



17th July 2026

Newsletter No 38

Message from Mr Bullivant

As we reach the end of another fantastic school year, it is hard to believe how quickly the time has flown by. It has certainly been a busy and emotional final week, with so much to celebrate before we head off for a well-earned summer break.

Earlier this week, five of our pupils represented Cherry Tree at the Colchester Schools Gardening Competition in Culver Square alongside Miss Birch. They did a fantastic job creating and presenting our World Cup-themed planter and were wonderful ambassadors for our school throughout the event. A huge thank you goes to both Miss Birch and Miss Rowland for all of

their hard work. If you are visiting Colchester over the summer, please do take a look at our fantastic display and, most importantly, don't forget to cast your vote for Cherry Tree!

This week has also been a very special one for our Year 6 children. Their Leavers' Assembly was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on their journey through Cherry Tree, celebrate their achievements and reminisce about the many happy memories they have made along the way. It was lovely to see the children (and teachers!) smiling at the baby photographs and sharing stories from their time with us. There may even have been a few tears in the hall—although I think Mrs Helsden was determined to break the school record for the most tissues used during a single assembly! Thank you to everyone who came along to celebrate such a memorable occasion and to send our Year 6 pupils off in style.

Of course, no final week would be complete without the traditional Year 6 water fight! I can confirm that Miss Newley, Mrs Helsden and I were all thoroughly soaked. I am beginning to think the children had been planning their revenge for several years! Thankfully, the sunshine helped us dry off before the end of the day.

Yesterday also brought the fantastic news of our Year 6 SATs results. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved. Their results were outstanding and are a testament to the dedication, resilience and determination they have shown throughout their time at Cherry Tree. They should all be enormously proud of themselves, as should their families and the staff who have supported them. We know they are more than ready for the exciting challenges ahead, and we wish every one of them the very best as they begin the next chapter of their journey at secondary school.

As another school year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our pupils, families and staff for their continued support throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to watch our children grow in confidence, develop new skills and create so many wonderful memories together. Every achievement, performance, sporting event, school trip and celebration has made this another memorable year at Cherry Tree, and I am incredibly proud of everything our school community has accomplished.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a wonderful summer holiday. I hope you have the opportunity to relax, spend quality time together and create plenty of special memories. Thank you once again for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at Cherry Tree.

Warm regards,

Mr Bullivant

Head of School

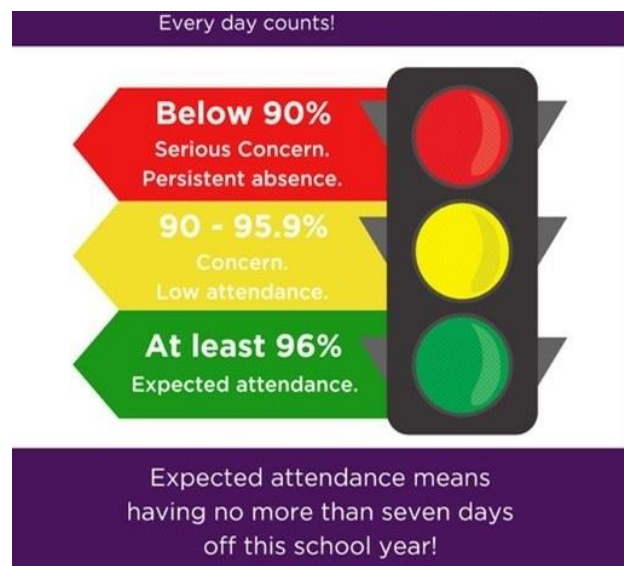
Attendance Matters

Good attendance is essential for children to make the most of their learning and to fully take part in all the experiences school has to offer. Every day in school really does count, and even small amounts of absence can quickly add up to lost learning time.

To help raise the profile of good attendance across the school, we have recently launched an exciting new initiative called **Attendopoly**. Each week, the three classes with the best attendance — particularly those achieving or exceeding our school target of **96%** — earn the opportunity to roll the dice during our **Celebration Assembly**.

Where they land on the board could lead to a range of exciting prizes for the class, making attendance something we can all celebrate together. - last week Year 4 enjoyed hot chocolate with Miss Symonds!

