



CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We care, we learn, we succeed

www.cherryorchard.bham.sch.uk @copschool

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6th September 2019

We've really enjoyed welcoming the children back to school and hearing about what they've been getting up to in the holidays. I hope you all enjoyed the summer.

The children have all had a fantastic start to the academic year, throwing themselves into their learning in our first geography/history topic week of the term. We've shared some examples of their work on our Twitter page as we've been so impressed, and you'll also see the enrichment activities that have taken place this week to help the children engage with the topics they're learning about. I hope you find this newsletter useful – it may be full of things some of you already know, but hopefully it will be helpful to many of you.



Please follow us on Twitter @copschool. Our Twitter feed is also still on the homepage of the school website.

Thank you to everyone who is following us on Twitter – we now have 282 followers! Remember if you follow us on Twitter, you can get notifications reminding you of events in school. If you don't want your Twitter account to be visible to others when you follow, retweet or like a post, just amend your Twitter privacy settings.

Please note that in emergencies such as school closures, we will also continue to notify you by text message. However, as every text message costs the school money, we will be using Twitter and email to send out general notices.

Events featured on Twitter this week:

Year 2 visit from Samuel Pepys
Year 5 historic tour of Handsworth

Secondary School Applications

If your child is in Year 6, you must apply for their secondary school place by 31st October 2019.

Click on this link to find out more information and to complete the online application form:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/apply_for_secondary_school_year_7_place/3 Use this link if you pay council tax to Birmingham. If you do not, you will need to apply to your local authority.

We recommend looking around the secondary schools before you apply so that you can make an informed decision. Should you have any queries, please contact Mrs Emery.

Open days for Reception and Nursery Intake Sept 2020

14th November 2019: 9.30am – 11.00am

26th November 2019: 1.30pm – 3.00pm

If you have children who will be ready for Nursery or Reception in September 2020, come to one of our open sessions to see the school and, in particular, our Early Years provision. You will meet staff who will be happy to show you around and answer any questions you may have.

The closing date for primary school applications for a place in a Reception Class for September 2020 is: midnight 15 January 2020

Children in Birmingham can start school (Reception) in the September after their fourth birthday.

Example: If your child was born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, they'll be able to start school in September 2020.

When to apply: Parents can apply for a place in the Autumn of the year before their child turns 4 years of age. It is important that you apply for a place as soon as possible.

At Cherry Orchard we follow Birmingham Schools Admissions Criteria:

1. Children with an EHCP or whom the Local Authority looks after
2. Children with an older brother or sister already at the school
3. Children who live nearest to the school, by straight-line measurement to one fixed point in the school.

*Attendance at Cherry Orchard's Nursery does not give your child automatic priority for a place in Reception.

Introducing the new members of our team

We're excited to welcome the following members of staff to our Cherry Orchard family this year:

Miss Toddington – Year 2 teacher

Miss Liaqat – Year 4 teacher

Mr Sroay – Site Manager

Miss Mazhar – Year 1 teaching assistant

Miss Adams – Year 3 teaching assistant

Autumn Term Parents' Evenings

The first parents' evenings of the year will be on 23rd October 3.30pm - 6.00pm and 24th October 4.30pm – 7.00pm. We will let you know nearer the time when you can book your slot online.

Resource Base Parents' Meeting

Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 18th September 2.00pm – 3.20pm. Our SENCo, Miss Jaswal, and I hope to see you all there. Please let the office know whether or not you are able to attend.

P.E. Timetable

Please see the timetable below to make sure that your child has their PE kit in school on the correct days.

	Monday	Tuesday	Weds	Thursday	Friday
Infant Indoor PE	1W Autumn 2	RJA and RH	1K Autumn 2		2A and 2T
Infant Outdoor PE	1W Autumn 1	2T	1K Autumn 1	2A	

Year 1 make up the additional hour of PE with outdoor structured exercise time during the afternoons. They do not need their PE kit for this.

	Monday	Tuesday	Weds	Thursday	Friday
Junior Indoor PE		Year 5	Year 3	Year 4 swimming	Year 6
Junior Outdoor PE	Year 5	Year 4	Year 6		Year 3

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit and are able to remove any jewellery themselves. The uniform policy can be found on the school website and in your child's School Planner. Note that the only items of jewellery permitted in our school uniform policy are as follows:

- Small stud earrings
- Watch (not a smart watch)
- One item of religious significance

We understand that some children may be wearing a rakhi at the moment, and that you may not want these to be removed. If this is the case, we ask that you provide your child with a sweatband to wear on their wrist to cover the rakhi in PE for health and safety reasons.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS

The Sporting Elite sessions will continue to run this year for £3 per session.

Football – Mondays, 15:30 – 16:30, Year Groups 3 - 6

Kids Gym - Tuesdays, 15:30 – 16:30, Year Groups 3 - 6

Multi Sports - Wednesdays, 15:30 – 16:30, Year Groups 1/2

Multi Sports –Thursdays, 15:30 – 16:30, Year Group 3/4 and 5/6

All Sporting Elite clubs will start in the week beginning 9th September.

In term time, Karate Club will continue to run in the Junior Hall on Fridays after school for children in Reception to Year 6, starting this week. Membership is £30 per month, but your child may attend their first two trial classes for free.

Please look out for letters about these clubs and return the application slips if you would like your child to attend a sports club.

Pick Up in Key Stage 2

In order to establish a calmer and safer transition at the end of the school day in KS2, we want to trial designated zones on the KS2 playground from Monday 9th September, which you will see in the diagram below. Please note that these zones are not actually marked out on the playground, but are there to give you an idea of where everyone will be.

Your child's class teacher will send your child to you when they see you.

