



18th September 2026

Newsletter No 3

Message from Mr Bullivant

What another fantastic week it has been at Cherry Tree Academy! We have welcomed some important visitors into school this week, providing our children with opportunities to learn about keeping themselves safe and making positive choices. Our Year 6 children took part in an important **knife crime awareness workshop**, where they explored the dangers and consequences associated with carrying knives and discussed how they can make safe choices and seek help if they ever find themselves in a difficult situation.

Towards the end of the week, we were also delighted to welcome the **Essex Fire and Rescue Service** into school for a special assembly. With Halloween and Bonfire Night approaching, the

children were given some really important messages about firework and bonfire safety, as well as how to keep themselves safe during the upcoming celebrations. The children listened brilliantly and we hope they will take these important messages home with them.

There has been some fantastic learning taking place across the school this week. Our Year 1 children have been getting hands-on with their science learning and enjoyed the opportunity to **dissect flowers and plants**. It was wonderful to see their curiosity as they carefully explored the different parts of a flower and developed their understanding through practical investigation.

Our Year 4 children have also had an exciting musical start to the year as they enjoyed their first lesson with **Essex Music Services**. The children have begun learning to play the **dudes and flutes**, and there were certainly some interesting sounds coming from the classroom! We are looking forward to hearing how their musical talents develop over the next couple of weeks as they continue their lessons each Wednesday.

Looking ahead, we are very excited to welcome a special visitor back to Cherry Tree next week. **Harold and the Life Space from Coram Life Education** will be visiting school, giving all of our children the opportunity to take part in an engaging session within the Life Space. These sessions provide children with opportunities to learn about themselves, their wellbeing, relationships and making healthy and safe choices in an engaging and memorable way. We are also looking forward to welcoming parents into school for a **parent workshop** alongside the visit. We hope as many parents as possible will be able to join us and find out more about the important messages and learning that the children will be exploring.

Have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to another exciting week at Cherry Tree.

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.

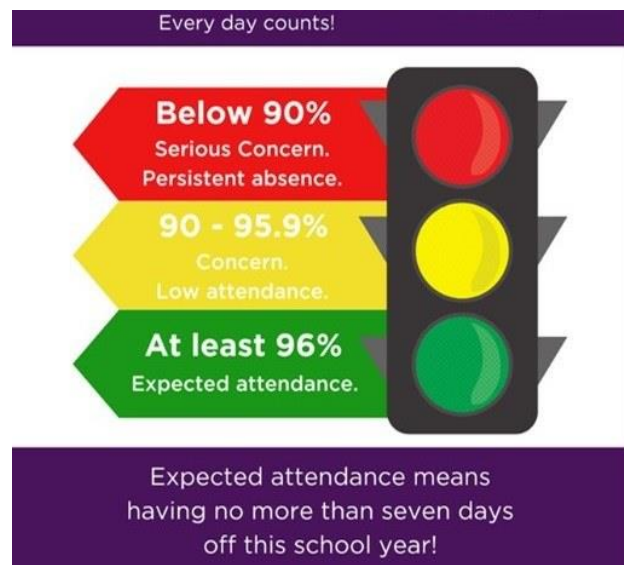
Attendance Matters

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 18th [September 2026](#)

EYFS	98.10 %
Year 1	95.65 %
Year 2	92.38 %
Year 3	90.48 %
Year 4	93.85 %
Year 5	98.64 %
Year 6	98.33 %
Whole School	93.51 %
YTD (from 01.09.2026)	92.49 %

European Languages Day – Friday 25th September

Bonjour à tous les parents et aux familles!

European Languages Day – Friday 25th September

We are very excited to be celebrating **European Languages Day** at Cherry Tree Primary School on **Friday 25th September!**

As you may know, here at Cherry Tree we love learning **French**, and we are looking forward to making the day *très amusant* as we celebrate the French language and culture.

To help us get into the French spirit, we would like **all children to come to school wearing red, white and blue** – the colours of the French national flag.

There is no need to buy anything new – children can simply wear clothes they already have in these colours. We would love to see lots of creative and colourful French-inspired outfits!

