



# 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 3

Dear parents and carers

I hope you and your families are well and your children are happy to be back into the routine of coming to school. The vast majority of the children have enjoyed being back and have been working hard in the classroom, and the teachers and the pastoral team are supporting those who have found the return a little challenging. If you feel your child is struggling with their mental health in any way, please let us know and we will work with you to help them as much as possible.

Here are the latest notices for parents and carers. Please also see the flyer attached for possible Easter activities for the children.

## Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment

That their child or young person:

- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting

- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Nurseries, schools, colleges and further education providers are required to provide a letter to all parents or carers of the children advised to self-isolate, to support their application to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

## **Drop off and Pick up**

Although our procedures for drop off and pick up times are working very well on the whole, there are a couple of things to mention in the interest of everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Face coverings:

We appreciate that some parents/carers are exempt from wearing a mask or just simply sometimes forget. Please know that in these instances, if an exemption badge/card is not clearly visible, it is highly likely that a member of staff will ask why you are not wearing a face covering. Some members of staff have reported that occasionally, parents/carers have not responded respectfully when asked. While we understand that individuals may be asked several times by different members of staff and that this may be frustrating, please know that our priority is to keep the community, the pupils and the staff as safe as possible and to avoid contributing to another surge in COVID-19 cases in our area.

Adults on site:

Please be reminded that our current procedures specify that only ONE adult should access the school site to drop off or pick up their child/children. This is to reduce the number of adults on school grounds. If there is a reason why it is necessary for more than one adult to pick up your child/children, please let us know by emailing [enquiry@cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk) or calling the school office on 0121 5540862.

Letting children out of cars illegally:

I must remind you that it is illegal to stop your vehicle on the zigzags or in the road in order to let your children out of the car. This is because it is dangerous for the children getting out of the vehicle, and also for others crossing the road or using the zebra crossing. Please avoid doing this by walking to school or by parking safely before anyone exits the vehicle. Thank you.

## **P.E. Kit**

The tracksuits that we bought for all of the children at Cherry Orchard are now part of the school's uniform expectation for winter P.E. kit. Please be aware that when the children grow out of their current tracksuits, it is the parents' responsibility to replace the tracksuits themselves.

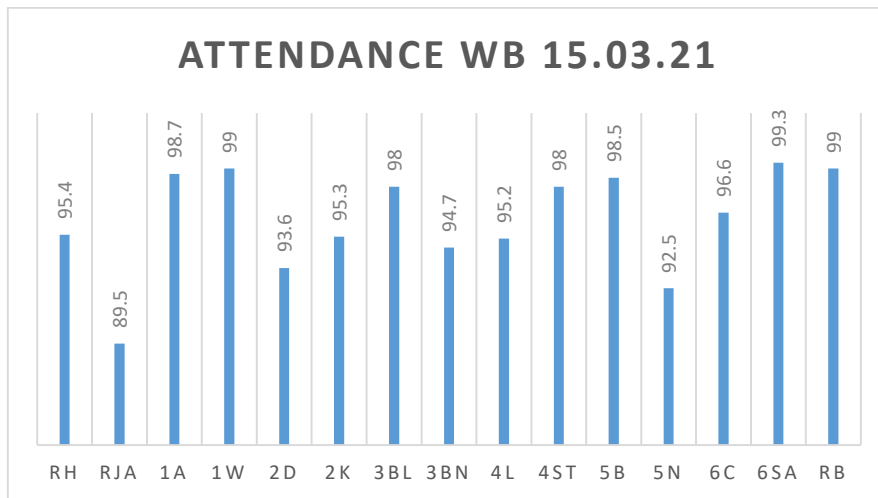
When the weather gets warmer, the children may wear their summer PE kit to school, which is a plain white t-shirt and plain black shorts or leggings.

## Rights Respecting Week

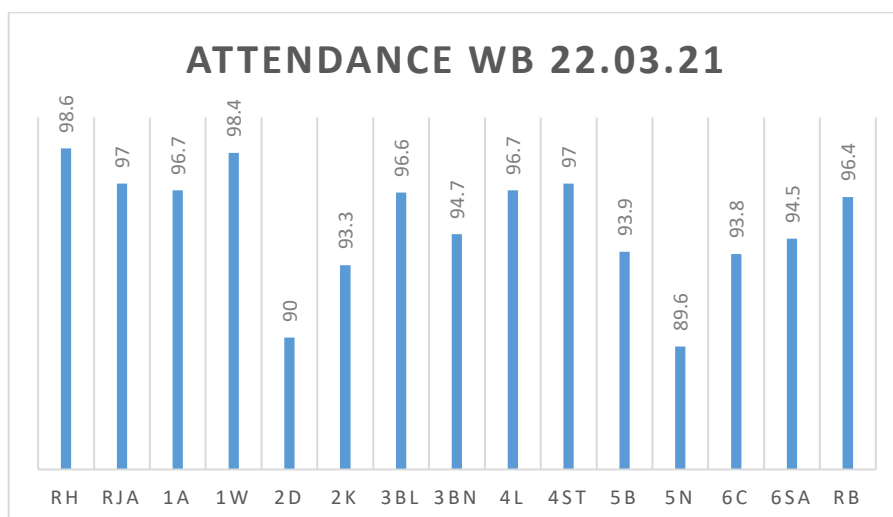
At Cherry Orchard, we are continuing our efforts to earn the Rights Respecting Gold Award as this is an important part of our core values. The children will revisit the Articles in the Convention for the Rights of the Child next week, as well as continuing to work on the core subjects of reading, writing and maths.

## Attendance

Last week's whole school attendance was 96.2%, which is good, with 7 classes maintaining outstanding attendance levels. Well done and congratulations to 6SA for the highest attendance last week.



This week's whole school attendance was 95.1% with 4 classes achieving outstanding attendance levels. Congratulations to RH for the highest attendance this week.



## Reminders

Thank you to all of you who have returned the laptops or chromebooks you borrowed from school during the last lockdown. If your child does not receive free school meals and you haven't yet returned the device, please do so by the end of this week.

Parents' evening is fast approaching. If you haven't booked an appointment for next week yet, please follow the instructions sent out via email last week and book your slots. If you have any problems, contact the school office.

## Upcoming dates for your diary

29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-1 <sup>st</sup> Apr:	Rights Respecting Week
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar:	Parents' Evening (remote) 4.20pm – 7.00pm
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar:	Parents' Evening (remote) 4.20pm – 7.00pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr:	<b>End of term</b> Mufti day – raising money for The National Autistic Society
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Apr:</b>	<b>Start of term</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> May:	Bank Holiday Monday – school closed
<b>28<sup>th</sup> May:</b>	<b>End of term</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Jun:</b>	<b>Start of term</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> Jul:	Teacher Training Day – school closed to children
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Jul:</b>	<b>End of term</b>

## 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.