

Happy Friday everyone and a Happy New Year!

It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week. Last term is always the longest one in the calendar, and with the cold weather and the illnesses that follow, it can always seem to last just that little bit too long.

But we're back. We are in 2026 and we are raring to go. I am excited for the term ahead. I am looking ahead at how to improve some of the physical makeup of the school, so I will release more information when I can.

We have introduced the topics this year, and the children have taken to them really well. They are particularly enjoying their 'hook' days, where they go 'off-timetable' and learn about their topic area through a range of activities.

We have been looking at homework across the school, and more information will be released soon.

Whilst this is not an immediate priority, I will be looking at ways to engage with the local community more, and embed this into our curriculum for the personal development of our children. If you represent an organisation, are part of a charity or are passionate about something in the local area, I would be very keen to start gathering this information - please reach out through Studybugs.

Year 5 have had a busy first week back! In Maths, we have been practising our multiplication skills and have started looking at multiplying by a 2-digit number. Our topic in Science this half term is Space and we have enjoyed learning about the development of our Solar System.

On Wednesday, we had our topic hook day. We were given 'BREAKING NEWS' straight from NASA about a mystery object falling from space into the ocean and had to use our skills to analyse video footage, images and witness accounts to decide what it could be. We also completed a space and ocean quiz, participated in astronaut stretches and used watercolours and oil pastels to create galaxy and ocean art.

We are looking forward to learning more about space and oceans this half term!

This week in Year 3, we began to look at everything related to Antarctica and we used this topic to begin writing a recount of the days and events that took place around Shackleton's ship being stuck in the ice. We were able to use this inspiration to create a line drawing of an Antarctic explorer boat in Art.

This week year 1 have been exploring place value. We have been identifying numbers from to 20 and learning how they made of tens and ones. In English, we have been writing our own stories all about the dragon 'Zog' and in science, we have been identifying different parts of the body. In history, we have been talking about our favourite toys and in art, we have been mixing primary colours to make secondary colours.

Please note that our PE days have changed to Monday and Thursday. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school.

Welcome back to Year 6 and to 2026 – your final year at Cherry Tree! The children have settled back into school life wonderfully after the holiday break and have shown a fantastic attitude to learning. They are already very excited about their new topic this half term, where they will be exploring World War II. Over the next two weeks, the children will also be developing their writing skills by creating recounts from the perspective of an evacuated child.



Our theme in Nursery is 'People that help us'. We will be exploring different jobs that help people in the community. Our PSED focus is 'Healthy Me'. Learning about healthy food choices, the importance of taking care of our teeth. We look forward to sharing another exciting term.

This week Year 4 had their topic day! Our topics is called 'Food Glorious Food'. We learnt how some food goes from Farm to fork and took part in a matching activity to know where our food comes from. We took part in some quizzes all about food and learnt how chocolate was made before designing our own chocolate bar. We then had the chance to watch Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory whilst we did some chocolate tasting and designed our very own Wonka sweets!

This week in Year 2 we have started our new topic of wonderful worlds. We explored the countries in the UK and read the book 'What a Wonderful World' based on the song by Louis Armstrong. We have also looked at primary and secondary colours in art and started looking at what a non-chronological report is in English. It has been great to see so many of you back after Christmas and eager to learn.

This week in Sunshine Cafe it has been lovely to see our children settle back into the weekly routines. They have enjoyed our story of the week 'Tiddler', and making their own stories from a sequence of different pictures. A big well done to Bailey S for settling into the afternoon routines.

This week in reception we have started our new topic, 'Once Upon a Time'. We have enjoyed exploring our new castle role play area and dressing up as princesses and knights. In maths we learnt all about the numbers 6, 7 and 8.

I wish you all a lovely weekend

Mr Davie
Head of School

School Money

Please ensure you keep your School Money account in credit to cover any dinners booked for your child.

If your account accrues arrears of two meals (£4.80) or more your child **WILL NOT** be able to book any further school dinners and you **MUST** provide them with a packed lunch until the arrears are cleared.

School Dinner Menu - Week Two

12th—16th January

Monday

Baked Carbonara (ham)

Baked Carbonara (mushroom)

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wrap

Angel Delight

Tuesday

Chicken Quesadilla

Vegetarian Quesadilla

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Ham Sandwich

Cinnamon Cake

Wednesday

Roast Pork

Quorn Roast

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Egg Mayo Wrap

Fresh Fruit Salad

Thursday

Penne Pasta with a Rustic Tomato Sauce

Penne pasta with a Rustic Tomato Sauce

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Sandwich

School Cake

Friday

Fish Fingers

Cheese and Onion Quiche

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Ham Wrap

Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Icing

Cherry Tree Weekly Attendance Table

Butterflies	96.1%
Ladybirds	93.6%
Hedgehogs	94.8%
Rabbits	94.4%
Owls	89.2%
Squirrels	92.3%
Year 3 Blue	92.3%
Year 3 Green	90.6%
Year 4 Blue	88.6%
Year 4 Green	97.4%
Year 5 Blue	95.0%
Year 5 Green	98.3%
Year 6 Blue	89.7%
Year 6 Green	92.5%

Well done to Butterflies is Key Stage 1 with an attendance of 96.1%.

