

Happy Friday Cherry Tree! We are racing through this short half term. The weather is picking up and that always helps. Well done to year 6 for completing their last SATS practice before their real tests. They into the last stretch before the real thing. They have worked so hard all year but this last little bit can make the difference. Keep up the hard work.

It was lovely to see the effort put into the lovely outfits for world book day. We had a range of activities in school. My favourite was seeing the older pupils reading to the younger pupils outside in the sunshine!

This half term, we say goodbye to Mx Maynard, who leaves us to start a new adventure elsewhere. We wish them the best of luck. They will be succeeded by Miss Priest, who is joining our staff team as a permanent staff member.

We also say goodbye (temporarily) to Miss Wood and Mrs Vickery, who begin their maternity leave on Friday 13th March. We wish them both the best of luck with their new adventures!

Miss Wood's class will be supported by a supply teacher for the two weeks before Easter, and then taken by Mr Cooper, who is joining our staff team permanently.

Mrs Vickery's class will be taken by a long-term supply teacher for the rest of the academic year.

I can announce that we were successful in recruiting a new deputy to the school. We will be welcoming Mr McQuade to the school in May. We are very excited for all of our new teachers to join and help take Cherry Tree Primary School to the next level!

A big thank you to the PTA for organising the sponsored hop - please keep up with the donations as we are raising money for a new computing suite for the children.

This week in Nursery we shared the story 'Handa's Surprise'. Whilst sharing this story the children have been supported to identify, name, and describe exotic fruits, explore their tastes, smells, and textures. The children explored further showing wonderful curiosity using magnifying glasses to take a closer look at the seeds inside the fruits. They persevered with the tweezers to remove and collect the seeds, of which the children will later plant.

We had a fabulous time celebrating world book day; the children took part in a Gruffalo themed activity day. All the children looked amazing in their costumes, thank you for taking part in this event.



This week, year 1 has written their own stories based on 'We're going on a bear hunt.' We have also begun to explore and partition numbers to 50 and solve missing number problems. In Geography, we went for a walk around the school grounds and identified early signs of Spring. In Computing, we have begun to use virtual Beebots and practised programming them to follow different instructions. In DT, we learnt about safety using utensils and practised cutting playdough with plastic knives while in science we described different animals and their features. We also had a great time dressing up for World Book Day yesterday and looked fab in our costumes!

Year 4 this week took part in World Book Day by focusing on the book The Barnabus Project. They had to create their own animal. They wrote character descriptions for their own animal and then create a 3D habitat for their them using what they wrote. They also got to show their reading skills by reading a book to the children in Year 1. Year 4 are still working hard on recalling their times tables so please make sure they login to TTRS at home.

This week in Year 2 we enjoyed taking part in World book day and the children enjoyed pairing up with Year 5 when they read stories to each other. We focused on the book 'What the Ladybird heard on Holiday' and wrote a postcard pretending to be the ladybird. In the afternoon we then sketched different landmarks of London onto the front of the postcard, thinking about our drawing skills.



Year 6 have had a very busy and exciting week! The children received their secondary school allocations, which brought lots of excitement and conversations about the new chapter that lies ahead. It is a big milestone, and we are proud of how positively the children are approaching this next step in their journey. This week the pupils also completed their mock SATs. The Year 6 team are incredibly proud of the effort, focus and resilience the children showed throughout the week. They approached the tests with maturity and determination, and this experience will help them feel even more prepared for the real SATs, which are now fast approaching. To finish the week on a creative note, we celebrated **World Book Day**. The children designed and created their own corner bookmarks, showing fantastic imagination and creativity. It was a wonderful way to celebrate reading and share our love of books together.

This week in Sunshine Cafe we have been exploring the story *What the Ladybird Heard*. They have enjoyed our sensory trays and turn taking games related to our story. The children have worked very hard during our cognition sessions this week, exploring problem solving and independent decision making. We enjoyed World Book Day yesterday, the children looked fantastic.

The children in reception all looked great for World Book Day, thank you. This week in school we have been reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly. In maths, we have been exploring the number ten and beginning to learn some number bonds. We are very excited about welcoming our eggs on Monday and watching the chicks hatch next week!

This week, Year 3 have started their lessons in DT with taking a look at a balanced diet. We have been able to discuss what it means to have the correct amount of each food group and their role in keeping us fit and healthy. On world book day, it was so lovely to see so many amazing outfits and the children were all enjoying a day that was all about reading. Another great week, well done.

This week in Year 5 we learned many interesting things across our subjects. In maths, we practised rounding numbers to the nearest integer and worked on understanding how to decide whether to round up or down. In English, we planned and began writing a suspenseful story based on a Tudor theme. We included a dramatic eclipse in the story to build tension and make the events feel mysterious and exciting. In science, we learned about the life cycle stages of mammals, from birth to adulthood, and discussed how mammals grow and change over time. In French, we learned the names of different types of transport, such as cars, trains, and buses. In computing, we programmed a temperature sensor using the BBC Micro:Bit, learning how coding can be used to measure and display temperature. Overall, it was a busy and interesting week of learning.

