

Message from the Principal

Welcome back to school; I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas Break. The children have all come back looking refreshed and ready to learn—we have had a lovely first few days sharing our Christmas news and getting back into usual school routines. Across the academy this term we will be thinking about 'Sharing our Planet' as our learning theme and the children have already come up with lots of things they would like to find out about; we will be very busy!

Parents' Survey 2018

Many Parents will have already received a link to our **2018 Parents' Survey**. We welcome your constructive comments and will consider the issues raised over the coming weeks; some will be clarified in this newsletter. It has also been great to read some of the kind and positive comments about the Academy and staff as a whole.

If you have not already responded, you can reply by clicking on this [link](#); This survey will be open for a few more days and once closed, results will be shared with parents.

A Survey for Nursery Parents is currently in the process of being finalised and this will be sent out shortly.

Class Newsletters

There currently seems to be some confusion regarding class newsletters, which we hope to clarify here. Curriculum news and themes your child will be learning about during each term are regularly sent out via termly class newsletters, which your child should bring home in printed format at the beginning of each term. These newsletters will also clarify arrangements for homework, spellings and expectations of home reading.

However we are only too aware that often these get lost or left in school bags. For this reason, we have always ensured copies are also posted onto the school website, for parents to download or refer back to. These can be found under the 'News Tab' on the parents section under [class newsletters](#).

If you are **not** receiving these on a regular basis once a term, please speak to your class teacher, who will happily provide you with an additional printed copy. Term 3 class newsletters can be downloaded [here](#).

Parent Governor

Our Parent Governor is Mrs. Amaan Hullait who was elected last year to serve on the COPA Development Committee for a four year term. Further details and how to contact her can be found on the website [here](#).

February Half Term Holiday Club

As part of our commitment to providing a service for working parents, we will once again be running a Holiday Club during the February half-term on a similar basis to last half term.

Organised activities will be available from 9 through until 3, with optional bolt on sessions for Breakfast and Teatime. Activities are in the process of being finalised for each day, depending on popularity and may be subject to slight changes, but will definitely include Multi-Sports Sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from our Sports Coach from Progressive Sports as well as arts/crafts/ outdoor and indoor games sessions.

You can sign up on line [here](#); if you register for all five days before 17 January, you can receive our Early Bird 20% discount allowing five days for the price of four.



New Staff

We would like to welcome the following staff to Cherry Orchard
Miss Schofield, Maple Class Teacher
Mrs Sedge, Finance Assistant (daily, 10am-2pm)
Mrs Gill, Finance Manager working at Cherry Orchard once a week
Mrs McLaughlan, Spanish Teacher (once a week)

New Staff

This term we are also joined by Mrs Vicki Adams from Hartley Primary Academy who will be our SENCO. Mrs Adams will remain in her current SENCO role at Hartley and divide her time between the two academies. Mrs Williams will continue to offer support to the SENCO as she does currently .

Parking

Please only park in a disabled bay if displaying a blue badge. Please do not occupy these spaces if you do not have a badge as there have been several incidents recently when parents and visitors to the community centre, who have a blue badge, have not been able to park in designated bays due to others using the space. The car park is a public car park not owned by Cherry Orchard and unfortunately we therefore do not have any jurisdiction over who uses it and when.

Phone Calls to School

Whilst we endeavour to answer phone calls, this is not always possible. The office is generally manned by one member of staff and phones can not always be answered if dealing with other parents/ first aid issues or being away from the office for another reason. The phone will automatically divert to answerphone after 3 rings. Please do leave a brief message as these are checked regularly and we will get back to you. If there is not a message, we do not know you have tried to contact us. With regard to absences, this line is an answerphone and is always checked by 10am.

Accidents & Injuries

Children at primary school - particularly younger children - often sustain minor injuries during playtimes or outside learning.

Designated staff in each area and on the playground are qualified in first aid and attend to minor injuries (bumps and scrapes) in accordance with their training. If this injury is considered to be significant (sustained bleeding or impact) or is an injury to the face or head, a note will be sent home to parents or in extreme circumstances, parents may be contacted.

Please be assured, that although minor injuries are a regular occurrence, staff have the highest regard for the safety of all children and all injuries are assessed by a qualified first aider.

Wherever possible class teachers will speak to parents at the end of the day to pass on information appertaining to injuries sustained during school time.

Termly Attendance Percentages

It is Trust policy to notify parents each term, when attendance falls below 95%. The expectation is that attendance at school is 100% and parents will be notified by the Family Liaison Officer each term by letter, if this figure dips below 95% to make parents aware.

A child is considered a **persistent absentee** if absence falls below 90%. Children can attend school with minor ailments such as colds, sore throats, toothache or stomach ache etc. - especially if over the counter medicines are administered before school. More details of absence can be found on our website [here](#).

Attendance is monitored daily and parents must call before 9am if their child is absent, giving a detailed reason for the absence. If no message is received, it is Academy Policy to call when no reason is given before 10 to determine a reason for absence.

Absences - whether authorised for illness or medical appointments or unauthorised for holiday/other absence - will still count towards percentage absence.

Holidays taken during term time will not be authorised unless there are very exceptional circumstances. Please see information regarding term-time holidays on our website [here](#). Holiday dates are always published on the Academy website and these can be found [here](#).

Reminders and dates for your diary

- ◆ **Start of Term 3:** Thursday 3rd January
- ◆ **Activity Clubs start:** Friday 4th January (Dance)
- ◆ **Golden Afternoon:** Thursday 14th February
- ◆ **Trip to SeaWorld:** Years 1, 2 & 3 only - Thursday 7th February
- ◆ **Olive Dining American Day:** 17th January (see [Olive Dining Tab](#) for further details)
- ◆ **Parents Consultation Evening:** Wednesday and Thursday 27th and 28th February
- ◆ **Olive Dining St. Patrick's Day:** 17th March (see [Olive Dining](#) for menu)
- ◆ **Olive Dining St. George's Day:** 23rd April (see [Olive Dining](#) for menu)
- ◆ **End of Term 3:** Thursday 14th February
- ◆ **INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED:** Friday 15th February

