

Happy Friday everyone!

It has been lovely to welcome you all back after Easter. The summer term is always a busy one with events. As this is my first year at Cherry Tree, I am still balancing the events and traditions that the school had, against new events and ideas that I have. If anyone has ideas or suggestions about the sort of events that you want to be involved in or you want the school to run, please reach out to me. We will be doing a different Sport's Day this year, with 'traditional' races. This will be something new and exciting. All I ask is for your continued patience and support whilst we find our new identity with regards to this.

We have launched our new values this week. They are Honesty, Ambition, Respect and Kindness (as chosen by the parents and carers). Our celebration assembly today has seen the first ever set of winners. Children are chosen for the certificate for demonstrating one of these values. These values are also our new school houses, so ask your child which house they are in!

Please ensure your children keep up with the homework being set. In KS2 we have invested in a new platform called Century, where homework will be set. Also ensure you log the reads on Learning with Parents.

Lastly, some exciting news for Cherry Tree...during the week before half term, we will be installing some new playground equipment! The KS1 play area, the KS2 play area and the early years outside area will all benefit from some exciting new facilities. This will include all-weather surfacing so it can be used all-year round. There are even more works planned for the school, all to help give your children the best experience we can give them. Watch this space!



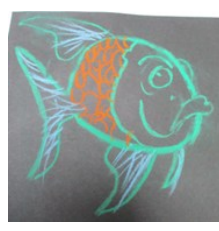
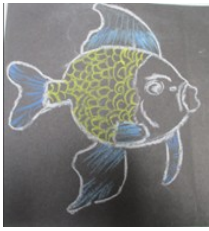
This week in Reception we have started our new topic "Oh the Places we Go!" The children have enjoyed exploring the new airport role play areas, acting out roles such as pilot, cabin crew, security and passengers. We have talked about different modes of transport and when we would use them. In Music this week, the children had to listen carefully to identify different sounds and work out which ones were transport sounds, they then learnt a short song about transport. We have also enjoyed sharing the story "Emma Jane's Aeroplane" and looked at the history of aircraft seeing how they have changed over the years.

This week in Year 2, we have been busy with lots of exciting learning. In English, we wrote a complaint letter because there was no pasta in our ravioli tin—we were all shocked and surprised by this event! In Maths, we started our new topic on fractions and have been learning to recognise a half and a quarter. In Art, we have been exploring sculpture and really enjoyed using playdough to practise shaping with our hands and using sculpting tools.

This week Year 6 have been working hard to write a complaint letter about a dangerous item they found in their favourite food. They have used powerful descriptive language, rhetorical questions, manufacturing language and ensured that the reader understands the severity of the situation. In Maths we have been looking at how to answer Maths reasoning questions by unpicking each question. Our topic of 'Life in Every Beat' has begun with discussions about healthy lifestyles and starting to read 'Pig Heart Boy'.

This week in Sunshine Cafe, we have started our Summer term topic "weather and seasons". We read our story of the week "What the Ladybird Heard on Holiday" and our children have loved exploring different textures and temperatures through sensory trays, outside exploration and messy science lessons in relation to our umbrella topic. A big well done to Adrian C for settling quickly back into the routine as the week went on.

This week Year 4 had their topic day! We learnt about water cycle and took part in an experiment where we made mini water cycles that we could look at throughout the day. Ask us how we made them! We then created our own rivers using sand trays, we labelled them with key features and even got to pour water in them to see how erosion works! We also started our art topic today and we drew 3D fish that we then later carefully carved.



This week, year 1 have worked very hard! In English, we have been planning and writing our own stories and linking sentences by using the word 'and'. In maths, we have been exploring measure including length and mass. We have investigated objects around us that are longer, taller and shorter and have been using cubes and rulers to measure. We have also been investigating mass and have used balancing scales to find objects that are heavier and lighter. In RE, we have started our new topic of 'Why are babies special' and in computing we have been looking at showing simple data. In Science, we have been identifying plants around us and their features while in geography we have found human and physical features in Baidon.

