

**AUTUMN TERM
2017
NEWSLETTER 3
Friday, 6th
October**

CHERRY TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Mission Statement

Bringing out the best in each other as we blossom and grow

Our Values

*Happy, Aspirational, Resilient, Independent,
Open-minded, Compassionate*



SCHOOL NEWS

Book Character Day

Our fabulous 'Book Character Day' took place today. Yet again, we were all incredibly impressed with the fabulous, colourful and creative costumes that your children wore. Thank you to all who took part and to the parents who helped at home! Thank you also for the donations received which will be used to replenish library stocks and renew our worn reading scheme books. A Book Character winner was chosen from each class, based on originality and effort.



This year's winners are as follows:

Year F	Toby Robinson	Year 3	Matthew Simmons and Isabella Byrne
Year 1	Dexter Williamson-Shields	Year 4	Dana Williams
Year 2	Emma Thornton	Year 5	Ben McFerran
Group	The Davies Family as 'The 3 Little Pigs'	Year 6	Scarlett Spink

Staffing News

Mrs Matthews and Mrs Stagg both continue to be unwell and will not be fit to return to school until after the half term. I have passed on our best wishes for their speedy recovery from all of our staff and families.

Financial Position

I wanted to update you on our current financial position. You may remember being asked to support us in the campaign for fairer funding. Thank you to those of you who did this, or who wrote to local MPs. The National Funding Formula has been passed and although our efforts were recognised and we have been given slightly more money, this equates to only an additional £3000 being added to the budget that we are due to receive 2018-19. Warrington continues to be one of the authorities that receive the least funding, per pupil, across the whole country.

I am conscious that we regularly ask for your support with PTA events and fund-raising activities and wanted you all to be aware that, as a school, we only do this because it is absolutely necessary, in order to maintain the high standards that we achieve and to provide your children with enjoyable and fun learning experiences.

To put this into context, the governors and I met with our Budget Officer last week and were given these projected, 'worse case' scenario figures:

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Budget received from WBC	832,170	816,057↓ + the 10,589 carry forward from 2017-18	813,291↓
Expenditure (indicative)	821,581	899,454 ↑	913,272 ↑
Carry forward	10,589	0	0
Shortfall	0	-72,808	-99,981

The expenditure is purely based on what we currently spend, and is increasing due to rising costs brought on by inflation, the increasing cost of essential services, higher national insurance contributions, the apprenticeship levy etc. Our spend on resources such as books, stationary items, art materials, visitors and specialist teachers coming into school is having to reduce. Schools across the borough are experiencing similar difficulties. I hope this clarifies the situation a little and explains why we ask for your support.

Without the funds provided by our fantastic PTA and the income from the rental of the hall and the mobile to the After School Club and the Pre-School, we would be in a worse position. The income from these groups reduces the projected shortfall seen above and the PTA enable us to still provide some of the non-essential items such as the mobile farm, the library service and specialist music teaching.

On a more positive note, we have received numerous donations this year from generous families and businesses. Our TV screen in the entrance hall currently displays the logos of the businesses etc. that have donated products and services to us. They have all made a massive difference!

The latest donation comes from 'Lymm Runners' who have offered to pay for new playground equipment for the children- a very generous gesture!

Over time we will notice the benefit of having solar panels generating a large proportion of our electricity; this will also save our precious school funds.

The governors and I continue to proactively manage the budget and look for new funding streams and ways to save money without impinging on the education provided.

Allotment News

We have had a large number of bricks and some decking planks donated which we will use to rebuild our allotment planters. Thank you to those of you who have brought some to school. We are happy to take further bricks and sturdy planks should there be anymore 'going spare'! ;-)

Autumn Preserves

If you are able to help make chutneys, jams etc. with our organic allotment produce, please contact Jan Daniel, our Allotment Coordinator – jg.daniel@btinternet.com

Alternatively, to help maximise our profits from the sale of the preserves, we would welcome donations of any of the following: white granulated sugar, light brown sugar, raisins, and sultanas.

Parent Survey

An email was sent to parents yesterday with results of our Parent Survey. Thank you to the 88% of our families who took the time to give us their valuable feedback. The governors, staff and I are delighted to know that 98% of respondents agreed that their child felt happy and safe in school. Also 97% would recommend our school to others. Thank you.

