

**AUTUMN TERM
2018
NEWSLETTER 7
Monday, 17th
December**

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

Lights, Camel, Action!

I was incredibly proud of the confident performance that our infant children gave last week in their show. They clearly enjoyed entertaining us and have created some magical memories that we will be able to recall for years to come. Thank you to every child, member of staff and parent who played their part to bring the show together; a great team effort!

Carol Concert

On Wednesday, 19th December, 6 – 7pm, our KS2 children will provide us with another festive treat as they sing carols at St Mary's Church. No ticket required, entrance is free. Children to arrive by 5.45pm. We hope you will join us.



Dickensian Day

I was very proud to watch around 60 of our children take part in the Dickensian Day parade last weekend. We were by far the largest contingent to take part; evidence of our fantastic community spirit. Even the rain didn't dampen the children's spirits!

League Tables

Primary School league tables have been published and Cherry Tree's KS2 results in writing are lower than last year. Our results are normally some of the highest in the authority and therefore any "dip" stands out even more than it would in some other schools. We anticipated that these results might have been lower and have been doing everything to address this, throughout this year's KS2 cohort.

We are proud of the results that our pupils achieved. Although the results are lower than usual for our school, the children worked very hard and we are confident that every child in the class reached their potential.

I would also like to point out that league tables do not measure the whole child, give any information about the context of each class, nor do they take into account children with special educational needs. Even high attaining schools, such as ours, have an occasional dip in results and this is normal and mirrors a number of other high attaining schools in Warrington. Each cohort of children is different, and within our small cohort each child has abilities and skills that vary. We always want the best for our children while providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Governors, senior leaders and staff believe that children should be given a wide range of opportunities that develop them as a whole person, such as: residential visits, art projects, sporting competitions and visiting local care homes to name a few. We will not compromise our aim to develop the whole child and build their resilience. Equally, we are not complacent and will strive to ensure our children achieve the best they can.

Having spoken to Head Teacher colleagues of mine, we may have been a little harsh on our writing assessment judgements for this particular cohort. The writing score you see in the league tables is our own teacher assessment score - which is not based on a test. I am sure you would rather us be seen to be too harsh than too lenient and our judgements and integrity be under scrutiny. However, writing assessment and its accuracy will obviously be something we look carefully at next year.

As a school, we have been focusing on improving our children's writing and will be continuing to do so in the coming years. Our School Development Plan has the following target: 'Further develop teaching and learning

strategies in spelling and writing'. When I look through the writing books of the children across all classes and see the progress they have made since last year, I am confident that our children are making good progress.

We have achieved so much together over the past term and will continue to remain positive and aspirational for all of our children.

Parent Forum Feedback

At the Autumn Term Parent Forum meeting, we discussed (among other things) the current trend that children bring sweet treats to give out on their birthday. This was also discussed at our most recent Full Governing Board meeting and staff meeting. It has been decided that from January, we will not allow children to bring sweets into school to give out on their birthday. Birthdays that happen on a school day will be recognised and celebrated within school, but without a sweet treat. Parents who attended the Forum and our Governors feel strongly that each family should decide when their child is allowed to have sweets, rather than them being given out at the end of a school day. We also are keen to encourage balanced, health eating habits. The occasional treat is not a bad thing, such as at a party or a PTA event, but regular birthday sweets should not become the norm. The full minutes of the recent Parent Forum can be found on our website.

Whole School Cinema Visit – 15th January 2019

A letter regarding a whole school trip to the cinema has been sent home. We are all very excited about this forthcoming trip when we will watch a private screening of 'Mary Poppins Returns' at the Vue Cinema in Altrincham.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Praise Assembly

I am sure you are aware that we hold a weekly Praise Assembly on a Friday, at 2pm. Personally, this is my favourite assembly of the week, as we all come together to celebrate achievement and progress. All of our children sing a hymn during the assembly, I give out two certificates to each year group and any other awards that have been achieved that week. I have decided to invite parents to join us at this assembly on occasion. In order to allow parents to turn up without a booking system, and for capacity reasons, one class of parents will be invited at a time. This is an open invitation for the parents of children in each class. Feel free to bring pre-school children along. We hope that you will share with us in celebrating success.

Class	Date and Time
Class F	Friday, 11 th January at 2pm
Class 1	Friday, 8 th Feb at 2pm
Class 2	Friday, 1 st March at 2pm
Class 3	Friday, 8 th March at 2pm
Class 4	Friday, 26 th April at 2pm
Class 5	Friday, 10 th May at 2pm
Class 6	Friday, 17 th May at 2pm

Year 1 Parents join us for Lunch- Wednesday, 23rd January at 12 noon

The opportunity to come to school and have lunch with your child is being made available to each year group. Class 1 are invited on 23rd January, and Class F will receive an invitation in the New Year.

