contact parents of children who have repeated absences or are frequently late.

Most children achieve 95% to 100% attendance. Evidence shows that attendance below 95% will damage your child's outcomes from school. The threshold when your child is classed as 'persistently absent' is 90%. 90% means your child is missing 4 weeks in the year, so by the time they leave school they will have lost a full year's education. 80% means missing more than half a term each year. Over the child's whole school career, they will miss over 2 whole school years, which obviously puts them at a disadvantage compared to other children.

Please notify the school if your child is unwell and cannot attend school. If there is an emergency or an unforeseen problem in collecting your child, do let the school know. Telephone number: 0121 554 0862.

The school is unable to authorise leave during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional and in accordance with Birmingham Local Authority's 'Leave in Term Time Guidance'. You can find this on the school's website.

### **Playtime and Lunchtime**

During morning playtimes, children are provided daily with a range of fruit free of charge. We encourage your child to also bring in their own water from home in a **transparent drinks bottle** labelled with your child's name. This bottle must contain water only. We have drinking taps in the classroom to refill these when they are empty. You can provide an extra piece of fruit for afternoon snack if you wish.

The children will have playtime only with their year group to begin with. The children will also have a structured afternoon play which will include learning new songs, playground games and using equipment to practice

skills such as throwing and catching.

Lunchtimes can be bewildering for your child until routines are firmly established. Each class has their own dinner supervisor to look after the children. Class teachers will also be in the dining hall during the first few weeks to support your child with this new experience. One of our learning mentors is also in the dining room on a daily basis throughout the year to help the children should they need it.

Lunchtimes can be a happier and more enjoyable experience if your child is able to:

- Use a knife, fork and spoon with reasonable independence. (Food will be cut for them if there are any problems).
- Say what he/she likes or dislikes.
- Knows of any dietary requirements they may have. (The class teacher will provide them with a badge stating any special requirements and alert the lunchtime supervisors and cooks).
- Understand that he/she needs to eat at lunchtime and that there is always somebody around to help, if needed.

### **Ordering school dinners online**

All children from Reception to Year Two are entitled to a free school meal. We ask parents to pre-order their child's meals at least a week in advance. This is done online through ParentPay.

If preferred, children can bring in a packed lunch but this must be in line with our healthy lunchbox policy that can be found on our school website.

### **Daily Reward System**

We have high expectations of behaviour at Cherry Orchard and our core values support our ethos and are very important to our school. These are reinforced daily through learning and play. The core values are:

- Equality
- Respect
- Friendship
- Understanding
- Honesty
- Courage

Within the classroom, children's names will be displayed in a large green traffic light. Throughout the day children will be encouraged to behave appropriately.

If, despite encouragement and reminders, a child displays unacceptable behaviour and does not respond to encouragement to behave appropriately, his/her name will be moved down on our traffic light system. Parents will be contacted should a child get to red. This will also be recorded using the school's online behaviour and communication log.

Good behaviour will also be rewarded with stickers or stamps on an individual stamp card. When the children have completed their stamp card they will receive a prize.

Raffle tickets will also be given to children who consistently demonstrate our core values. These are collected weekly and one child from each class will be picked to receive a special privilege.

### **Homework**

Once your child has settled into Reception he/she will be provided with their choice of a library book that they will bring home on a Friday and they will need to return on the following Wednesday. Please support your child to talk about the pictures in the book and explain any vocabulary that might be new to them. When they are ready, we will send phonetically decodable reading books home, which you should ask your child to read to you to practise sounding out words.

A school planner is sent home so that parents and teachers can comment upon the child's reading/interest in the book. This partnership between parents and teachers enables us to best support your child's reading. Teachers also record your child's individual targets in their planner. We actively encourage our parents to communicate with the teachers via the planner. This can be about how you feel your child is getting on with their work or their targets, any questions you may need answering and other general comments.

### **Toileting**

There are toilets in the classroom that the children can use during their time in school.

- Please ensure that your child knows how to ask for the toilet.
- Help him/her to use the bathroom facilities confidently and independently.
- Please reinforce making sure that your child knows that it is healthy to flush the toilet and to wash their hands with soap and water after using the toilet.

### **Uniform**

- **All items** of school uniform including P.E. kit must **be labelled with your child's name**, including school shoes and P.E. pumps. Please see the website for guidance on our school uniform and P.E. kit. We have a P.E. session once a week and your child's teacher will let you know which day to send in your child's P.E. kit.
- Show your child what his/her uniform and P.E. kit looks like and where his/her name is inside them. This way he/she will be able to identify their own clothing and this will help keep items from being misplaced.
- Encourage your child to dress/undress themselves independently.
- **Please provide your child with a spare change of clothes (underwear, socks or tights, bottoms) in case of any accidents. This bag of clothes will be kept on your child's**

**peg at all times.**

### **Non-Uniform**

On the last day of each half term the children are asked to wear their own clothes and make a voluntary contribution of 50p. The money is used in various ways. It is often donated to charities, such as Comic Relief or Children In Need and sometimes it is used to buy extra learning equipment for the school.

### **Website**

We are really proud of our school website. It has some fantastic links to educational sites and resources that you can use at home, as well as other information about the school. [www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk](http://www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk)

### **Safeguarding**

At Cherry Orchard we are committed to the safeguarding of all children. If you have a concern about a child then please speak to a member of staff in the first instance or, alternatively, contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 0121 303 1888.