Phonics & Early Reading Workshop

Thank you to those of you who supported us by attending the workshop on Tuesday. If you were unable to attend but are interested in knowing more, please have a look on our website for the handouts, or contact Mrs Kinzett who would be happy to repeat her presentation one afternoon after school.

Promoting Healthy Habits- Please Help

In recent weeks there has been an increase in the number of children with foods in their lunchboxes such as boiled sweets and chocolate bars. We teach the children about good health and nutrition during science lessons and our school meals have recently won an award for being of high quality and extremely healthy. (See this weeks' Warrington Guardian link:



http://www.warringtonguardian.co.uk/news/15547056.Dinner_ladies_win_award_for_the_healthy_food_they_feed_pupils/

Please support this valuable work by providing children with healthy packed lunches.

May I also remind you that we are a NUT FREE school. Please do not allow your children to bring any type of nut product into school; this includes Kinder Bueno or any form of Nutella.

Fruit or vegetable snacks and water are the only items allowed at break time.

Active Playtimes

We are keen to promote active and fun playtimes. To support this we do allow girls to wear shorts under their skirts so that they can do handstands etc. without embarrassment. However, we would prefer them not to wear their red PE shorts as these do not look smart peeping below skirts. Instead, we recommend they wear grey or black cycling shorts, that do not show below the skirt.

One of our governors, Georgina Walker, has kindly agreed to continue to run the 'Change for Life' club at lunchtimes. Year 2 and Year 3 will be able to join in with active playtime games, led by some of our Year 5 children.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Book Fair - Wednesday, 4th October to Monday, 9th October

The final chance to visit our annual Book Fair will be on **Monday, 9th October**. We welcome you to come and buy books before school from 8:45am-9:15am or after school from 3pm until 4:30pm on Monday. If you are able to

assist with selling books, please let a member of our office team know. The school receives a good commission on sales, which we take in the form of books for the library.

Sampling Our Delicious School Lunches

Some of our Year 5 and 6 parents joined us for lunch today. This opportunity is open to other year groups as follows:

- Class 3 and 4 parents are invited to join their children for lunch on Thursday, 2nd November
- Class 1 and 2 parents are invited to join their children for lunch on Thursday, 23rd November
- Class F parents are invited to join their children for lunch on Thursday, 18th January

Parents have the choice of bringing their own lunch and sitting with their child and experiencing lunch time or ordering a school meal, at the normal price of £2.30. Please pre-order/complete the relevant slip and arrive at 12 noon should you wish to join your child on the specified date.

Those who joined us on Thursday gave some very positive feedback about our tasty school meals!

If you are a parent of a Year 3 or Year 4 child, and wish to come for lunch on Thursday, 2nd November, please complete the slip attached to the Newsletter.

Parent Forum Meeting- Friday, 13th October at 2:15pm (We will finish by 3:15pm.)

All parents are welcome to attend the termly Parent Forum meetings. Parents are invited to submit agenda items a week in advance. The deadline for submitting agenda items has now passed. The final agenda is as follows:

- *Terms of reference of the Parent Forum/role of the Parent Forum -how it differs from the PTA and parents' evenings and main topics covered over the past year.*
- *Matters arising from the Parent Survey July 2017*
- *Transition from nursery to foundation stage (Class F), including lunches and half days*
- *Extra-curricular music clubs*
- *Morning arrival arrangements on the playground*
- *Timings of Workshops and Forums*

Harvest Charity Assembly– Thursday, 19th October at 9:15am and again at 2pm

All children will take part in our Harvest Charity Assembly. In order to accommodate all of the children and an audience of parents, we are putting on two performances. The morning performance will commence at 9:15am and the afternoon performance at 2pm. Both will be followed by a coffee morning/afternoon.

A separate pro-forma for tickets will be sent home. All proceeds from the sale of tickets, cakes and coffee will be added to our charity collection. This year we have chosen to support UNICEF.

