



# 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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**March 2021 – Issue 1**

Dear parents and carers

## **First day of full opening**

It has been lovely to see so many happy children returning to school; we have really missed having the children on site for face-to-face teaching. With only 4 children absent across the whole school from Reception to Year 6 and a 99.1% attendance rate yesterday, it has been a truly wonderful start. Thank you.

I'd also like to say thank you for getting straight back into the habit of wearing your face masks and following the one-way systems for drop-off and pick-up – we really appreciate it.

Yesterday there were a few cases where parents stopped at the KS2 exit gate to call their children from the playground and had to be asked to walk round to collect them. Please understand that if you stop at this gate, this causes congestion for the adults and children leaving the playground and makes social distancing impossible. Please take the time to walk around to collect your child from KS2.

With regards to school uniform, we understand that it is difficult to purchase some items such as new school shoes, so please rest assured that we will not be enforcing this as strictly as we normally would at the moment.

And finally, can I just remind you of a few important things that were in the parent booklet sent out last Thursday:

- the children should not bring a school bag to school. They should bring only their book bag, water bottle and lunch box if they have sandwiches
- the children should bring their own pencil case to school (unless they have free school meals)
- the children should bring a water bottle as the water fountains are out of use
- in the juniors, the children should bring a fruit snack for break time (the infants receive free fruit/veg every day).

## **School Council**

Our first School Council Meeting took place via Google Classroom last month and was a great success, so we will continue to meet in this way in the future. They discussed the results of the home learning questionnaire sent out to all classes and the children shared their own views.

The overwhelming opinion of the children was that the use of Google Classroom and the delivery of the live lessons was a great success, so we will continue to deliver this provision if a bubble closure occurs in the coming months. Here are some examples of the pupils' comments:

*I like how all children from school have the same opportunity both children at school who need to be there and children at home.*

*I like the live lessons because I know I am learning.*

*I like that I get to see my classmates and feels a little bit normal.*

*I like that I get to share my ideas with my class and teacher which is very different to the first lockdown.*

*I like that Google Classroom has due dates and we have time to complete tasks on the day it is set.*

*I like the 'To-Do' tab on Google Classroom because I know what I need to do.*

*I like that everything is online as sometimes printing work off is difficult.*

*I think it is good that I can go back to previous work on Google Classroom.*

The school council's focus for the rest of the spring and summer terms will be on mental health.

### **Home to School Transport information for families**

Attached with this update is information for parents and carers about home to school transport.

### **Birmingham Parent Carer Forum**

Please find attached with this update information about Birmingham Parent Carer Forum.

### **Letter to families from the Leader of Birmingham Council**

Please find attached a letter to parents and carers from the Leader of the Council.

### **Upcoming dates for your diary**

30<sup>th</sup> Mar: Parents' Evening (remote) 4.20pm – 7.00pm (booking information to follow)

31<sup>st</sup> Mar: Parents' Evening (remote) 4.20pm – 7.00pm (booking information to follow)

**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.