



CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We care, we learn, we succeed.

www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk @copschool

0121 5540862 enquiry@cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk

December 2020

Dear parents and carers

Reminder: Change of end of term date

You may have seen in the press that the DFE has advised schools to close early, on 17th instead of 18th December. The primary purpose of this measure is to put back the last date of contact between children and adults in school. Schools have been instructed to use one of their allocated teacher training days for this so that the children do not miss out on any teaching time. Therefore, **the last day of term for the children will now be Thursday 17th December.**

Schools have also been instructed by the DFE to be on-call to support the NHS Test and Trace system for 6 days after the end of term, so this will be from 18th to 23rd December. This is so that staff or parents of children who test positive during this time can inform the school, and the school can advise any contacts to isolate.

Reminder: As tomorrow is the last day of term for the children, they can wear their mufti clothes and bring in 50p for school funds and/or a contribution to the food bank for the Trussell Trust. They will be having golden time as a reward for their hard work, but they do not need to bring anything in such as toys or food as we cannot have our usual Christmas parties due to COVID-19 regulations.

Reminder: What to do if your child tests positive in the holidays

If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms within 48 hours of being in school:

1. Make sure everyone in your household isolates
2. Arrange for your child to be tested for COVID-19
3. If your child's test result is positive, call or text the out-of-hours phone number, 07712436926, between 10am and 12pm every day from 18th to 23rd December. If you text, please include your child's full name and class.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 more than 48 hours after being in school:

1. Make sure everyone in your household isolates
2. Arrange for your child to be tested for COVID-19
3. If your child's test result is positive DO NOT call the school. Instead, follow the contact tracing instructions that will be provided by NHS Test and Trace.

If your child is a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, I will contact you by email and text to notify you that your child should isolate based on the advice I am given by Public Health England. So please look out for a text/email from school between 18th and 23rd December. Thank you.

Reminder: Reception places for September 2021

Just to remind you that parents and carers can apply for a place in Reception for September 2021 online via [Birmingham School Admissions](#). The final closing dates for the receipt of applications is **15th January 2021**. Parents can express up to 3 preferences and must rank them in order of preference. If acknowledgement of your application is not received by email/post, phone 0121 303 1888.

[See our Virtual Open Day information on our school website.](#)

It is unfortunate that visits to school cannot currently take place, but we hope that through this presentation and our school website, we have given parents a flavour of what makes Cherry Orchard a special place to be.

Choosing your child's first school is an important decision. You know your child best.

Please take your time in making this decision by looking on other school websites. Talking to and listening to other parents and professionals may also give you a feeling of the school, it's ethos and staff.

Letters/emails allocating places will be sent out by the Local Authority by post/email on **16th April 2021**. Parents must return the reply slip to the school by **30th April 2021**. If you do not reply, you risk losing the offer. Fraudulent addresses will be investigated by the LA and places will be withdrawn.

Reminder of COVID-19 procedures outlined in the Parent Information Booklet:

Things to bring to school

- *Please send your child to school with a small, plastic pencil case with their name on it – inside they should have 2 pencils, a rubber, a pencil sharpener and some colouring pencils. Their pencil case should remain in their drawer at school and they must not share their stationery with anyone else. (These will be provided for children who receive free school meals).*
- *Water bottle with a name label. Only water is allowed in school, in accordance with our healthy schools policy.*
- *Please do not send your child to school with a school bag. They will be given a book bag to carry their reading book and school planner to and from school every day.*
- *If they have a packed lunch, they should bring their lunchbox labelled with their name and class.*
- *If you wish to send your child into school with a mobile phone, please read our 'Mobile Phone and Wearable Technologies Policy' on the school website and follow the guidelines.*
- *Younger children may bring a change of clothing to be kept in school in case of accidents.*

Your child will be asked to take their pencil case home with them over the holiday so you can check that they still have the things they need ready to begin the Spring Term on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

We've noticed that a few children are starting to bring school bags with them into school. Please can you make sure bags are not used. If you have any concerns, please contact the school and myself or Mrs Emery will get in touch.