Parents have the choice of bringing their own lunch or ordering a school meal, at the normal price of £2.30 and sitting with their child and experiencing lunch time. Please pre-order/complete the relevant slip and arrive at 12 noon (KS1) should you wish to join your child on the specified date. Orders should be received by noon on Monday 14th January.

Payment for the lunch must be made via ParentPay (we are no longer able to accept cash payments for meals). Please ensure that you have £2.30 in your child's account to cover the cost of your meal, and the money will be deducted automatically when you eat with us. Thank you.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Dear Parents,

Please can you donate some games for wet play but they don't have to be new. The games just have to be playable so that the children can play. If you can bring a game that anyone in the school can play that would be great but if not just bring any game.

Thank you

COMMUNITY NEWS

Faisal Rashid MP brings Warrington South School Survey to the House of Commons

As part of an Opposition Day Debate on Education Funding, Faisal Rashid MP shared with fellow Members of Parliament the results of his recent Warrington South Schools Survey. The debate called on the Government to recognise that education urgently needs new investment, and further called on the Government to end austerity, not with little extras but by reversing all cuts to education funding. Many MPs from across the country joined Faisal in urging the Government to recognise the harmful effects of education cuts.

After the debate, Faisal said: *"I am pleased I had the opportunity to share the damning results of my Schools Survey with colleagues in the House of Commons. The survey results highlight just how devastating the impact of cuts to education funding has been in Warrington South; where children and young people have suffered for many years thanks to a legacy of low funding for schools. 100% of the 31 schools that responded to my survey were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their current funding situation. And worryingly, many schools reported plans to make further cuts in the next two years to cope with forthcoming budget pressures.*

I have an immense amount of respect for the tremendous work that teachers and frontline staff are doing under the most difficult of circumstances. But it remains clear that without adequate investment, we simply will not have a fit for purpose education system that provides young people with a quality education, and staff with the resources they need to provide that quality education.

"I hope that the strength of speeches from many Members in the House of Commons this week will spur the Government into action.

"I will continue to fight until our schools are properly funded, and children and young people in Warrington South, and across the country, get the quality education they deserve."

This Press Release is also available on Faisal's website: <https://faislrashid.com/school-survey-hoc/>

Faisal's speech can be viewed on his Facebook here: <http://bit.ly/fr-fb-edfund>

If you have any queries regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact Rachel Lee at the Constituency Office via telephone: 01925 351 010 or via email: rachel.lee@parliament.uk

SPORTING NEWS

Swimming Competition- We have some very strong swimmers at Cherry Tree and achieved joint 3rd with 6 schools participating. Ellie Jack achieved a fantastic 1st Place in Butterfly. Emily James and Harvey Roberts gained 2nd Place in Front Crawl. The girls relay team consisting of Ellie, Madison Breeze, Emily and Kitty McIntosh also raced through to 2nd Place. There were many other "placements" for the girls and boys teams. They all showed passion and commitment and were a credit to the school. Well done!

"It was an amazing experience, I have never done anything like it." Madison Breeze.

"When I got ready to start they put me against the competitors, it made me very nervous...but I still won" Ellie Jack

"The boys did a fantastic job and never gave up." Madison & Ellie

Walton Gardens Cross Country- Our Boys and Girls team both came 4th overall after the three recent cross country events. This is our highest achievement to date for this particular event so we are very proud of our runners! We could make the top three next year!

Finally, at Cherry Tree we celebrate all of our achievements but, most importantly, we support our children to become kind, happy and resilient and able to work together and support each other. The infant production was a testament to this, with children helping each other out and working together to deliver a fantastic show with smiles on their faces.

I hope that you all enjoy our final week of term, when the children have the Carol Concert and Christmas lunch to look forward too!

A very Merry Christmas to you all!

Kind regards,



Helen Graham
Head Teacher

REMINDERS

- Please remember to send your child to school with full PE kit and a tracksuit or similar during the winter months. We view PE and physical activity as a very important part of primary education and having the correct kit is essential.



Year 1 Parents - School Lunch invitation- Wednesday, 23rd January 2019

I would like to join my child _____ (Class 1) for lunch at 12 noon on Wednesday, 23rd January. Orders must be received by noon on Monday 14th January.

I have transferred funds to ParentPay (cost per meal £2.30) and would like to order:

- Fruity chicken curry with rice
- Tomato and cheese pasta bake with garlic bread
- Filled jacket potato with cheese and beans

OR

- I will be bringing my own packed lunch

For safeguarding reasons, parents are not allowed onto the playground after eating their lunch.