

Charnwood Primary School

Parents Newsletter

August - September 2023

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year.

The children and staff have had a great start to the term. It has been a pleasure to welcome our new pupils and parents to Charnwood.

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

For more information, please visit the NHS website on the following link: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)



This newsletter can be provided in large print format on request.

OPAL OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING OPAL

What is new?

The children have been enjoying our playtimes and have been using their imaginations to engage in exciting outdoor play. We are hoping to have a storage shed built very soon which will allow the children to have even more access to resources outside.

We need your help

Over the next month we will be asking you for help with collecting extra resources for our outside environment. We will be collecting different things each month and will add these on this newsletter. If you have any ideas for how you might be able to help please contact Mrs Metcalfe through the school office.





At Charnwood Primary School we are all aiming to become Times Tables Rock Stars and know our multiplication facts in lightning speed!

We will be hosting monthly competitions using TTRS. Times Tables Rock Stars is a website that lets children practice their times tables in a fun, engaging and rewarding way. It lets them create and build a cool avatar, join a battle of bands against other classes and compete in times tables festivals against children around the world!

Once you are on the website you will be asked to log in. Start typing in "Charnwood Primary School" and click on the school's name when it appears. Then put in your username and password to log in. Each child will have been given their logins by their teacher.

How the site works

When you login into the website, you will be greeted by your **dashboard**, where you can play any of the four main game modes. To get back to this page at any time, click on the dashboard tab in the top left corner of the screen.

When you are in the dashboard, you will see the four main game modes at the bottom: **Garage, Studio, Festival and Arena**. Below is an explanation of each.

Garage

We recommend that children play Garage by default as it is designed to help them get faster. In this mode class teachers will set which times tables children can focus on. The website will also work out which questions children struggle with so it will then ask those more often.

Additionally, children playing in the Garage will get 10 coins per correct answer rather than the 1 coin per answer in the other modes. This means more money to spend on their avatar!

Studio

Just like a rock star recording their next big album, children should play in the studio when they are ready to give their best performance. The questions can be anything up to 12x12. When you play in the studio the website will work out your times tables speed, or how long it takes you to answer each question. Once you have played 10 games in the studio the website will work out your average and you will be able to see whether you are a Rock Star, Rock Legend, or even a Rock God!

Arena and Festival

The Arena and Festival are the multiplayer versions of the game. If children want to compete against each other they can go into the arena and do battle with other children! In the Arena, children can compete against children in their class who are playing at the same time.

In the Festival, however, the games are open to anyone, anywhere! New games start every 15 seconds. Just click on the one you want to join. It will highlight in **green**. Wait for the game to start (the timer is on the left) and crush your opponent!



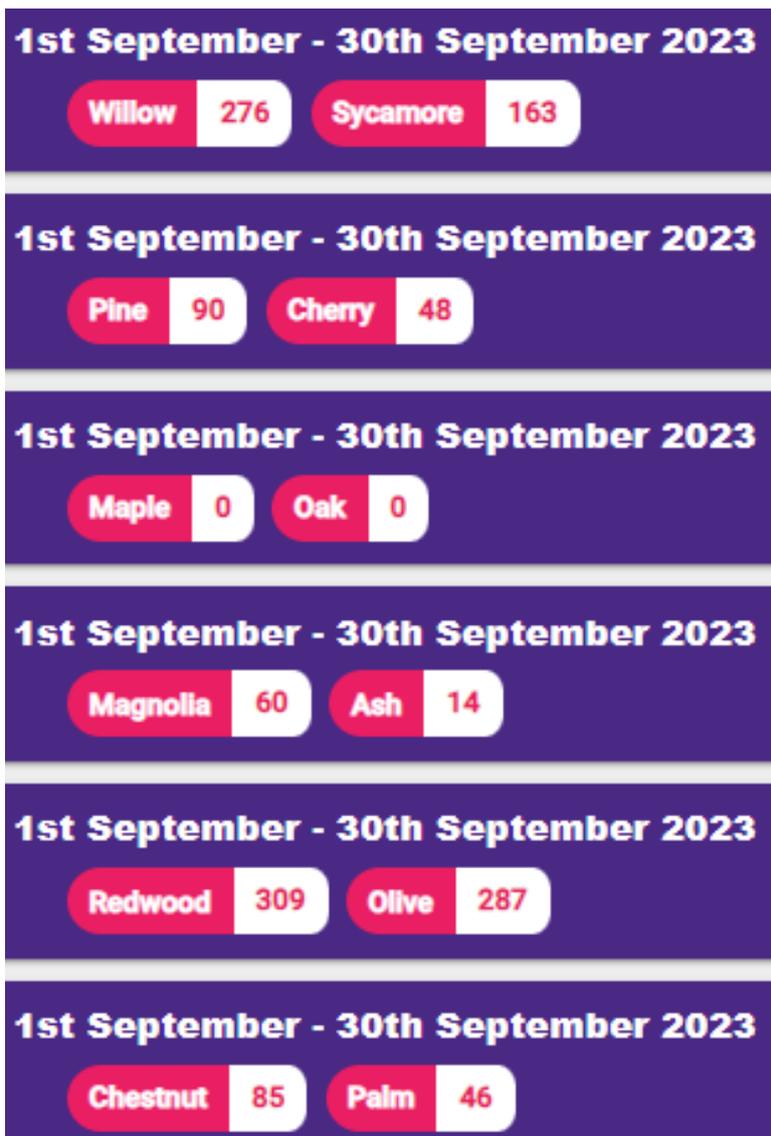
Times Tables Rock Stars continued

Top Tips

Here is some expert advice to get yourself top of the leader board:

