



# CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

**We care, we learn, we succeed.**

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Dear parents and carers

Here is a quick update as we start the new term.

## **Live lessons at Cherry Orchard**

Well our first day of whole-school online live teaching turned out to be a very exciting day for Cherry Orchard! I hope all of the children at home enjoyed their live lessons; we were so pleased to see so many of them joining us yesterday. I was also thrilled to hear parents' descriptions of their children's preparations on Monday night – making sure their devices were charging and getting their workstations ready for the morning – very impressive!

I'd like to thank you all for working with us to support your children. I know how difficult this is if you are working from home or have younger children to look after, which is why we worked hard last term to put our live online provision together to enable the children to work as independently as possible.

We know that some of you had a few teething problems yesterday, but don't worry and please don't give up. We will continue to support you and your child to overcome any issues, and I'm sure they will impress you with how quickly they are able to manage their remote learning quite successfully. One thing I would ask is that you make sure your child writes down their Google Classroom password so they don't forget it as it takes time for us to reset passwords, especially when 30 to 40 all need resetting at once! Last term we ran two remote training sessions for parents and shared training videos for using Google Classroom – we have refreshed this and here is the link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYj\\_sakujA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYj_sakujA&feature=youtu.be)

We certainly had some problems of our own yesterday morning when our whole system crashed at 8.30am! It transpired that the air-conditioning in the computer server room failed on Monday evening, which led to the school server overheating and switching itself off! This was the reason the internet and phones were not working and the 9am infant lesson did not take place. Our technician was rebooting the whole system at that time, so we apologise for that. However, I do think we are ahead of the game as a school and, despite this issue, we still delivered all of the junior live lessons and 2 out of the 3 infant live lessons so we were pleased overall.

We have also discovered that our broadband doesn't allow for every teacher to deliver a live lesson from school at the same time. The main problem yesterday occurred between 3pm and 3.30pm when the infant teachers went back online to read a story live to their classes while the junior live lessons were still taking place. We have an idea about how we will resolve this, but for today we won't run the infant story session.

## **Chromebooks**

Unfortunately, we cannot loan out any more Chromebooks. If you need another device, you have two options via school. One option is to purchase a Chromebook from us for the subsidised price of £160 – we have 8 left. Another option is to put your child's name down on the waiting list for a laptop from the DFE. At the moment, secondary schools are able to order laptops from the government, but primary schools have been told to wait to be contacted directly by the DFE. We have no idea how long we will have to wait, nor do we know how many devices we will be given or what they will be.

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.

## **Food parcels for children on free school meals**

The kitchen staff did a fantastic job yesterday morning putting this week's food parcels together at very short notice. If your child is learning at home and is entitled to free school meals, and you didn't collect their food parcel yesterday, please come along to the office this morning.

## **Change to pick-up times**

If your child is in school, we have staggered the pick-up times to make it easier if you have children on both sides of the road. From today, please can you collect them at the following times:

Resource Base: **3.00pm**

Reception and KS1: **3.20pm**

KS2: **3.30pm**