Family Learning

with Birmingham Adult Education Service

We are working with Birmingham Local Authority to continue our Healthy Schools agenda, and we have access to FREE ONLINE courses for parents and carers who are interested. You can enrol onto the 'Healthy Lifestyles - Kids on Track' workshop as a starter course using this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cvyK9n3GCUK8D4sm3L3QGbxzrqkx7OFDs2_FoCuSnyJUREQwNUNSSzFPNTBSUOpRNkNaM0ZUS0FSOC4u

Healthy lifestyle - Kids on Track

This **free** workshop aims to explore how obesity can be prevented in young children. Through this workshop, parents will be supported with not only the information but also the practical skills to effectively manage such behavior.

What will Parents/carers learn?

1. Gain skills to effectively manage their children's eating habits
2. Strategies to prevent obesity
3. Being a positive role model for your child
4. Raise awareness on portion size

How long is the course?

This will be a 2-hour workshop with parents only.

What could this course lead to?

This could lead to further courses in Healthy Eating and accredited cooking qualifications. At the end of the course, we will provide information about other learning opportunities and courses for adults to join in the local area.

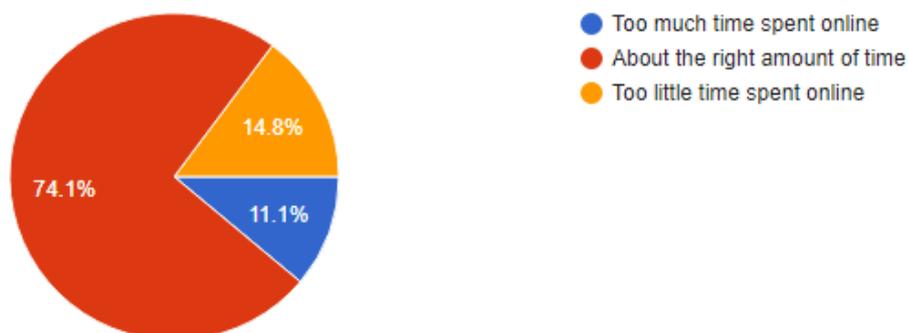
More details on how Family Learning courses are set up together with the school are here:

- They can start from 4th January 2021.
- Recruit a minimum of 8 parents and maximum 12 for the course.
- Parents will need access to any of these: laptop / computer / tablet / ipad / smartphone and have an email address.
- Courses run online on a weekday, 2hrs per week for 5/6 weeks each.
- Parents will need to fill the enrolment forms in online.
- Certificates will be given to each learner for completing the course/s.

If you have any questions, please call or email the school and someone will get back to you.

Google Classroom Parent Survey

Thank you to Nursery, Year 2 and 3 parents for their feedback on the remote learning which has taken place when these year groups have had to self-isolate. From the information you have given us we feel that we are providing the right about of time completing work online using our new system of Google Classroom.



Parents have picked out the following strengths:

- Improved computing skills
- Timely feedback, good content and structure
- Being able to interact with the teacher and friends
- Being able to carry on learning whilst at home

Parents felt that the following could be developed:

- Providing laptops for families with more than one child or those who cannot afford them
- A consistent reward chart to promote the school's behaviour system
- Ability to edit work once completed
- Ensuring that all links work for Google Meet sessions.

While we hope not to have to close any bubbles in the new year, we will continue to develop our remote learning offer to make sure that there is as little impact as possible on the children's learning.

Congratulations to the children in Year 2!

Despite the fact that this year group was the most affected by bubble closures in the Autumn Term, they did fantastically well on their Phonics Check, scoring above the 2019 national average, and we are extremely proud of them all. Well done children and staff!

Messages from Birmingham City Council

Toy Safety

Play is not risk-free – and nor should it be – but we can control most of the hazard's children are exposed to. Toys must be safe by law, but how they are used, and the age of the child are important factors in preventing accidents.