We look forward to seeing which classes make it onto the Attendopoly board next week. Thank you, as always, for your support in ensuring children arrive at school every day, on time, ready to learn.



Attendance results – week ending 17th July 2026

EYFS	91.76 %
Year 1	89.60 %
Year 2	90.90 %
Year 3	91.90 %
Year 4	99.20 %
Year 5	87.20 %
Year 6	98.20 %
Whole School	95.36 %
YTD (from 01.09.2025)	94.65 %

Summer Term 2026 Dates

Dates for the Summer Term

Friday 17th July 2026 - Last day of term.

Monday 20th July 2026 - Inset day

Wednesday 2nd September 2026- children return to Cherry Tree Academy

School Garden Competition

Well done to the children that took part in this year's School Garden Competition in Culver Square.

This year's theme was to represent the World Cup in a garden. We brainstormed our ideas in gardening club and talked about colours we would want to use. Red for Cherry Tree and White for footballs.

The group also enjoyed the opportunity to visit the bees with Dave. It was a lovely addition to the day,

The People's Choice Award is now open and will run throughout the summer holidays. Please go into Culver Square to see the gardens and cast your vote. There is a QR code on the garden or you can follow the link to vote. <https://www.childrensgardeningcoach.co.uk/vote>. Please encourage everyone you know to vote for Cherry Tree!

There are eight entries in total and it would be fantastic to win. The People's Choice Award winner will be announced in September – thanks for your support.











Achievements Outside of School

We are keen to celebrate the children's achievements outside of school and would love to hear from you if your child has taken part in something special they enjoy. Please send a brief description and a photo if you wish, of your child's achievement to be included in the newsletter.

Effie takes 5th!



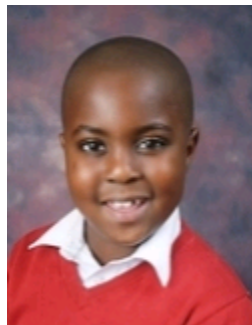
1 - .

Well done to Effie in Year 2 for her fabulous rosette for coming 5th place in her horse event

Ben plays Sax!!



2 - Very well done to Ben in Year 3 who passed his GRADE 1 ALTO SAXOPHONE PRACTICAL with distinction.



Muddy Running!

On Sunday 12th July, Ezra took part in the East Anglia's Children's Hospice obstacle course. It was called The Piglet, Junior Hog and it was a 4k muddy obstacle course.

He pushed though and ran through muddy bogs and deep smelly water. He helped raise lots of money for an excellent cause – well done, amazing work!





Special Award for Writing - back in September!

Times Tables Rock Stars & Numbots Challenge - back in September!



We are trying to increase engagement of the pupils with the excellent Numbots and TTRS programmes.

We will be handing out a certificate for the child, in each class, who has engaged the most with their class TTRS/Numbots on a weekly basis.

Please encourage your child to play at home.

End of Year Round Up

EYFS



EYFS Summer Newsletter

What a fantastic year it has been in EYFS! This term we have loved exploring our exciting themes of Pirates, Superheroes and Animals, using our imaginations through stories, role play and creative activities. During our pirate topic, the children were fascinated to learn about different types of pirate ships, discovering how they were built and used to travel across the seas. They also enjoyed painting their own wooden pirate ships, taking great care with colours and details to create wonderful keepsakes. We enthusiastically sang lively sea shanties, which the children still ask to sing throughout the week. We ended our first half term with delicious ice cream treats.

This term we have really enjoyed exploring the animal world through a range of exciting activities. We developed our artistic skills by carefully drawing and creating clay models of spiders and were thrilled to meet a real Chilean Rose tarantula, which gave us a unique opportunity to learn about minibeasts up close. We have also been inspired by the vibrant jungle paintings of Henri Rousseau, where the children created their own beautiful artwork. It has been a year filled with curiosity, discovery, friendship and fun, and we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved. We wish all our families a happy, restful and well-deserved summer break!

