



# CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

[www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk](http://www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk) @copschool

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**February 2021 – Issue 1**

Dear parents and carers

Please see our latest updates.

## **Places in school for children of critical workers**

We have now reached our maximum capacity in school and cannot safely admit any more children of critical workers. Going forward, if any critical workers require school places for their children, we will have to alert Birmingham Local Authority and ask them to arrange places in other local schools that have space.

Alternatively and preferably, if there are any critical workers whose children have had a place from the beginning of the current lockdown but are able to keep them at home for at least some days each week, please let us know by the end of this week so that we don't have to send Cherry Orchard children elsewhere. We think this would be a fairer way to tackle this so that we can give some support to other critical workers who have been coping with their children at home thus far while working, or have used up their annual leave to look after their children.

## **The tragic death of Keon Lincoln**

Cherry Orchard staff and governors would like to take this opportunity to express our utter sadness at the tragic death of one of Cherry Orchard's former pupils, Keon Lincoln. Those of us who knew Keon and his family have already passed on our condolences, as I'm sure those of you who also know them will have done. We think of Keon and his family daily, and hope and pray that they can find justice and peace.

For those of you who would like to know what you could do to help, you may wish to contribute to the collection for Keon's funeral and memorial via the following link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/in-memory-of-our-beloved-keon>

Finally, if you are concerned about the effect that the news of Keon's death has had on your child, please see the information below. There are many free services available to support adults and children who may be dealing with bereavement and anxiety.

## **Mental Health Week**

It is important that we all look after our mental health and that of our children, especially during these times of lockdown. This is why we are celebrating Children's Mental Health Week this week. The children have been set the challenge of listening and responding to different types of songs, all with the same theme – happiness and positivity. I'd like to thank our Art and Music Lead, Miss Sandford for putting this together. I have also attached a powerpoint presentation on the importance of exercise to boost our mental health, shared by BEP (Birmingham Education Partnership).

However, if you feel that you or your child needs more support in this area, there are many free services available out there. Please see the links below to find advice on ways to cope with all of the challenges faced by families at the moment, and to find additional support if needed.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/supporting-your-child-s-mental-health/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/talking-to-children-about-feelings/>

<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

## **Public Q&A sessions regarding COVID-19 vaccination**

The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is our best defence against the virus. The vaccine is highly effective and it is currently being rolled out across Birmingham to priority groups. Throughout February 2021 there will be five online Q&A sessions which will allow the public to ask any questions they may have about the vaccination. On the panel will be the Birmingham & Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, local representatives and Councillor Paulette Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

It is strongly recommended that people attend the session that is relevant to where they live, as some of the information in the webinar will be localised:

4th February at 6pm-7.30pm. North Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138628992047>

9th February at 6pm-7.30pm. South Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138644995915>

11th February at 6pm-7.30pm. East Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138644995915>

24th February at 6pm-7.30pm. West Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138645314869>

25th February at 6pm-7.30pm Central Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138645491397>

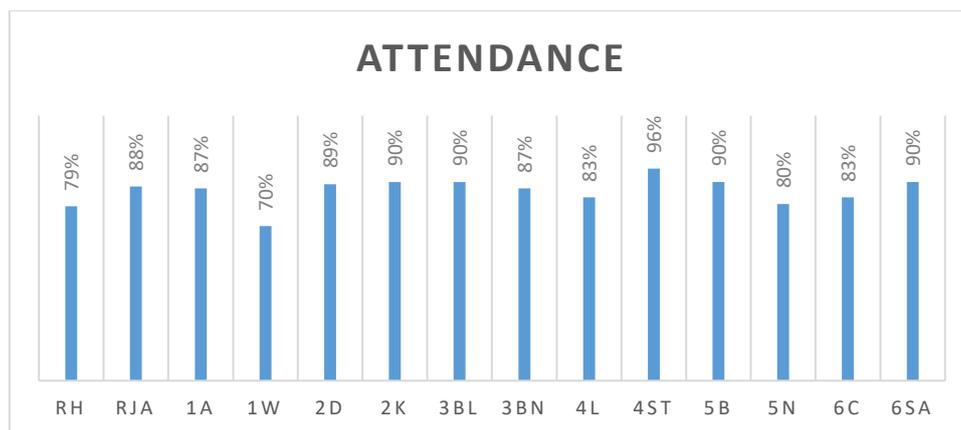
## **Mobile Phone data**

Just to let you know, we have applied for free additional mobile data for all parents who completed the request form sent out in a previous newsletter.

## Weekly attendance

The whole school attendance in live lessons was back up to 86% last week, which is wonderful news. The graph below shows the live lesson attendance of each class. The figures show the percentage of children who attended all of the sessions, or only missed one or two sessions throughout the week. **Well done to 4ST for the highest attendance!**

You will have noticed that we are calling you if a lesson is missed, and we've introduced a weekly attendance raffle. We hope that this supports you in ensuring your children are in the routine of attending their live lessons.



## Screen Free Friday!

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, the last day of this half-term, we have planned a day away from the screen for the children. We are putting together a menu of fun and simple activities that your children can choose from, and they won't need to open their laptop for any of them!

## Upcoming dates for your diary

- 12<sup>th</sup> Feb:** End of term (Screen Free Friday)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb:** Teacher Training Day – school closed to children
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb:** Start of term
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Parents' Evening 3.45pm – 6.00pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Parents' Evening 4.30pm – 7.00pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> Apr:** End of term
- 19<sup>th</sup> Apr:** Start of term
- 28<sup>th</sup> May:** End of term
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jun:** Start of term
- 12<sup>th</sup> Jul:** Teacher Training Day – school closed to children
- 21<sup>st</sup> Jul:** End of term

## Additional Information

You will find lots of additional information on our school website. Please go to [www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk](http://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.