Although toys are involved in more than 40,000 accidents each year, their safety is only part of the problem. Many accidents involving toys occur when people trip over them and when babies play with toys intended for older child.

Online marketplaces don't do safety checks of toys they sell. And reports show increasing numbers of dangerous toys available on online marketplaces from third party sellers. Financial pressures and the promise of bargains mean unsafe toys may well be bought by unsuspecting parents.

Top 10 toy safety tips

1. Buy toys only from reputable outlets - look for the CE symbol
2. Make sure the toy is suitable for the child – check the age range
3. Be particularly careful with toys for children under three
4. Be wary of young children playing with older children's toys
5. Check for loose hair and small parts, sharp edges and points
6. Ensure that garden swings and slides are robust and are not a strangulation hazard
7. Check toys regularly for wear and repair or dispose of them where necessary
8. Keep play areas tidy
9. Follow the instructions and warnings provided with toys
10. Supervise young children at play

Make sure the toys are suitable. Some children, particularly those under three, are more vulnerable, especially to choking, and less able to cope with some toys than older children. It should also be remembered there will be significant differences in the abilities of those in the same age group, and those children with special needs.

Avoid the following:

- Toys with loose pile fabric or hair which sheds easily, presenting a choking hazard
- Toys with small components or parts which detach
- Toys with sharp points and edges or finger traps
- Loose ribbons on toys and long neck ties on children's costumes
- Small toys sold with items of food
- Check toys periodically to see that they have not become dangerously worn, revealing sharp points and edges or filling materials. Throw them away if they are no longer safe, or if they are a particular favourite with your child have them properly repaired
- Children under three should never be allowed to play with toys which are marked as being unsuitable for them. With some toys it is important to supervise children during play, e.g. chemistry sets. The instructions must be observed and should warn you about all the hazards and how to avoid or control them
- Encourage children to play with one toy at a time, to be tidy and put toys away after play. This applies whether at home or at school or playgroup. Many accidents are caused by people tripping over toys left lying around, particularly on staircases.

Links to safety posters to display in your setting:

- [Toy shopping safety poster](#)
- [Toy shopping safety leaflet](#)

While toys sold by well-known, reputable stores are generally safe, toys, novelty items and dressing-up clothes that you can buy in online marketplaces, markets or discount stores may not

be. Battery-powered toys have usually passed rigorous safety tests. But as the batteries wear out, try to avoid mixing old and new batteries - the older batteries could overheat in the toy.

Batteries in children's toys are covered by safety regulations. They should either be enclosed by a screw and a secure compartment or need two independent or simultaneous movements to open the battery compartment. But remember that older children may still be able to open secure battery compartments.

Toys bought online or from markets, discount stores or temporary shops may not follow the appropriate safety regulations. For example, trading standards officers have issued warnings about light-up fidget spinners where the battery is easily accessible to children.

[Read more about the dangers posed by button batteries](#)

<https://www.capt.org.uk> for resources and guidance

<https://www.rospa.com> for resources and guidance

The CE mark or Lion Mark show toys have been made to approved standards. However, some unscrupulous companies can fake them - so if you already have concerns, don't rely on these alone.

Birmingham City Council and The University of Birmingham are launching a survey to examine children and young people's experiences of education since the September 2020 re-opening.

The survey link for 8-18 year-olds is here: <https://bit.ly/39jXakH>

Please be assured that we have no way of linking your contact details to your child's/children's survey responses. Your email address will be deleted from our database.

Results from the research will be shared at the link below.

Thanks and best wishes

Dr Karl Kitching

On behalf of the Birmingham Education and COVID-19 Initiative

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/impact/policy-commissions/education/index.aspx>



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Upcoming dates for your diary

- 17th Dec:** **End of term**
- 18th Dec:** **Teacher Day – school closed to children**
- 4th Jan:** Teacher Day – school closed to children
- 5th Jan:** **Start of term**
- 10th Feb:** Parents' Evening 3.45pm – 6.00pm
- 11th Feb:** Parents' Evening 4.30pm – 7.00pm

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.