The EYFS Team

Year 1



Wow! What a fantastic term we've had! We have made so many wonderful memories together, from receiving a letter from the King and enjoying exciting water fights to meeting Pig the Pug. We created amazing models using recycled materials and delivered fantastic news presentations about pollution. We investigated the best ways to remove plastic from the ocean before putting our ideas to the test with some very wet and exciting experiments! Our creativity continued as we became architects, building replicas of the London skyline and designing our very own theme parks. We also enjoyed taking part in lively Parliamentary-style debates, sharing our ideas with confidence. To round off an unforgettable year, we celebrated all things carnival, dancing the day away in our colourful headdresses. It has been a joy to watch everyone learn, grow, and shine throughout Year 1.

We have loved every moment of our learning together. Have a wonderful summer, everyone! ☀️

Year 2

Summer term year 2

What a fantastic and incredibly busy Summer Term we have had in Year 2! It has been packed with exciting learning, creative projects and lots of memorable moments. The children have worked so hard and should all be very proud of everything they have achieved.

In Design and Technology, the children designed and made their very own puppets, developing their sewing and decorative skills. They were delighted to use their finished puppets to perform a special puppet show for our Early Years children, who thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Science took us on an exciting journey into space! The children loved learning about the planets, the Sun and the Moon, and enjoyed investigating how shadows change by making and using their own sundials.

Maths has been full of practical learning as we explored statistics. The children collected data and created a variety of charts and tables using Purple Mash, developing their confidence in presenting and interpreting information.

Our English lessons were inspired by the book *A Walk in London*. After exploring the text, the children wrote their own informative walking guides through Colchester, showcasing their descriptive writing and knowledge of our local area.

We have also been busy preparing for our end-of-year music performance. The children have loved learning the songs and have impressed us with their enthusiastic singing. Some children also demonstrated their musical talents by accompanying the songs on the glockenspiel, making the performance extra special.

Of course, one of the highlights of the term was Sports Day! It was wonderful to see the children showing determination, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship while having so much fun. They all gave their very best and thoroughly enjoyed cheering one another on.

As another successful year comes to an end, all of the children—and adults!—are looking forward to a well-deserved Summer holiday.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Your encouragement has made a real difference, and it has been a pleasure working together. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this year and can't wait to see them continue to flourish as they begin their exciting Year 3 journey.

Have a wonderful, safe and relaxing Summer break!

Year 3

It is hard to believe another year has flown by. I have really enjoyed spending time with ALL of the children in year 3 and getting to know them. They are wonderful children and you should be so proud of the achievements they have all made this year.

English has been a focus this year and the pupils have rose to the challenge. They have continued to impress me by their improvement in presentation, fluency and language. They have read a wide variety of texts and love to share opinions. Charlotte 'I like our tower because it's an adventurous story.' Charlie 'I like English more than everything else. Since I have improved it has made it a lot easier and more enjoyable.' Demi 'I have enjoyed learning lots of different things and being with my friends. I have worked really hard on my presentation.' Lewis 'I liked when I got my pen licence.'

Maths has been a firm favourite in year 3 particularly learning about angles and fractions. Their confidence has flourished throughout the year and their understanding has set them up well for year 4. Mahfouz 'I think this is a really reasonable subject because maths is an everyday life skill.' Rital 'I think maths is a really easy subject if you just listen.' Ronnie 'I enjoy maths.'

History is a topic we have all enjoyed in year 3, particularly our most recent topic on Tudors. How the pupils can recall and discuss issues such as religious disputes and the monarchy has impressed Miss Newley. Bonnie 'I really like learning about the past because it goes with our other subjects like English.' Josh 'You get to compare how life was back then to now. Also, you can learn about the disadvantages and advantages.' Lincoln 'I liked outside day and making the sweet bags.'

We have covered a variety of skills in art, including model making, textures, sketching and most recently architecture. Alexandra 'I really liked art because we have learnt how to draw humans and 3d things.' Jenson 'I enjoyed art because its my favourite subject and I learned how to draw different things.' Emie 'I have enjoyed art because I get to draw.'

The human body, mammals, magnets, pollination are all units that we have covered throughout the year in science. The pupils have loved using their knowledge to apply to experiments and investigations. Harley 'I liked learning about magnets.' Sunny 'I liked learning about magnets and how they repeal and attract.' Harry 'I liked science as I liked the cool features and how the sun evaporates water from the ground.'

