

*'Cherry Tree Primary School
& Speech and Language Centre.*

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Newsletter - 8th January 2010

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. So far we have been very disrupted with the snow and I thought you might like to know how we decide to keep the school open or close it.

Although our children, on the whole, live within walking distance of the school, the staff come from a variety of locations. I live in Braintree and some staff live even further afield than that and in very rural locations. If the roads are in bad condition then some or all of the staff are unable to get in. We can not run the school without the right number of adults for sufficient supervision so therefore we have to close. We also have to consider if the weather worsens and staff could end up stranded here! The other issue is the safety of the site. With all the ice and snow around accidents are more likely to happen on the playground. Although we try to grit or salt we can only do a small area and sometimes supplies are hard to come by. We always have enough in school for a light dusting but when it is heavy like this our resources are stretched. So it takes a combination of practicality and health and safety, weighing up the pros and cons, a lot of telephone calls and conversations before we decide to close the school. As you already know we phone local radio stations to let them know and leave a message on the website and the school answer-phone to try and get the message out. The staff at Cherry Tree are all dedicated and committed to the school and that is why we are often the last to close and the first to reopen. While the cold spell lasts we are taking each day as it comes and making a decision early every morning. We are watching the weather forecasts carefully but they are not always correct. Please bear with us until the situation settles.

Sharon Short.

We need two consecutive days for teachers and staff to work on specific training in the near future. So please note 28th and 29th of January are non-pupil days.

Unfortunately more and more children have been arriving late in school on a regular basis. This disrupts all the children at the beginning of the day and does not help them to have a good start. Children should be in school at 8.50 ready to go into class at 9.00am.

If children are late they should be signed into school at the office by the person dropping them off.

**Cherry Tree Parents.
Next meeting
12th January
2.30pm in the school.
(Weather permitting)
We hope to see you all
there.**

**Please check out the
website page!**

WWW.cherrytree.essex.sch.uk



KS2 children will need to bring in their own snack and this should conform to our healthy school guidelines.

The sort of thing that would be appropriate for them to bring in is fruit, vegetables or protein.

Children who bring in sweets, biscuits or other inappropriate snacks will have them taken away and returned to them at the end of the day.

Please help us to keep our school as healthy as possible and ensure the children have a good breakfast before they come.

*Although it is very rare that we authorize a holiday in school time, **please note that we have now been directed by the government that we are not to authorize any holidays in the SATs period.** This includes all of May and June.*

Year 6 are now into their round of booster classes and revision programmes in preparation for SATs. We are asking all their parents and carers to help them with whatever they can. Of course the involvement of every parent at home in their child's learning makes a big difference at any time. So keep up the good work Cherry tree parents!