- If you're on a computer, use the number pad on the right of the keyboard.
- Keep your right hand on the number pad and have your left finger on the backspace to correct mistakes instantly.
- Try your hardest to figure out the answer to each question. The process of working it out will help you remember it for next time.

We hope you will encourage your child to participate. If you are unable to log in, please do get in touch with the class teacher.



Library Books

Our library contains a wealth of fiction and non-fiction books to extend children's knowledge promote research skills, stimulate their imaginations and plays vital role in promoting a love of reading.

Foundation Stage 1 and 2 classes, Years 1 and 2 have allocated library slot each week when they can come to the library and choose books that interest them, in addition to their reading books. The library is open every morning at 8.30 – 9.00 for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. This enables them to change their library book frequently or keep the book a little longer.

Children from year 2 to year 6 may will also be bringing home an additional book from the class library. Therefore, these children will have 2 library books.

Loan period

Children are allowed to borrow one book at a time.

Each book can be borrowed for a maximum of 21 days, but we encourage the children to exchange their books every week to encourage good library habits and so they can enjoy a wide variety of reading material. We are glad to renew loans if you wish, unless the book has been requested by another child.

We send out reminders for overdue library books every week, and at the end of the term, we ask for all library books to be returned so we can do a stock check.

Caring for library books

Please encourage your children to look after their library books. The rules are: try not to tear or crease the pages, handle the books with clean hands, don't bend the spines back or remove the plastic jackets and most important of all keep books away from leaking water bottles. (We speak from bitter experience!)

Lost or damaged books

If you think your child has lost or badly damaged a library book, or you receive an overdue or lost book letter from the school. You will be asked to pay the cost of replacing the book, if the book is not found. This can be done via the School Gateway app. Once the payment is made please kindly return the letter the school office with the date of when the payment was made. Children will not be allowed to borrow another book until the book is returned or the lost book payment is made.



Parent Curriculum meetings

Thank you for attending these meetings. I hope they provided useful insights into what we are doing in school to support our children with their learning and development.

Special Time

This term, children have been given the daily opportunity to reflect on the following 'Special Time' themes:

New Beginnings

Together

Making Choices

Respect for the environment

Determination

Inspiration

Self-Care and Toileting

There is a lot that parents and children may worry about at the start of a new school year, from whether children will make friends to how they will cope with school routines, especially after the difficult year we have just had. Another big concern for many parents is how their child will manage their own toileting during the school day. For some reason, this term we have had more than the usual mishaps with using toilets in school, ranging from not knowing how to dispose of toilet tissue to not knowing how to use a toilet. This may sound absurd but sadly our cleaners are having to spend a lot of time cleaning mess off the floor that should really be inside a toilet. This is also making it very unpleasant for children using the toilets. I would like to plea for support from parents to help us to train our children on the etiquettes of using toilets.

School Gateway

We now have a new online payment system called School Gateway.

We have already sent parents an email with instructions on how to register. We request all parents to download the 'School Gateway' app on Apple or Google play store. You will be able to use this account to make payments for your child at the school within SchoolComms. You must download the app and register your account as soon as possible if you have not already done so.



Attendance

The whole school attendance for this year to date is: 93.7%

Our School attendance target figure is 95.2 %, so as you can see so far we have not met our target.

Well done to 3 Palm for having the highest attendance of 96.3% for August-September.

Please visit our school website for further information about attendance:

<http://charnwood.leicester.sch.uk>

Please could parents inform the office before 9.00am if your child has an appointment and will be absent or is arriving late by calling the school office on **0116 251 6574**.

If your child is going to be absent for any other reason, please contact the school office and provide sufficient information about their absence.

Teachers 2 Parents Texting Service

If you wish to send a text message to the school please use the following number:-

07786 208 889

Future Trips/Events

| Date | Trip/Event |
|---------------------------|---|
| Monday, 02 October 2023 | Parent meeting for following areas: Safeguarding children, Relationship and Health Education, Attendance and Punctuality |
| Tuesday, 03 October 2023 | FS2 Spinney Hill Park trip |
| Thursday, 05 October 2023 | Y2 Islam Assembly |
| Monday, 09 October 2023 | Y6 Leicester Museum and Art Gallery trip |
| Tuesday, 10 October 2023 | Y5 Shree Hindu Temple and Community Centre trip |
| Thursday, 12 October 2023 | Y3 Beacon Hill Country Park trip |
| Monday, 13 November 2023 | FS1-Y6 Snow White Pantomime Performance (in school) |