Music is one of those fabulous subjects that all the children seem to shine at. Year 3 love to sing and have broadened their exposure to music with our songs of the week. Rileigh 'I have enjoyed music because I think it has made me intelligent.' Benjamin 'I really enjoyed music as it helps our voice sound better'

In P.E. this year we have learnt to play rounders, cricket, football and hockey. Lenny 'I have enjoyed doing footballs, rounders, cricket and I like everything single thing even basketball.' Callie 'I like p.e. because it makes you get stronger and it makes you feel less tired.' Tymofii 'I really liked PE, particularly cricket.'

In RE we have covered Islam, the five pillars of Islam, Shahadah and prayer mats. Marcus 'I like learning about Islam and the 99 names of Allah.' Ava 'RE is very good because we get to learn and learning is good.'

PSHE in year 3 has covered many different topics about friendship, respect, money, diet and a variety of other units. Jacob 'I really like PSHE because it's quite peaceful. Arielle 'I enjoyed this because this gives me lots of time to talk as a class.'

Our class would not be able to run everyday with out our AMAZING teacher assistants, Mrs Ellis and Miss Barlow. A huge thank you to you both for your dedication, hard work and endless patience. Sophie 'I have enjoyed being with all my friends and my teachers'

And finally, a big thank you to all of you parents, careers and families for supporting your children throughout the year, turning up to all events and making sure they have the best opportunity to learn.

Year 4

Year 4 End of Term Review

What a wonderful end of year it has been for our Year 4 pupils! Through our Curriculum, children have explored a wide range of engaging topics, developing their knowledge, creativity and confidence across the curriculum.

In English, our Literacy Tree texts have inspired a love of reading and writing. Children particularly enjoyed studying *The Fossil Hunter* and *The Ever Changing Earth* with its focus on environmental damage and possible solutions to help improve the health of the world. These rich texts as a springboard for imaginative writing, discussion and comprehension.

Through White Rose Maths, pupils have strengthened their fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills, showing resilience and enthusiasm when tackling new challenges in areas such as shape and symmetry.

One of the highlights of the year was our DT project. The children explored the principles of healthy eating, researched ingredients and learned about balanced diets before designing their own healthy wraps. They carefully planned their recipes, considered flavour combinations and presentation, and developed important food preparation skills. Seeing their designs come to life

was a fantastic and fun experience, and the pupils were incredibly proud of their delicious creations, judging by the way they rapidly devoured them.

Another standout event was our exciting Science Day, where pupils investigated changing states of matter through hands-on experiments and explored the water cycle in action. Their curiosity, teamwork and scientific thinking shone throughout the day.

We are incredibly proud of everything Year 4 has achieved. They have worked hard, supported one another and embraced every opportunity. We wish all our families a happy, restful and well-deserved summer break before they head to the exciting new pastures of Year 5.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic end to the academic year, showing enthusiasm, resilience and creativity across the curriculum. During a special D&T day, the children enjoyed designing and making their own pencil pots, carefully using tools and cardboard to bring their ideas to life.

In Maths, pupils worked tirelessly to secure their knowledge and skills, ensuring they are well prepared for the challenges of Year 6. They also explored real-world coding through the use of BBC micro:bit computers, developing their programming skills and seeing how technology can be used to solve practical problems such as sending two-way messages, coding a working dice and making a virtual pet!

Our young artists produced some beautiful prints in Art, demonstrating creativity and attention to detail. Meanwhile, during Science Day, Year 5 dived deeper into the fascinating world of forces, investigating gravity, air resistance, water resistance and parachutes through a range of engaging practical activities, sadly Larry the lion didn't quite survive the majority of his parachute jumps....

I am incredibly proud of everything Year 5 have achieved this year and can't wait to see what surprises they bring into Year 6! 😊

Year 6

End of Year -Oak Class Year 6

What a year it has been in Year 6! This newsletter is a little different to the usual ones, as it is also my last as a member of staff here. I will be leaving the school at the same time as you all, and I honestly could not have asked for a better year to be leaving alongside.

