



CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We care, we learn, we succeed.

www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk @copschool

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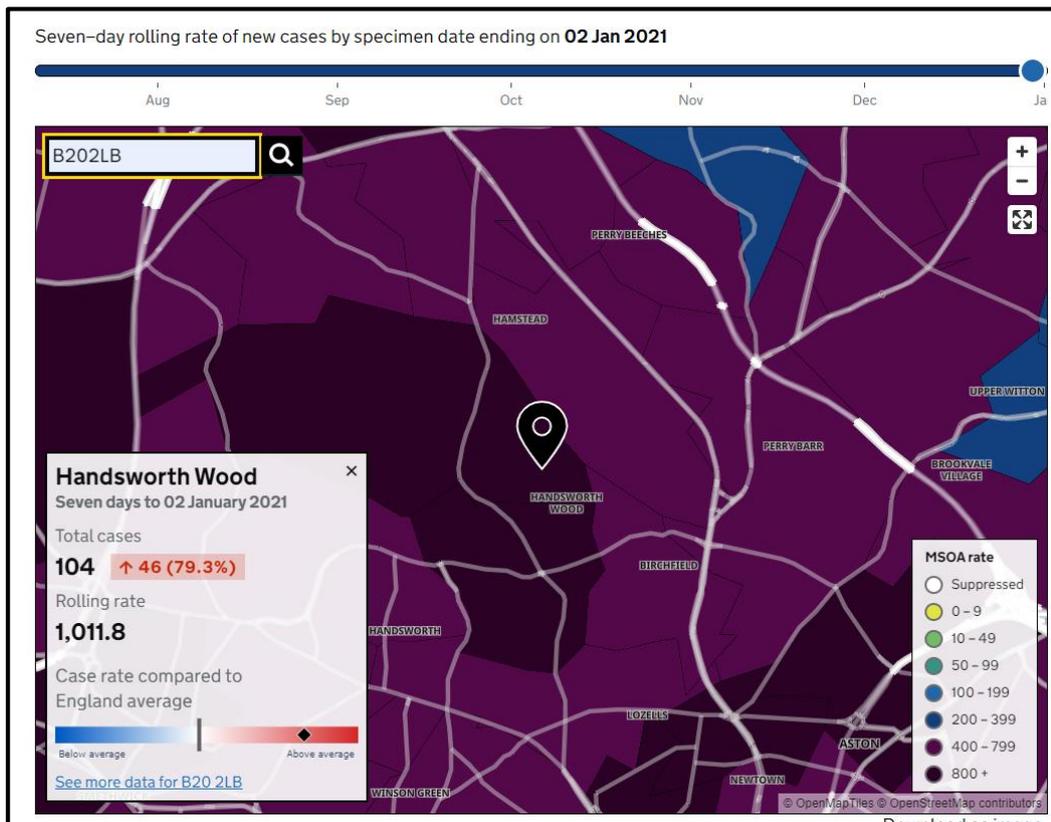
January 2021 - 2

Dear parents and carers

Please see our latest updates.

Coronavirus Cases in Handsworth Wood

The cases in our community are some of the highest in the country and increasing rapidly, as you will see from the information below taken from the government website today.



The reason our teachers are delivering three live lessons a day is so that the children can work independently with the teacher's support rather than relying on too much parental support. As long as you can make sure they're logged on in time for each lesson, have a pen/pencil and paper ready, and are submitting their work, that is all we ask. Obviously, if you want to support your children during the lesson, that's fine, but please don't do the work for them. We teach the children that it is fine to make some mistakes – this is vital for them to understand if they are going to be resilient learners and not give up as soon as they get an answer wrong. No one can be

right all the time and that is okay because we do our best learning from our mistakes when we are resilient and courageous learners.

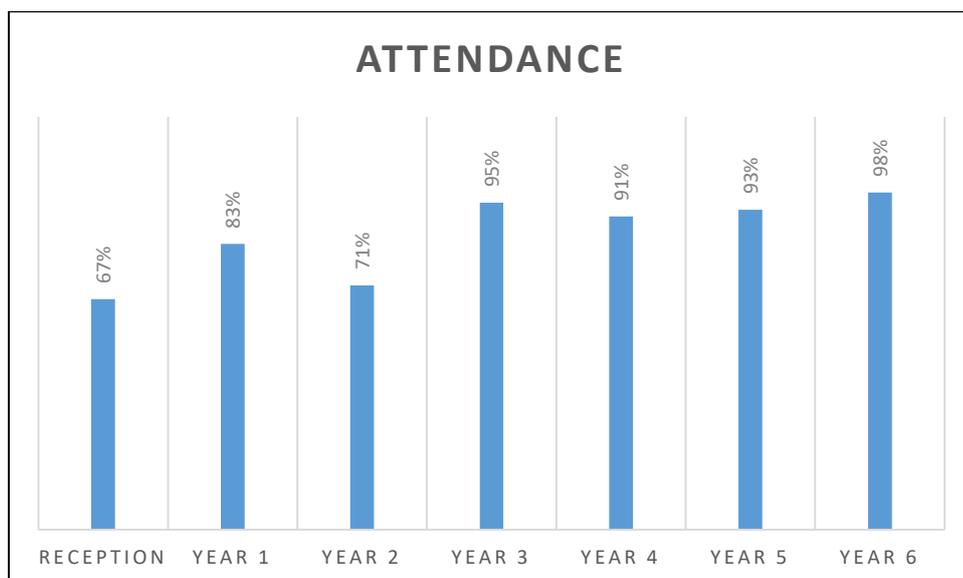
So with that in mind, and with the alarming numbers of Coronavirus cases in our community, if you are a key worker but you are working from home, please seriously consider whether you can keep your child at home and allow them to access the lessons remotely – they will be in exactly the same lesson whether they are at home or in school, and after a few sessions they will become more and more independent in their use of Google Classroom and will acquire some useful life skills, even the younger ones! Also, if you have a child in the juniors and the infants, your older child can always provide your younger child with technical support as their lessons are at different times, and they will only need one laptop between them as well.