In Key Stage 2, Year 5 Green are the highest with 98.3% this week—well done.

The highest for the school was Year 5 Green with 98.3% - excellent start to 2026

Which class will get cake or brownies for reaching 100%?

Don't forget that there are individual prizes to be won for attendance too.

Shout Out Awards

Hedgehogs	Richard S	For his hard work and independence in maths this week.
Rabbits	Ben P	For becoming more independent in his work and also being a superstar home reader!
Owls	Khaldonn A	For improved behaviour for learning and becoming more independent when writing.
Squirrels	Harley K	Harley is a hard working member of the class and a good example to his peers. He follows the school rules and takes onboard feedback to improve his work. Well done Harley.
Year 3 Blue	Eidenas G	Eidenas has shown excellent progress with his reading, he has been able to confidently blend his words without decoding. Well done.
Year 3 Green	Hallie A	This week in writing we looked at the features of a good recount. Hallie used these in her work including correctly punctuated time adverbials and expanded noun phrases.
Year 4 Blue	Jordana J	For always pushing herself in lessons to further her own learning and have a deeper understanding.
Year 4 Green	Elliot W	For being more determined to complete tasks and for showing a more positive attitude towards his learning.
Year 5 Blue	Harley B	For having a great start to 2026 and always trying his best.
Year 5 Green	Elijah K	Showing excellent determination in maths when learning about column multiplication with 4 digits by 1 digit! He has shown that he is ready to learn and be resilient.
Year 6 Blue	Jayden N	Making a fantastic effort this week at focusing only on his learning. He has been dedicated during each lesson to doing his best. Well done Jayden—keep it up!
Year 6 Green	Georgina O	For always trying her best in every lesson.

Dates for your Diary 2026

Monday 5th January

Start of the Spring Term

Thursday 15th January

CLOSING DATE TO APPLY FOR RECEPTION 2026

Wednesday 21st January

Year 6 height and weight checks

Thursday 5th February

9.50am School Aged Healthy Family Drop-in session

Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th February

Last Day of term

Monday 16th—Friday 20th February

Half term

Monday 23rd February

Return to School

Tuesday 10th March

Happy Days Class Photos

Thursday 15th January!

Cherry Tree presents...

Nuggets and Cake day!



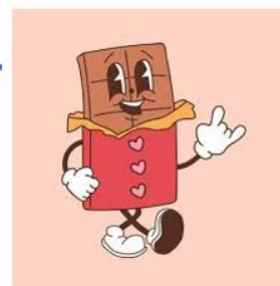
All children with school dinners on this day will be entered into a prize draw to win a large chocolate bar!

So make sure you

Book your school dinner

With your teacher on

Thursday!!!



School Aged Healthy Family Drop-in sessions

These sessions previously took place at various sites across the local area. They will now be held within schools, once per term, and we will hold ours here **at Cherry Tree** on the following dates:

5th February – 8.50 am onwards

7th May – 8.50 am onwards

You will have the opportunity to speak to a **Healthy Family Support Practitioner** about any aspect of your child's health, e.g., sleeping, eating, physical development, etc.

This is a **drop-in clinic** and there is **no need to book**.

If you do have any questions, please speak to Mrs Cory, AHT: Inclusion

School Uniform

You can buy uniform with our logo on from My Clothing online as well as the uniform shop.

The link for Myclothing is:

<https://myclothing.com>

Exclusive Cherry Tree 10% discount until 31.03.2026

Use the code MYCQ110

Important information - Term time holidays

Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Where families choose to take a family holiday during term time, this can detrimentally impact a pupil's progress and can prevent them from fulfilling their true academic potential. Our school attendance policy, available via our school website, clearly sets out the process that parents should follow if they wish to apply for leave during term time. Please note that applications should only be made, if you feel that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the leave cannot be taken during the school holidays. We would ask all parents to note that, where families choose to go on holiday during term time and the absences are coded as unauthorised, Essex County Council may not issue penalty notices and may instead proceed straight to prosecution and place the case directly before the Magistrates for their consideration in court. If found guilty by the Magistrates, parents could face a fine of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

Studybugs

Cherry Tree use a more efficient and secure system for messaging parents, called Studybugs. The website & app has an easy to use messaging service which allows us to set up a chat feature with parents to notify you of anything you may need to know about and answer any queries you may have. It is also our absence line service allowing parents to easily notify school of their child's absence.

Please download the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website.

If you need any assistance in setting this up on your phone, please call into the school office and we will be

Studybugs



Break Time Snack

Our snack shop has a range of healthy snacks available daily. Each item costs between 20p and 50p. If you wish to send your child in with a snack from home please do try to make

sure it is something from our approved snack list.

Key Stage 1 children will also continue to receive a piece of fruit as part of the healthy schools initiative.



Reception 2026

If your child is due to start Reception in 2026 you need to apply for their school place now:

www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

Applications close on 15th January 2026

**** STOP PRESS ****

We will be launching our Facebook and 'X' (Formally known as Twitter) pages next week

Look out for details