



11th September 2026

Newsletter No 2

Message from Mr Bullivant

What another fantastic week it has been at Cherry Tree Academy! It has been wonderful to see the children fully settling into their routines and getting stuck into their learning.

Our EYFS children have settled in amazingly well and have made a fantastic start to life at Cherry Tree. They have had lots of fun exploring the different areas both inside and outside their classroom and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know their new classroom environment. It has been lovely to see their confidence growing throughout the week as they begin to develop

friendships, explore new experiences and build relationships with the adults around them. What a brilliant start!

There has certainly been plenty happening in our classrooms. Our Year 1 children have had a particularly busy week as they have begun their English learning around *The Naughty Bus*. The Naughty Bus has certainly been living up to its name, causing plenty of trouble, mess and excitement along the way! It has been lovely to see the children using the story as a hook for their learning and becoming increasingly confident in their new classroom routines.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children also enjoyed their first swimming lesson of the academic year. Miss Birch and Mr Young were incredibly proud of how well the children represented Cherry Tree, commenting on their excellent behaviour and attitude throughout the session. Well done to all of our swimmers — you were fantastic ambassadors for the school!

It has also been lovely to welcome some visitors into school this week. Mrs Robson spent some time visiting classrooms, and we were also delighted to welcome back a very familiar face in Mrs Mears, previously known to many of us as Miss Newley. Both commented on how calm and purposeful the school felt and noticed some excellent learning behaviours from our children. This is something we should all be very proud of and is a wonderful reflection of the positive start we have made to the new academic year.

As we move into our third week, our focus continues to be on embedding our routines, developing positive learning behaviours and making the most of every opportunity to learn. There is already such a positive energy around school, and I am excited to see what the coming weeks will bring.

Warm regards,

Mr Bullivant

Attendance

Why attendance is such an important priority.

At Cherry Tree, we know that every school day matters.

Being in school is about so much more than attending lessons. It is where children learn new skills, build friendships, develop confidence, enjoy routines and take part in the wider opportunities that make school such a special place. Learning builds over time, so missing school regularly can make it harder for children to keep up and feel fully connected to school life.

Why we may contact you.

We completely understand that children sometimes become genuinely unwell, and also appreciate that families can face challenges from time to time.

Knowing the reason for an absence does not always mean that we are legally able to authorise it, but we will always want to understand your circumstances. Our approach is always to begin with a conversation and, wherever possible, to offer support. If illness, anxiety or family circumstances are affecting your child's attendance, please talk to us as early as you can so that we can work together to help.

If attendance starts to become a concern, or if unauthorised absences are recorded, you may receive a phone call or letter. Please don't see this as a criticism or as us trying to catch anyone out. It is simply part of our responsibility to ensure every child receives the education they are entitled to and to maintain the excellent attendance culture that benefits our whole school community.

What the law says.

Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to make sure that children of compulsory school age attend school regularly.

Schools are also required to monitor attendance, follow up on absences and, where necessary, work with the local authority if the national threshold for unauthorised absence is reached.

The national threshold

A penalty notice may be considered if a child has:

- **10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling period of 10 school weeks.**

There are two sessions in each school day, so this is usually the equivalent of five school days. The sessions do not need to be consecutive and can include unauthorised holidays, other unauthorised absences and lateness after the register has closed.

The current penalty notice charges are:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- £160 per parent, per child if paid between days 22 and 28.
- A second penalty notice for the same child within three years is £160 per parent, per child.

There is no attendance percentage at which prosecution automatically begins. However, prosecution may follow if a penalty notice is not paid. If the threshold is reached for a third time within three years, after two penalty notices have already been issued, Essex County Council

will normally consider prosecution rather than issuing another fine. A successful prosecution can result in a fine of up to £2,500.

It is important to know that the school does not receive any money from attendance fines. Penalty notices are issued by Essex County Council under the Essex Attendance Code of Conduct.

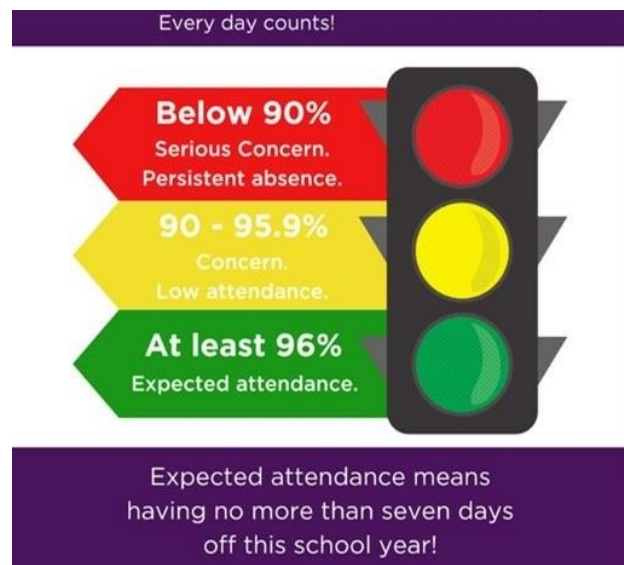
Attendance Matters

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 11th September 2026

EYFS	98.57 %
Year 1	87.89 %
Year 2	94.55 %
Year 3	89.00 %
Year 4	98.75 %
Year 5	96.52 %
Year 6	97.92 %
Whole School	94.78 %
YTD (from 01.09.2025)	92.90 %