If you would be willing to bake cakes or biscuits for the coffee morning please let the school office know. ☺

We are also asking for donations of food, such as tins, packets, biscuits and non-food items such as nappies and wipes for a Harvest collection. These should be brought into school on Wednesday, 18th October in the morning. Any donations received will be collected by Warrington Foodbank and distributed to those who are in need of our support locally.

PTA NEWS

Freestyle Fun Night- Last week we had our first 'Freestyle Fun Night'. This proved to be a great event which the children and supporting adults all enjoyed. We raised £320 on the night- thank you!

Family Disco- Friday, 6th October

The PTA Family Disco takes place tonight. This event is always popular and tickets sold out quickly. Unfortunately, we could not accommodate any further ticket requests once we had reached capacity. However, there will be many other fun PTA events, over the coming year, so please look out for details.

Future PTA Events

UNICEF Coffee Morning- Thursday, 19th October- After the two harvest/charity assemblies.

Halloween Cake Sale- Tuesday, 31st October- After school.

Non-Uniform Day- Friday, 24th November, bring items into school for the Christmas Fair, details to follow.

PTA Christmas Fair – Thursday, 30th November 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Please volunteer if you can, and help make this event a success. A separate letter will be sent home by our PTA, with further details nearer the time.

SPORTING NEWS

Year 2 mixed football- this was our second competition of the year and our second win!! Well done to our football team!

Year 5 and 6 mixed football – Our older football team played really well but were up against very strong competitors and it was a fourth place for us on this occasion. Our team made us all very proud!

Cross Country at Walton Gardens- We have some excellent young runners who ran really well in this cross country event. Many of our children were much younger than the 90 other runners, but they achieved great results and looked fabulous in their running kit- the envy of many other schools! ;-)

SPORT	DATE & TIME	YEAR GROUP	VENUE	TRANSPORT
Girls Football	Monday 9 th October 3pm - 5pm	Year 5 & 6	Lymm High School	To be arranged by parents
Netball	Monday 16 th October 3pm – 5pm	Year 5 & 6	Lymm High School	To be arranged by parents
Indoor Athletics	Monday 13 th November 3pm – 5pm	Year 3 & 4	Lymm High School	To be arranged by parents
Basketball	Monday, 27 th November	Year 5 & 6	Lymm High School	To be arranged by parents
Volleyball	Monday, 4 th December	Year 3 & 4	Lymm High School	To be arranged by parents
Swimming Gala	Monday, 11 th December	Year 5 & 6	Lymm High School	To be arranged by parents

REMINDERS

- As of 8pm on Friday, 6th October, we can no-longer accept the old one pound coin.
- Asthma- if your child is in one of our younger classes and they have asthma, please could you ensure they have a labelled 'spacer' in school for use with their inhaler.
- Please refer to our Homework Guide to show the pattern of homework to expect in each class.

Kind regards,



Helen Graham
Head Teacher

Termly Dates 2017 – 2018

2017-2018	Open for pupils	Close
Autumn Term 2017	Wednesday, 6 th September 2017	Friday, 20 th October 2017
	Monday, 30 th October 2017	Friday, 22 nd December 2017
Spring Term 2018	Thursday, 4 th January 2018	Friday, 16 th February 2018
	Monday, 26 th February 2018	Friday, 6 th April 2018
	Good Friday, 30 th March and Easter Monday, 2 nd April Easter weekend does NOT fall within the holiday period	
Summer Term 2018	Wednesday, 18 th April 2018	Friday, 25 th May 2018
	May Day, Monday, 7 th May 2018 There will be a two week holiday at Whit in 2018	
	Monday, 11 th June 2018	Friday, 20 th July 2018

In-service days for staff:

Monday 4th September 2017
 Tuesday 5th September 2017
 Wednesday 3rd January 2018
 Monday 16th April 2018
 Tuesday 17th April 2018

Year 3 & 4 Parents - School Lunch invitation- Thursday 2nd November

I would like to join my child _____ Class ____ for lunch at 12 noon on Thursday, 2nd November.

I would like to order, at a cost of £2.30:

- Roast Gammon
 Chinese stir fry Chinese stir Fry (vegetarian option)
 Jacket Potato with tuna
OR I will be bringing my own packed lunch