We know that there are a number of key worker parents who are already keeping their children at home when they are working from home, and everyone at Cherry Orchard would like to thank them for their efforts in doing everything they can to keep our community as safe as possible at this time. At the moment, Year 1 is a particular concern as the number of children coming into school in this year group is almost double that of other year groups, and rising.

If your child is already learning at home, please continue to contact us if you have any issues or concerns that you'd like to discuss.

Remote learning at Cherry Orchard

Our whole school attendance in live lessons is now at 86% which is fantastic for the first week of lockdown! You can see the attendance figures for each year group in the chart below. Thank you parents for supporting your children to access their lessons, and well done to all of the children at home who are continuing with their learning despite being in lockdown – Cherry Orchard children never give up!



Live lesson timetable

Please see the table below to remind yourselves of the timings of our daily live lessons.

Infants	9.00 – 10.15		11.15 – 12.15		1.30 – 2.30	
Juniors		10.15 – 11.15		12.15 – 1.15		2.30 – 3.30

From next week onwards, teachers will receive their entitlement to non-contact time for planning and assessment every Wednesday afternoon. So on Wednesdays, instead of the 1.30-2.30 or the 2.30 – 3.30 live lesson, your child will receive a short pre-recorded instruction video from their teacher for that session as well as work to complete independently. These will be shared in your child's Google Classroom feed.

To support the smooth running of our live lessons, we have increased our broadband at a cost of £3500 extra per year. You will have also noticed that some of our teachers are delivering their live lessons from home, to reduce the pressure on the band width at school. This is helping greatly, and when that is the case, the children in school are supported to access the live lessons by a TA in class.

Chromebooks

Unfortunately, our current stock of Chromebooks has now sold out. If you have borrowed a Chromebook and you would now like to purchase it for your child to keep, just call the office and we will organise payment through Parentpay.

Also, I would like to thank the parent who has very generously donated the cost of three Chromebooks to school funds so that we can purchase more for those in need. As we don't know when the DFE will be providing us with devices, we have ordered a further small number of Chromebooks to come in that we hope will be available to use by the end of next week, and we are aware of those who need additional support.

In the meantime, if your child has a Playstation or X-Box, they can also use this to access the internet and log into their Google Classroom (we have shared a Tweet about this on Cherry Orchard's Twitter feed @copschool).

Ofsted

Schools and teachers were given 12 hours notice to arrange remote education for pupils. Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, is asking parents to complain to Ofsted if the learning isn't good enough.

At Cherry Orchard, we have worked hard to prepare for this eventuality over the last few months. We also worked flat out on Monday's teacher day (putting planned training aside) so that we were

able to deliver 3 hours of live lessons daily for all of the children without them missing a day of their education. We have also continued to do our best with the resources we have to ensure that those in need have as much support as we can give with regards to accessing remote learning. On top of this, we also made sure that all of our children who are entitled to free school meals had their weekly food parcels ready to collect when we opened on Tuesday as the government vouchers are not yet available.

We know there is still more to do and we will continue to develop our provision over the coming days and weeks, but as a parent, if you are happy with what Cherry Orchard is providing for remote learning, you could always let Ofsted know that. Thank you.

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Twitter: @Ofstednews

The Application deadline for Sept 2021 Reception places is Friday 15th January!

If your child will be 4 years old before 1st September 2021, you can apply for a place in Cherry Orchard's Reception class.

You will need to visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and submit an online application by **15th January 2021** (the final closing date).

As we can't invite parents into school at the moment, please look out for our Virtual Open Day content on our website coming soon on www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk

Food parcels for children on free school meals learning from home

Next week's food parcels will be ready to collect from the office on Monday from 1pm onwards. Hopefully, by the following week the government will have got the voucher system up and running again. If not, we will continue to supply weekly food parcels for collection.

Fruit for the infants

We are no longer receiving supplies of fruit for the infant children that are continuing to come into school. If you would like your child to have a snack during morning break, please can you send them in with a piece of fruit. Thank you.