This week, year 3 have been working incredibly hard at their learning. We have been showing our excellent work with in maths, building a secure foundation with adding and subtracting fractions. In science, we have begun our topic of plants and have started by looking at parts of flowering plants and their functions. We are starting to get rehearsals underway for our exciting production of 'There is a sunflower in our supper'.

This week, the children in Year 5 have been busy across the curriculum, showing great enthusiasm and creativity in their learning. In English, they have been writing letters of complaint, carefully considering their language and structure. In Maths, the focus has been on area, where the children have been developing their understanding through a range of practical and problem-solving activities. Meanwhile, in our wider curriculum learning, they have explored the fascinating world of deserts and investigated the force of gravity. We are excited for our hook day for this half term, which will take place on Monday next week.

Our nursery children have been going wild with excitement as they explore our brand-new theme, Animal World! The children are going on safari adventures, learning about different animals and where they live. Through role play, stories and small world activities, they are exploring animal habitats and developing their imagination and communication skills.



Have a lovely weekend
Mr Davie
Head of School

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.

School Dinner Menu - Week Two

20th—24th April

Monday

Sweet and Sour Chicken

Sweet and Sour Quorn

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wrap

Mini Pancakes with Syrup

Tuesday

Beef Chilli

Quorn Beef Chilli

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Ham Sandwich

Arctic Roll

Wednesday

Roast Chicken

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

Jelly and Cream

Friday

Chicken Nuggets

Beyond Chicken Nuggets

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Ham Wrap

Ice Lolly



Cherry Tree Weekly Attendance Table

Butterflies	96.7%
Ladybirds	97.7%
Hedgehogs	98.5%
Rabbits	96.4%
Owls	95.9%
Squirrels	95.2%
Year 3 Blue	93.2%
Year 3 Green	94.2%
Year 4 Blue	93.3%
Year 4 Green	99.6%
Year 5 Blue	95.4%
Year 5 Green	94.2%
Year 6 Blue	90.0%
Year 6 Green	97.2%

Attendance is really improving well done.

6 classes achieved over 96% which is our target—please keep this up.

The overall school attendance was 95.5% - so near to the 96% - let's see if we can do it next week.

School Uniform

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

The link for My Clothing is:

<https://myclothing.com>

10% off all orders till 31.07

Code SSPEND10

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.



Value Awards



Butterflies

Daniel C

For showing kindness towards other members of our class, helping them settle into school and inviting them into his play.

Ladybirds

Lia J

For using our classroom environment with respect—she always tidies up and ensures that our resources are looked after.

Hedgehogs

Elijah T

For an amazing first week and showing respect to children and adults.

Rabbits

Chima O

For showing ambition with his fantastic presentation and showing a great improvement in his writing.

Owls

Albi R

For showing honesty as over the week he has shown improved behaviour and is thinking about the right choices.

Squirrels

Emma B

Emma has shown great improvement in her behaviour, often helping others once she has finished her work showing great kindness. She has also been working hard to improve the size of her handwriting and her efforts are really paying off.

Year 3 Blue

Jayden C

Jayden has shown excellent ambition with his learning and growing in confidence with his maths. He has begun sharing his learning with his peers and has helped others with their learning. Jayden is spending more time in school and is an asset to the classroom environment.

Year 3 Green

Tommy O

For showing ambition when adding and subtracting fractions.

Year 4 Blue

Oscar H

For showing ambition in his willingness to complete all tasks set and have a positive attitude to learning.

Year 4 Green

Eva P

For demonstrating strong ambition by constantly challenging herself in class, listening carefully to feedback and showing a genuine desire to improve her work.

Year 5 Blue

Ansharah S

For consistently showing kindness to others on a daily basis through her words and actions.

Year 5 Green

Imogen M

For being respectful and ready to learn.