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.

Come visit our



Open every Tuesday
in term time
3:30pm-4:15pm!



School Dinner Menu - Week One

9th—13th March 2026

Monday

Sausage Roll

Vegetarian Sausage Roll

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wrap

Arctic Roll

Tuesday

Beef Bolognese

Vegetarian Mince Bolognese

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Ham Sandwich

Chocolate Brownie

Wednesday

Roast Chicken

Quorn Roast

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Egg Mayo Wrap

Fresh Fruit Salad

Thursday

Penne Pasta in Rustic Tomato Sauce

Penne pasta in Rustic Tomato Sauce

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Sandwich

Mini Muffin

Friday

Nuggets

Vegetarian Nuggets

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Ham Wrap

Ice-Cream Pot

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.



Cherry Tree Weekly Attendance Table

Butterflies	88.3%
Ladybirds	88.8%
Hedgehogs	97.3%
Rabbits	90.4%
Owls	98.2%
Squirrels	90.4%
Year 3 Blue	92.7%
Year 3 Green	93.3%
Year 4 Blue	96.2%
Year 4 Green	98.1%
Year 5 Blue	96.2%
Year 5 Green	97.7%
Year 6 Blue	88.3%
Year 6 Green	97.1%

Well done to Year 4 Green in Key Stage 2 as the highest attendance for the second week running with 98.1% - amazing.

In Key Stage 1 it was Owls with 98.2%

The highest attendance this week was Owls with 98.2%, closely followed by Year 4 Green with 98.1%.

The following classes were all over 96%: Hedgehogs (97.3%), Year 4 Blue (96.2%), Year 5 Green (97.7%), Year 5 Blue (96.2%) and Year 6 Green (97.1%) - giving us a school attendance figure of 94% - very well done!

HALF PRICE BOOK FAIR

Thursday 12th March

3.30pm—4pm

CASH OR CARD



Shout Out Awards

Butterflies	George C	George reads every day at home and has made great progress in phonics because of this. More recently he has been focusing on his handwriting and has made amazing progress with this too. George always completes great home learning.
Ladybirds	Anastasia H	Anastasia has worked really hard with her phonics this week. She has joined in well with her blending group and written CVC words independently. Keep up the good work Anastasia.
Hedgehogs	Alexander P	For being kind, helpful and resilient in computing this week.
Rabbits	Shiddharth B	For working hard, listening to adults and being a kind friend.
Owls	Alexander C	For using a variety of adjectives in his writing to make his writing more interesting and a range of punctuation.
Squirrels	Lennon J	For improved concentration in phonics lessons and has been working hard with adult support to complete his writing.
Year 3 Blue	Farida A	Farida has been extremely kind to her peers both in the classroom and across the year group. She always has a smile on her face and tries her best in all her learning.
Year 3 Green	Evie S	For attending school punctually and coming into class happy all week.
Year 4 Blue	Phoebe S	For always being respectful to both adults and children around the school and trying her best in all lessons.
Year 4 Green	Dasia M	For demonstrating our school value of ambition by always trying her hardest in each lesson and challenging herself in maths.
Year 5 Blue	Mason A	For improved attitude to his learning and for improved choices in class and around the school.
Year 5 Green	Ella-Mai N	A big well done to Ella-Mai this week for showing such kindness and care towards your friends and for making a great effort to be ready and focussed during lesson times.
Year 6 Blue	Charlie L	For showing ambition in his learning—he really put in a fantastic effort in his mock SATs this week.
Year 6 Green	Appollo L	Trying really hard in his reading SATs leading to an improved score.

Dates for your Diary 2026

Tuesday 10th March

Happy Days Class Photos

World Book Day photos in the Echo

Thursday 12th March

3.30-4pm Half Price Book Fair (cash only)

Tuesday 17th March

Road safety—Reception and Year 5

Wednesday 18th March

Parent Consultations

Thursday 19th March

Parent Consultations

Friday 27th March

Last day of term

Monday 30th March

First day of Easter Holidays

Monday 13th April

Start of Sumer Term



ROAD SAFETY

Reception and Year 5

Tuesday 17th March
2026

Reception

Parents are invited in for a 10-15 minute presentation at 9am and then the children will join them for about 25 minutes to practice being safe in the hall with a play road.

Year 5

The children will be taken out into the local area in small groups to practice road safety.



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 until 31.03.2026

Code MYCQ110



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CANEWDON – CARETAKER closing date 9th March
CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 8th March
DOWNHAM – CLASS TEACHER closing date 12th March
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 8th March
WHITMORE – ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER closing date 16th March
WHITMORE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 22nd March

For more information and to apply for any of these exciting opportunities, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies - Berlesduna Academy Trust](https://www.berlesduna.academytrust.com)

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 7th 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 drop 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)

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