To all of our parents and carers, thank you so much for your support over the years. It really has made this class what it is, and it has been a privilege to work alongside you. And to every single one of our Year 6 pupils, I am so proud of you. You should all walk out of these doors with your heads held high. You have achieved so much this year, and you have done it with kindness, resilience and a real sense of togetherness.

Our school play: Peter Pan

One of the highlights of the year was definitely our production of Peter Pan, performed using the Out of the Ark Music version, written by Mark, Helen and Naomi Johnson with script by Sue Langwade. Watching the children bring Neverland to life, from the Lost Boys and the mermaids to Captain Hook and Mr Smee, was a joy from start to finish. The singing, the acting and the confidence they all showed on that stage made me prouder than I can really put into words.

SATs week

I know a lot of you are still waiting on SATs results, as there has been a delay this year in getting them back to us. Please try not to let that overshadow what actually matters. I watched every single child work so hard that week, staying focused, supporting each other and giving their best effort every single day. Whatever the results say when they come, I already know how brilliant this class is, and no test score is going to change that.

Crazy golf at Castle Park

Our trip to play crazy golf at Castle Park was such a fun day. It was absolutely boiling, but that did not stop the children enjoying every minute of it. The staff there went out of their way to tell us how impressed they were, saying we were the best behaved and most enjoyable school group they had ever had. That is exactly the kind of reputation I hope this class keeps carrying with them, wherever they end up next.

Crucial Crew and the Town House

Crucial Crew was another brilliant day out, and once again the staff running the sessions commented on how well behaved and engaged our children were. We really enjoyed watching a drama performance at the Town House, and the children were then split into smaller groups for

discussions about knife crime. These were handled so maturely, and it was lovely to see the children listening properly, asking thoughtful questions and taking the messages on board.

This year has been full of laughter, hard work, sunshine and so many proud moments. Thank you for letting me be part of it with you all. I will miss this class more than I can say, but I leave knowing you are all ready for whatever comes next, and that you will do brilliantly.

With love and thanks,

Year 6

Useful Info



Are you worried about your child travelling to secondary school on their own in September?

Is your child anxious about travelling to school by bus for the first time on their own?

Being able to travel independently is a key life skill.

Travel Training gives people with SEN or additional needs the confidence and skills to travel on buses and trains independently. We can also help with walking routes.

Anyone can refer using our online referral form, we aim to be in touch within 10 days

www.travel-training.co.uk

Travel.training@essex.gov.uk

03330322872

Please take a look at our travel training video by clicking here: [Travel Training, The journey to independence - Essex County Council](#)



Autism Anglia

We'd like to highlight Autism Anglia's Community Connect — a *free* support service specifically for children with neurodiverse needs and their families.

! No diagnosis needed ! Support available even if your child is just *on a pathway* or you're exploring possible neurodiversity

They can help with: 🧩 Autism-related questions or concerns 🧩 Communication and social interaction 🧩 Emotional regulation 🧩 Sensory needs 🧩 Anxiety or behaviour linked to neurodiversity

Find out more here: 📧 <https://www.autism-anglia.org.uk/our-services/community-connect/>

If you're unsure if this service is for you and you'd like some advice, don't hesitate to ask.

Mrs Donnelly

Cherry Tree Foodbank

At Cherry Tree, we understand that life can sometimes bring unexpected challenges, and there may be times when a little extra support with food is needed. That's why we're launching the **Cherry Tree Foodbank** — a resource available to all our families whenever it's needed.

To help us keep the foodbank stocked, we welcome donations of **long-life food items**, including:

- Cereals
- Long life milk
- Tinned potatoes
- Pasta and rice
- Sauces
- Tinned vegetables
- Baked beans
- Tinned pies
- Tuna and other canned goods

Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference.

If you'd like support, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can call, email, or drop by to speak with me directly. I'll be happy to put together a food hamper for you, and I can also provide food bank vouchers if needed.

Together, we can support one another and make sure no family goes without.

Warm regards,

Miss Symonds

Communication with school.

When trying to communicate with members of staff at Cherry Tree, please bear in mind that they are working extremely hard with the children.

We aim to acknowledge all parent communication within 48 hours - this includes phone calls and emails.