Sickness Bugs

We have seen an increase in sickness bugs this week. Children must stay away from school for at least 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Why the 48-Hour Rule Matters

- Infectious period: Stomach bugs like norovirus spread very easily between children.
- Symptom-free timing: The 48-hour clock starts from the very last time the child was sick or had diarrhoea.
- Universal policy: The rule applies to all vomiting and diarrhoea, no matter the exact cause
- This rule applies universally to all students to stop the spread of highly contagious stomach bugs such as norovirus. It is especially important for protecting vulnerable members of our school community, including those with type 1 diabetes, those who are immunocompromised, and staff or pupils with underlying health conditions, for whom a stomach bug can have more serious consequences.

Autumn Term 2026 Dates - coming soon

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.

Well done to Ernie in Year 2 who achieved his Red Belt in kickboxing recently – what a great achievement!



Special Award for Writing

Year	Awarded to
Year 1	Taisonas
Year 2	Violet
Year 3	Joel
Year 4	Marcus
Year 5	Isaac
Year 6	Kaycee - Lee

Times Tables Rock Stars & Numbots Challenge - back soon!



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.

Useful Info



**PAXMAN
ACADEMY**
BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

Open Evening 1st October 2026
5:00pm-7:00pm



HEADTEACHER TALKS WITH MRS KERSHAW
5:15 PM & 6:00 PM
IN THE AUDITORIUM ON THE GROUND FLOOR



Join us for our open morning tours - 9.15am-10.30am 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th October 2026



SIGMA TRUST



The Gilbert School



Open Evening
Wednesday 16th September 2026

Doors open at 6.15pm. Event ends 9.00pm.
Tours: 6.30pm - 8.45pm
Headteacher's address: 6.45pm, 7.30pm and 8.15pm
(To book a place for the Headteacher's address, please complete the MS Form [here](#))
This will be an opportunity to tour the school and for parents/carers to meet our staff and students.

Selective places (musical aptitude test)
We are now accepting applications for 32 selective places in the 2026 intake via a musical aptitude test for students who reside within the Colchester and Tendring Boroughs.
To apply under this criteria, please complete the supplementary information form [here](#) when booking a place.
Please note, the musical aptitude test will take place after school during the week beginning Monday 5th October 2026.
Admissions, The Gilbert School, Brinkley Lane, Colchester, CO4 9PU
☎: 01206 842 211
🌐: www.gilberd.com ✉: admissions@gilberd.com





The Thomas Lord Audley School

Executive Headteacher - Simon Essex
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Tel: 01206 547911 | Email: enquiries@tla.school

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that your child has settled well back into school as they embark on the start of their final year at primary school.

I am pleased to provide details of the secondary school application process below and would like to extend an invitation to you and your family for our Open Morning Tours and our Open Evening

Open Morning Tours

This is a chance to see our school in action. We will walk you around the school while lessons and school life is on-going.

If you wish to attend one of our tours please arrive at the School Main Reception by 9am on the day. We will be hosting tours each day from Monday 21 September to Thursday 24 September. The tours will last about 90 minutes. Please email enquiries@tla.school to book a place on the tour.

Open Evening - Thursday 24 September

This is a chance to see all of our departments as they show case the great curriculum we have. On arrival, I will give a short introductory talk in our Main Hall before our wonderful Student Leaders from Year 10 and Year 11 provide a guided tour of our facilities.

If you wish to attend our Open Evening please arrive at the School's Student Services Reception (School Road end of the car park) between 3.45pm and 6.00pm to ensure you have enough time to complete the tour.

Applications

Applications are made directly to Essex County Council for all secondary school places in Colchester. Visit their [website](https://www.essex.gov.uk) for more information.

Please note you must ensure that your application is submitted on or before 31 October 2026.

If you have any questions or queries about this process, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hughes in our Main Reception. (Email: enquiries@tla.school or Telephone: 01206 547911)

Yours sincerely

Mr S Essex
Executive Headteacher

www.tla.essex.sch.uk

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Essex, CO15 4DE



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.