Year 6 Blue

Adam K

For kindness, he has been willing to offer a helping hand all week. Helping me out wherever and whenever he can, making my first week at Cherry Tree at lot easier!

Year 6 Green

Georgina O

For showing great kindness by helping a visitor to the school whilst carrying out her prefect duties.

School Council

School Council Newsletter

Last half term, our School Councillors met with a clear goal in mind: to find meaningful ways to involve parents and carers more in our school community. A key focus of the discussion was giving parents the opportunity to visit our school and see firsthand how hard we work every day. Following this, councillors shared the idea of inviting parent volunteers into school to hear us read. They were keen for parents to experience the journey of our reading development—from decoding and understanding vocabulary, to reading with expression and strong comprehension. We are excited about the possibility of welcoming parents in to celebrate this important part of our learning. Each year group also contributed ideas, which were taken back to their classes for a vote. These included:

- Inviting parents/carers into school for a curriculum day, with PE as the chosen subject
- Welcoming parents/carers to our Shout Out Assembly
- Offering class raffle winners the chance to invite a parent/carers to enjoy a school lunch
- Rewarding attendance winners, from the termly draw, with the opportunity to invite parents/carers in for a picnic

After class discussions and voting, the most popular idea across the school was for attendance winners to enjoy a picnic with two important adults in their lives. A very close second was the idea of inviting parents in to take part in an energetic PE lesson during a curriculum visit. In addition, the School Council raised a request on behalf of the boys for a mirror in their toilet area. We are pleased to share, this was approved by Mr Davies, our Headteacher. The boys are looking forward to being able to check that they are looking smart during the school day. Well done to our School Councillors for their thoughtful ideas and for continuing to make a positive difference in our school!

Berlesduna Rock 'n' Break TT Rock Stars

Well done to all those that took part in the Trust TT Rock Stars competition—we managed to come a very respectable 2nd.

Position (Out of 11 schools taking part)	School Average Correct
1	Whitmore Primary School And Nursery, Basildon 2,581
2	Cherry Tree Primary School, Basildon 1,835
3	Fairhouse Community Primary School 1,328
4	Merrylands Primary School, Basildon 1,292
5	Willows Primary School, Basildon 1,119
6	Downham CEVC Primary School, Billericay 657
7	St Nicholas CoFE Primary School, Rayleigh 515
8	Felmore Primary School 500
9	Canewdon Primary School 367
10	St Mary's Primary School, Woodham Ferrers 131
11	Crays Hill Primary School 117

Dates for your Diary 2026

Monday 4th May

May bank Holiday—no school

Thursday 21st May

Healthy family Drop in 9-10am

Friday 22nd May

Last day of Term

Monday 1st June

Return to school

Night Owls visiting the whole school

Tuesday 2nd June

Year 5 trip to Barleylands

Tuesday 16th June

Happy Days—Individual Photos

Thursday 2nd July

Sports day—Reception to Year 6

Friday 17th July

Last day of Summer Term



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

MERRYLANDS – LEAD TEACHER for AUTISM SPECTRUM CONDITIONS closing date 19th April
MERRYLANDS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 17th April
WHITMORE – ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER closing date 27th April
WHITMORE – FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER closing date 29th April

For more information and to apply for any of these exciting opportunities, please follow the link to our website
[Vacancies - Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)

Essex Fire Museum Open Days

2026



Sunday 26th Of April

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



Book Now ➔



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

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 date:

Thursday 21st May – 9.00am to 10.00am

You will have the opportunity to speak to a **Healthy Family Support Practitioner** about any aspect of your child's health (see below)

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

The School Age team at Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services will now be providing drops ins for parents/carers at your child's primary school. The drops ins are available for all parents/carers of primary aged children.

The Team can offer support around.

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Improving sleep
- Nutrition support
- Physical health
- Personal hygiene
- Managing health conditions
- Signposting, advice and support

For more information

Tel-0300 247 0013- (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Service commissioned by