



CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We care, we learn, we succeed.

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December 2020 Pastoral

Dear parents and carers

We'd like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas holiday. With that in mind, we thought we'd signpost you to local services below. You can also find a range of support services on the following link: [From Birmingham With Love](#).

For Parents/Carers

1. Urgent mental health help line: ring 0121 262 3555 for advice and support. This line is available 24 hours, 7 days a week and can be used whether you are known to the service or not.
2. Foodbanks: https://www.findfoodbanksbrum.org.uk/project_category/food-banks/
3. Domestic Violence: Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid www.bswaid.org
Helpline: 0808 800 0028. Open 7 days a week 9.15am – 5.15pm (closed bank holidays)
4. Finally, a reminder that there is a lot of other early help in the city for all young people and families. Click here for see a whole range of offers: [Birmingham Children's Partnership - Resources | Birmingham Children's Partnership - Resources | Birmingham City Council](#)

For Children and Young People

1. Kooth: www.kooth.com (Online chat, resources and direct help for 10-25yr olds)
2. Pause (Mental health and emotional wellbeing support): to register and request support online via <https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/services/13-pause> or call the registration line 0207 841 4470.

ASDA FREE CHILD MEALS

We have just found out that during December children will be allowed to have free meals in any Asda café, NO purchase is necessary and there are no criteria. As we are more than half way through December, hopefully a lot of you will already know about this but we thought we'd make you aware as well.

All 216 of the supermarket's cafes are taking part and will provide children under the age of 16 with a meal completely free of any charge when accompanied by an adult. There are no minimum spend requirements or restrictions on the number of children in a family or group that can take advantage of this offer.

Asda cafes located in areas with Tier 3 Covid restrictions will still provide this offer to local children via a takeaway service. The offer will run from December 1st to 31st December except Christmas Day when stores are closed.

The free meals for children is part of Asda's Christmas kindness campaign, which aims to support local communities during difficult and unprecedented times.

STOP Loan Sharks Christmas Campaign

The England Illegal Money Lending Team has launched its annual Stop Loan Sharks Week Christmas campaign. The theme this year is avoiding loan sharks online amid concerns more people are falling prey to unscrupulous lenders on social media.

Worryingly, one in five victims met their lender on social media in the first half of 2020, and the campaign wants to help people avoid loan shark rackets online in the run-up to Christmas.

How to protect yourself from loan sharks online

Know who you're dealing with. If you've only ever met someone online or are unsure of the legitimacy of a lender, take some time to do a bit more research. Check the lender is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). If not, don't borrow from them - report to the [Stop Loan Sharks](#) team.

Beware of loan adverts with no credit checks. Loan sharks have been known to advertise in community groups and on local selling pages. They may seem friendly and accommodating, but their behaviour can quickly change, and you might be harassed or threatened if you get behind with your repayments. Lenders must carry out credit checks to make sure borrowers can afford to pay back their loans. You should never hand over your bank details to strangers, even if they lure you with attractive offers. Remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Beware of any requests for your details or money. Loan sharks may ask for copies of your passport or pictures of your house, the street and your house number. Never send money or give card details, online account details or copies of personal documents to anyone you don't know or trust.

If you suspect someone may be a loan shark or they are acting inappropriately, you can report them anonymously to www.stoploansharks.co.uk or by calling the Stop Loan Sharks Helpline on 0300 555 2222.

Alternatively, you can email the team reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk or access support via live chat on the website Monday to Friday between 9am-5pm.

The Stop Loan Sharks App is free to download on both iOS and Android devices from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Warm home discount scheme

Families on low incomes may be able to apply for the warm home discount scheme to receive a £140 discount on their winter electricity or gas bills. For more information, follow the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>