During the afternoon, the children will take part in a range of **fun French activities and lessons**. They will have the chance to practise their French, learn more about French culture and, of course, have lots of fun along the way!

We hope everyone will join in and help us make it a **fantastique French-filled day!**

Merci beaucoup for your support – and vive la France!

À bientôt !

Cherry Tree Primary School



European Languages Day

Fantastic French Menu – Friday 25th September



Option 1 - A Croque Monsieur with fries is a classic French ham and cheese sandwich, served alongside crispy French fries

Vegetarian / Halal option available

Jacket Potato – with usual toppings

Desert

A croissant is a buttery, flaky, crescent-shaped French pastry



Autumn Term 2026 Dates

w/c 9th September – Swimming for Year 5 and 6 – 10 sessions (Wednesday afternoons)

w/c 22nd / 23rd September Scarf Lifespace- Parent Workshop 23rd September 2.30pm

Wednesday 23rd September – Flu Immunisations – all years

Thursday 24th September – Phonics Meeting EYFS, Yr 1 & selected Y2

Thursday 24th September – 1.30pm Afternoon Tea with SLT. All parents welcome

Friday 25th September – European Day of Languages – French Day wear red white & blue

Wednesday 30th September – Phonics Workshop for parents – focus EYFS and KS1. Tea and coffee available from 8.30am.

w/c 5th and 12th October – One Planning Meetings

Monday 12th October - Whole School Pantomime

w/c 12th – 15th October Scholastic Book Fair in school

Wednesday 14th October - Road safety talks for EYFS and Year 5

Wednesday 14th October 2026 Collection for foodbank closes – all donations gratefully received

Friday 16th October – World Food Day. Special lunch – details to follow

Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st October – Parent Consultations – Afterschool appointments to be booked

Friday 23rd October – INSET day/ Non-pupil day

W/C 26th October - Half Term

Monday 2nd November – INSET day/ Non-pupil day

Tuesday 3rd November – Children return to school.

w/c 16th November – Anti-Bullying Week. Theme: Break the Silence

Monday- Odd sock day, Friday– world Kindness Day & Children in Need

Thursday 12th November Michael Rosen Poetry Day

w/c 23rd November – UK Parliament Week

Thursday 3RD December 9.30am iRock Concert (invited parents)

Tuesday 8th December – Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Performance – (afternoon)

Wednesday 9th December – Year 2 and 3 Christmas Performance (afternoon)

Thursday 10th December - EYFS and Year 1 Nativity (morning)

Friday 11th December – Christmas Fayre – afternoon

Friday 11th December – Flu Immunisation catch up session

Tuesday 15th December – Christmas Dinner Day – Christmas Jumpers

Friday 18th December – Last day of term. Class Parties in afternoon

Monday 4th January – INSET DAY/Non pupil day

Tuesday 5th January – Pupils back to school. First day of Spring Term

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.

Special Award for Writing



A certificate template for a 'Special Award' featuring a rainbow, stars, and a pencil. The text on the certificate includes 'I would like to tell you that...', 'You received a Special Award', and 'Special Award'.

Year	Awarded to
EYFS	Robyn
Year 1	Ella
Year 2	Archie
Year 3	Brian
Year 4	Demi- Grai
Year 5	Jack
Year 6	Milly

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.

TTRS Results		
Biggest improvement in accuracy	Arons	Year 5
	Tymofii	Year 4
	Harry	Year 4
Most minutes played	Bobby	Year 2
	Rital	Year 4
	Archer-Beau	Year 1
Biggest improvement in speed	Ben	Year 4
	Sophie	Year 4
	Demi-Grai	Year 4
Gone Green	Harry	Year 4
NUMBOTS		
Most Correct answers	Archer-Beau	Year 1

Useful Info



PAXMAN ACADEMY
BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

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

The poster features six circular images showing students in various activities: three girls in blue sports kits, a red tractor in front of a building, a student using VR, a student working on a microscope, a student writing in a notebook, and a student working on a model.

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 Thomas Lord Audley School

Executive Headteacher - Simon Essex
Acting Head of Axhool
Monkwick Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 8NJ
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.