If you have to arrange for someone else to pick up your child, please let the office know and they will pass the message on to your child and your child's class teacher. Remember, the person collecting your child will be asked for the password by your child's class teacher.

If you need to speak to your child's class teacher at the end of the day you are most welcome, but we just ask that you wait until they have dismissed the rest of the children in their class safely so they are able to give you their full attention.

Parents				Afterschool Club
RB2				Year 6
Main entrance/exit to KS2 building	Year 3	Year 5	Year 4	

We hope that this will improve pick up in KS2 for everyone. Thank you.

Reading and Homework at Cherry Orchard

Reading scheme books and School Planners will be sent out next week, along with your child's weekly homework. KS1 pupils may also choose a book from the classroom and KS2 children may choose a book from the library. Remember, if they choose a book that is on the Accelerated Reader system, they can complete an online quiz after reading it to score points. The highest scorers will feature on my newsletters each half-term.

For more details, please see the page in your child's School Planner that outlines homework expectations at Cherry Orchard. Note, you can find our full homework policy on the school website under 'Our Amazing School' and 'Policies'.

Phonics lessons will begin in KS1 on 11th September and we will continue to send home their phonics reading book in addition to their other books.

Please sign your child's school planner and help them to record new vocabulary every week.

Home-School Charter

At the beginning of each academic year we send out a Home-School Charter in the form of a leaflet, and ask you and your child to sign if you are in agreement and send them back into school. This year we thought it would be better to include this in the School Planners so it is always there for your reference. Please look out for this when we send the planners home next week, and discuss it with your child before signing. Thank you.

School Meals

Here is a list of the key facts you need to know about school meals etc:

- If you want your child to have a school lunch, you must order their meals through your Parent Pay account, even if your child receives free school meals. **Please be aware that you will need to continue to book meals one week in advance.**
- If your child brings their lunch to school, please **read our 'Packed Lunch Policy'** on the school website, as we are a healthy school and there are certain restrictions to take into account.
- We are a nut-free school. Please make sure any food sent into school is free from nuts.
- We encourage all children to bring a water bottle into school every day, **which must contain only water.** We have water fountains inside and out on the playground where they can also get a drink, and they can fill up their water bottles from the classroom sinks.
- In the infants, children are provided with free fruit snacks for morning break. Children in the juniors will need to bring in their own fruit for break time.

Free School Meals

Even if your child is in the infants and therefore already receives a free school meal, **it is important to register for free school meals because it enables them to access additional benefits in school.**

Your child might be eligible for free school meals if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

You only need to register once at the school. To register, please contact the school office.

Parent Survey Results and Feedback

I'd like to thank everyone who completed the online parent survey at the end of last term. I will be sharing this feedback with staff and governors over the next couple of weeks. I'll then include a summary and actions planned in my next newsletter.

Attendance and Punctuality

If you need to report your child's absence, please call the school office on 0121 5540862.

If you want to request approval for term-time absence, contact the school office to obtain an 'Exceptional Circumstances Leave in Term Time Request Form'.

Please note that our school term dates are updated on our website and on the newsletters. They are also in your child's School Planners. The home page of our website has had our September start date scrolling across it since before we broke up in July and the date also featured on my July newsletter. Therefore, any absences this week due to parents not knowing the start date have been recorded as unauthorised.

Please note that your child will be marked late if they arrive after 9.00am.

We monitor attendance and punctuality closely and if we are concerned, our pastoral team will contact you in the first instance to discuss the situation and offer support.

Medication in School

We will administer medication when it is necessary. However, prior to staff members administering any medication, parents/carers must complete and sign a parental consent form, which can be obtained from the office and filled in when you hand in the medication.

In the case of long term medication needs such as inhalers, anti-histamines or epipens, parents are asked to provide medication that can be kept in school permanently. A regular check will be made of the medication cabinet at least termly, and parents will be asked to collect any medication which is out of date or not clearly labeled. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that any medication no longer required is returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal. Any medication not collected will be taken to the local pharmacy for disposal.

Please keep the school informed about any new medical condition or changes to your child's health.

For more information, please see our 'Medical Needs' policy on our school website.

Mobile phones in school

Parents and visitors are requested not to use their mobile phones in the school building or grounds unless permission has been given by the head teacher for photographs at specific events e.g. celebration or class assemblies.

Only children who travel to and/or from school alone are permitted to bring a mobile phone into school. In the majority of cases, this will be Year 6 pupils and they are expected to give their phone to a member of staff as they enter the building and collect it at the end of the day. Phones are kept in labelled bags in a secure safe. **If your child is travelling to and from school alone with a mobile phone, we ask parents to sign a consent form which is available from the school office.**

Please see our 'Travelling To and From School Alone Policy' and our 'Use of Mobile Phones and Wearable Technologies Policy' on our school website for more details (Go to 'Our Amazing School' and 'Policies').

Additional Information

You will find lots of additional information on our school website. Please go to 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.

Upcoming dates for your diary

3rd Sept:	School open for pupils
5 th Sept:	Year 1 local area geography walk
5 th Sept:	Year 5 local area history walk
12 th Sept:	Year 6 visit to Birmingham REP Theatre
18 th Sept:	Resource Base Parents' Meeting
20 th Sept:	Year 4 maths competition at King Edwards School
23 rd Oct:	Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.00pm
24 th Oct:	Parents' Evening 4.30pm – 7.00pm
25th Oct:	End of term
4 th Nov:	Teacher Training Day
5th Nov:	School opens for pupils
14 th Nov:	Reception and Nursery open session 9.30am – 11.00am
26 th Nov:	Reception and Nursery open session 1.30pm – 3.00pm
20th Dec:	End of term
6 th Jan:	Teacher Training Day
7th Jan:	School opens for pupils