



Cherry Oak School

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Dear Parents and Carers

As half-term approaches, the leadership team has reflected on how challenging this year has been so far. But also on how brilliant our pupils have been in adapting and meeting the challenges posed due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. There is no doubt the resilience shown by pupils is down to the support they receive at home and at school combined.

I have also reflected on my first year in post as Headteacher at Cherry Oak. It feels like I have spent most of this time firefighting the effect of the pandemic. However when we look at the School Evaluation Form along with the School Development Plan, it is clear that as a staff team we have achieved so much and improved the quality of education significantly. I realise that these haven't always been celebrated as much as they could have with parents, so with COVID restrictions looking like they are going to be removed it's time to focus on further improvements planned for the next 6 months.

As a result I am going to write to you all about something other than class closures and COVID related issues, and I must admit it's a far more exciting letter to write.

Curriculum & Assessment

The first thing I would like to share with you is our Exploring Connections Curriculum. I did hold some curriculum briefings with parents in the Autumn term relating to the new curriculum. However I recognise parents haven't had a chance to see the details and breakdown of each subject area. These curriculum grids can be found on our website: <https://www.cherryoak.bham.sch.uk/curriculum/>

Along with the new Exploring Connections, Cherry Oak has developed our own bespoke assessment framework. It is not the first time Cherry Oak has done this, however it is the first time both curriculum and assessment has been designed to complement each other.

I would like to invite parents in to showcase these in full. And as we are nearing a review of our curriculum and its impact on pupils' learning, who better to invite than parents and carers to contribute to the discussions.



We will be holding parent discussion workshops so you can feed in your views on our curriculum, learn how to access Evidence for Learning App so you can see your child's progress in school, and be consulted on the School's approach to Relationship Education (See below).

Relationship and Health Education (RHE)

As you may be aware, The Department for Education has announced changes to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) 2020. Before coming into post parents were consulted on RHE. However, we have significantly enhanced the provision of RHE teaching and believe another consultation with parents is now appropriate.

All schools are obligated to comply with the updated requirements. This means, that alongside everything else, we have been in the process of reviewing our RHE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our provision meets the Government criteria and is appropriate for our children based on their: Age' Physical and Emotional Maturity, Religious and cultural backgrounds, Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities, and what pupils need to know to be healthy and safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world.

I would very much welcome your support and comment, and am pleased to provide a Parent and Carer Consultation period to align with the curriculum consultation.

We believe that this area of learning is a real strength at Cherry Oak and the new curriculum builds on prior learning in a more structured way. The school has always operated within an ethos of tolerance and acceptance and we take any curriculum development very seriously and know that we must play our part in preparing our children for the wider world.

Library

Cherry Oak is still having a huge push on reading. One of the major projects I have undertaken as Headteacher is to convert a disused room upstairs into a lovely library space. So far the school has invested over £12,000 into this project. However, we are still £7,000 short of completing all aspects of the library. I would like to empower the parents and carers at Cherry Oak to support a fundraising effort to gain the missing £7,000. After the half term break we will be setting up a funding page which will be shared with members of the community and parents. If anyone would like to donate, or you know of anyone who would like to donate, we would be very grateful.

World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March 2022 is officially World Book Day. We are asking for pupils to attend school dressed as their favourite book character (or any other dress up costumes). Parents and carers are also welcome to join in!





I hope you all have a safe and happy half term holiday and look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 1st March 2022.

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Yours faithfully

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