

**Headteacher**

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Cherry Tree Primary School

Friday, 26 March 2021

COVID-19 Update – Easter Break

Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the final week of our interrupted Spring term, we wanted to share our thanks with our parent community for their support as we continue to navigate our way through these challenging times. There is no doubt that the school reopening has provided our community with some much needed normality in recent weeks but we must continue to remain vigilant in the coming weeks and months, prioritising the safety of all. Please see the following messages that refer to additional safety measures that apply to the Easter break.

End of term

Our Spring term will finish at **1:30pm on Friday 26th March**. Our Summer term will begin on **Tuesday 13th April**. Monday 12th is an INSET day for teacher training.

Free school meal (FSM) vouchers for the Easter break and May Half-term break

- The school team have already been in contact with existing FSM families who are eligible for these vouchers.
- Free school meals will be provided by Hertfordshire County Council in the form of digital supermarket vouchers for both the Easter holidays and May half-term. Entitled families will receive a digital supermarket voucher to the value of £45 per eligible child by 16 April 2021; £30 to cover the 10 days of the Easter holidays and £15 to cover the 5 days of May half-term.
- **Please note:** This will be a single voucher, there will be no separate May half-term voucher shared with you.
- During term time, every child in Reception, Year 1 and 2 is entitled to receive a free school meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme, however this is not covered as part of the holiday scheme. Only those infant aged children that are eligible because of benefit-related criteria as above will be included. To find out if you are eligible and to apply please visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
- The electronic vouchers for food and groceries can be used in four major supermarkets (ALDI, Asda, Marks and Spencer, McColl's, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose)
- If you do not meet the criteria for free school meals but are struggling to pay household bills or buy food, help is available. Contact HertsHelp for advice and practical support – call 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net.

Reminders of Reporting Covid-19

We must not forget that the virus is still out there in our community. If anyone in your household develops any of the following three symptoms, your whole household must isolate and you need to arrange testing immediately.

- **a high temperature** – this means you or your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature, but if your child's temperature is over 38 degrees, this qualifies as a high temperature in addition to the feeling hot to touch on their chest or back)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you or your child usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you or your child cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

“Learning together, learning for life!”

If someone in your household tests positive - all members of your household and anyone the positive case has had close contact with must isolate for 10 days from last contact- this may include your support / childcare bubble. It is essential that you inform us about any positive coronavirus cases or symptoms of anyone in your household/bubble.

Over Easter, we ask that you continue to report any positive cases to the school to support us in following the risk assessment. Please email me on head@cherrytree.herts.sch.uk to report a confirmed case across the Easter break. Children should not return back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home.

Asymptomatic testing for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week that all adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid Covid-19 testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Secondary school and college students will continue to access testing through their school or college. Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or a class being sent home due to an outbreak. It could also be the difference between a workplace having to close for a period or being able to stay open and running. If you have symptoms you must still get a PCR test as previously advised. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests. [Click here to find a local site where you can collect tests](#)
- by ordering a home test kit online – but only if testing cannot be access through other routes, as this frees up home delivery for those who need it most [Click here to order lateral flow home test kits](#)
- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- Babies and children in early years settings, nurseries, infant and primary schools should not be taking LFT, please don't do home tests on younger children. If you are worried about small children or they develop symptoms, please seek advice from your GP or call 111.

Collecting test kits

- Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect.
- You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a [local collection point](#).
- A local collection point in Watford is: **King George V Park**, Chaffinch Lane, Rickmansworth Road, Watford, WD18 9QD [Get Directions](#)
- Opening times 1:30pm – 7:00pm - 7 days a week.
- You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.
- Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times.

Covid-19 Test Help - Translation

The government have released some translated guidance to support parents/carers with the use of Lateral Flow Tests. Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help> to gain access to the translated service which is available for the languages below. We have added the link for the site on our website [here](#).

- | | | |
|------------|------------|---------|
| • Arabic | • Punjabi | • Urdu |
| • Bengali | • Romanian | • Welsh |
| • Gujarati | • Somali | |
| • Polish | • Turkish | |

Should you have any questions ahead of the Easter break, please do not hesitate to speak with a member of the school team and we'll be happy to support you.

Warm regards,

Cheska Tyler
Headteacher

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