



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 24- Friday 10th October 2025



Letter from Mr Appleton:

Dear Parents,

Thank you to the many of you who attended my talk in July. Since then, I've heard from more and more parents who feel uneasy about the growing role of smartphones in children's lives—especially as they enter the later years of primary school and start secondary school. The reality is that these devices are becoming part of childhood far earlier than most of us expected.

While smartphones have their place, they were designed for adults – and there's now clear evidence they're not always good for children. From rising anxiety and sleep issues to online bullying and distraction, many families are questioning whether early smartphone use is really in children's best interests.

That's why I'm supporting a simple but powerful idea: the **Parent Pact**, part of the **Smartphone Free Childhood** campaign. It's a growing national movement of families choosing to delay giving children smartphones until at least age 14, and social media until 16 – and **doing it together**, so no one feels like the only one holding out.

You can learn more and watch a [short video](#), and if it feels right for your family, [sign the Pact](#) here. It's already been signed by families at 45% of schools in the UK, including some of our parents, and you can see live data for which schools have the most Pacts signed in our area. (we are currently 14th in Derbyshire)

As a school community, we're lending our support to this movement – not because we believe there's one right way to do things, but because we think this is an important conversation for all of us. We know that every family's situation is different, and many of you may already have devices in your household – for your child or their siblings. It's never too late to reset boundaries, build healthier screen habits, or take small steps toward a more balanced digital life. If you're interested, we're also sharing some helpful tips from [Dr Rangan Chatterjee](#) on how families can navigate this together.

But we also know that together, we can reset that expectation that kids have smartphones – and give children at this school more time to grow up without the pressure of constant connectivity.

We're aware that many families want to be able to contact their children, especially as they begin walking to school alone. There are some great alternatives to smartphones that offer calls and texts, without internet access or social media. If you're looking for ideas, have a look at this [child-friendly phones guide](#) for some simple phones designed with kids in mind.

Thank you.

Mr Appleton

**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

The Adolescence Effect- Free Online Safety Webinar 16th October

Please [click here](#) for more information.

Online Safety Support #wakeupwednesday:

Please [click here](#) for this week's online safety advice and guidance poster for parents/carers all about dealing with traumatic and challenging events.

Letter from Miss Hassall our School Business Manager- Are your details up to date?:

Dear Parents,

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve communication and streamline school processes, we have recently moved to a new management system called **Arbor**. A big thank you to those who have already signed up to the Parent Portal.

To ensure all information is correct and up to date we are asking parents to complete the below exercise. Keeping your data up to date is a task that will be encouraged yearly and school will be notified of all changes made to your Arbor account, so please feel free to update more frequently if needed.

To ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information for you, we kindly ask that you log into your Arbor account and review your details. This includes your phone number, email address, home address, emergency contacts and your child's permissions.

Keeping your information up to date ensures we can contact you in the event of an emergency and you receive important updates about school events.

What to do:

Log in to your Arbor account using your registered email.
Navigate to your profile section.
Review and update any outdated or missing information.



If you need help accessing Arbor or updating your details, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Best wishes,
Miss Hassall

We're using the Arbor Parent App!



See and manage your child's day-to-day school information. Understand their progress, make payments and bookings, and receive in-app messages - all from one app

A screenshot of the Arbor Parent App interface on a smartphone. The screen shows a login page with fields for email and password, a "Remember my password" checkbox, and a "Log in" button. Below the login fields, there are several helpful tips for users, such as "Trying to log in as a student or staff member?", "Having issues logging in?", and "Still can't log in?".

Log in in seconds with Face ID

Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone

Make payments, sign up for clubs, and book parents evenings

See your child's progress, attendance, behaviour points, report cards and more

Check your child's calendar, it's always up-to-date

Scan the QR code to download the Arbor Parent App, and use your email address to log in



Oracy Competition- Have your say about Chaddesden:

We're inviting children to take part in an exciting oracy challenge. All they need to do is film themselves/ be filmed (**maximum 60 seconds**) talking about one thing they would change in or about Chaddesden and why. They can use props, diagrams or the local area to persuade the judges that their idea is the best! We are looking for confident and persuasive speakers, who engage the audience with their body language and speak slowly, clearly and passionately.

All entries win house points, and the overall winner from each year group will receive 500 house points!! Videos should be emailed to admin@cherrytreehill.odysseyct.org.uk with your child's name, house and class or if the file is too large, ask us for a request link , by **6pm on Wednesday 22nd October**.

We can't wait to hear their brilliant ideas!

List of items you can donate for our Harvest Festival- Friday 17th November:

Food-

Food must be in date and unopened: Cheese; cooking oil; potatoes; margarine/butter; vegetables; sausages; bacon; eggs; fresh meat; sliced bread; fruit squash; long life milk; tea & coffee; gravy; biscuits; chocolate; cakes; cooking sauces; sugar; table sauces; jam; tinned fish/meat; tinned vegetables; tinned fruit; tinned pasta in sauce; rice pudding; custard.

Hygiene-

Shower gel; shampoo; conditioner; soap; deodorant; shaving foam; disposable razors; sanitary products; Kitchen roll; toilet roll; washing up liquid; laundry powder/softener.

Clothing-

Men's, women's and children's of all sizes including: coats; jumpers; hoodies; cardigans; shirts; t-shirts; blouses; trousers; shorts; skirts; dresses; hats; gloves; scarfs; socks; bras; **underwear (must be unworn)**; shoes; Jewellery; belts.

Household-

Sleeping Bags; books; bric-a-brac; games consoles & games; TV's; blankets; duvet covers; pillow cases; bed sheets; Towels; tea towels; cutlery; crockery; tea caddies. We also take small electrical items including: kettles; microwaves; lamps; toasters; mobile phones; tablets and laptops. **Duvets & Pillows must be new and unused.**

Next Week at Cherry Tree Hill:

Wednesday 15th October: Photographers in school to take individual and sibling photos (only siblings within school)

Thursday 16th October: New parent tour for Nursery/Reception starters 2026 (16.00)

Friday 17th October: Harvest Festival

Please [click here](#) for this school years diary dates.

There have been amendments to dates on here this week, so if you have a printed copy at home it may not be up to date.



Dick Whittington Panto- Friday 12th December- Payment deadline approaching:

Reminder that the final payments for the Panto need to be made by Thursday 23rd October via our Arbor app please contact the office if you need further help, [click here](#) to see the letter about the trip.



Lost Property KS2:

Lost property for Key Stage 2 will be out on the junior playground every night after school next week. If we still have anything left over on **Friday** it will be disposed of.

Menu Reminder- W/C 13th October Week 1:

The menu for W/C 13th October is Week 1, please [click here](#) for the menu.

On Monday 13th October the green option is pizza and not what it states on the menu.

Pumpkin Disco:

Our Pumpkin Disco will take place on Wednesday 22nd October for all children from Year 1-Year 6.

The disco will be followed by our Pumpkin Trail at 6pm, we invite Nursery and Reception children to attend at this time to walk the trail to see their own decorated pumpkin.

Please see the poster for more information. Pick up and drop off information will be in class windows from next week.

Swimming on 4th November:

There will be no swimming on the 4th November due to pool maintenance at Moorways.

Support for Parents:

Please [click here](#) to our support for parents page. This gets updated regularly.

Things to do outside school:

We regularly add things to our things to do outside school page, please [click here](#) to take a look.



School Lottery:

Be in with the chance of winning £25,000 in the super draw by signing up to our school lottery. Please [click here](#) for more information.