



2nd October 2026

Newsletter No 5

Message from Mr Bullivant

What another wonderful week we have had at Cherry Tree Academy! It has been fantastic to see our children continuing to embrace their learning, showing curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm across the school.

This week, our Year 6 children took part in an important online safety workshop. As our children become increasingly confident and independent users of technology, it is vital that they understand how to stay safe online, make responsible choices and know what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable or worried. The children engaged really well with

the session and showed a good understanding of the importance of being safe and respectful when using technology.

We have also seen some lovely opportunities for children to make connections between their learning and the world around them. In Year 1, the children enjoyed bringing in their favourite soft toys from home for a special Teddy Bear Picnic, linked to their learning about *Farm to Folk*. It was wonderful to see the excitement on their faces as they shared their toys with their friends while developing their understanding through this engaging learning experience.

There has also been some fantastic practical learning taking place in our classrooms. In Year 4, the children have been busy investigating electricity as part of their science learning. They enjoyed building and testing their own electrical circuits, developing their understanding of how components work together and what is needed to make a circuit work successfully. It was great to see the children working collaboratively, solving problems and learning from their investigations.

A big thank you, as always, to our fantastic staff for the time and creativity they put into providing these opportunities for our children, and thank you to our families for your continued support.

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

Warm regards,

Mr Bullivant

European Languages Day!

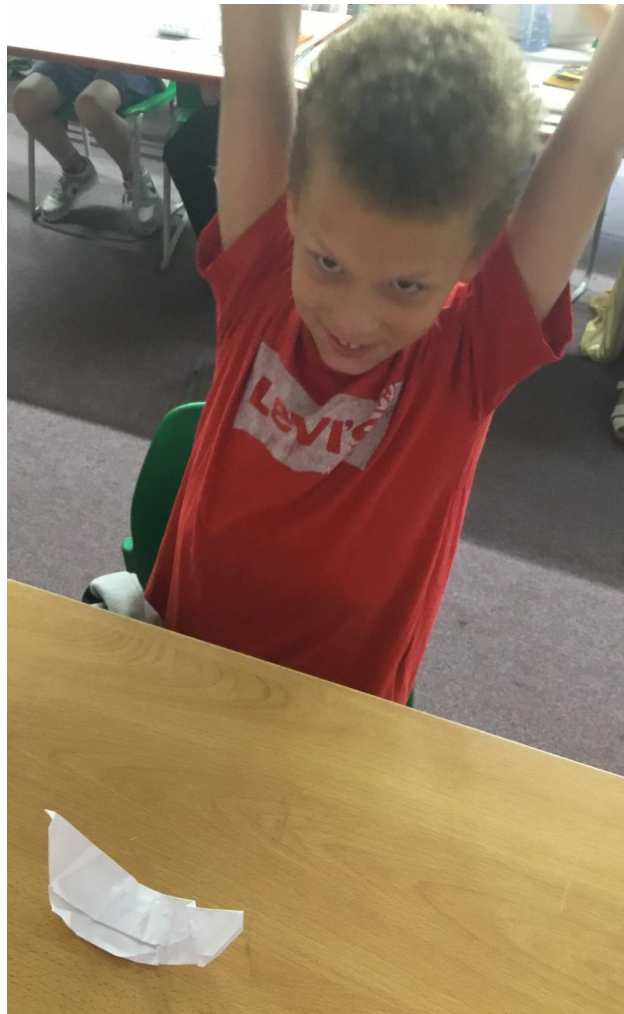
On Friday, we celebrated European Languages Day with a fantastic French-themed day at school!

The children (and staff!) got into the spirit by coming to school wearing something French or red, white and blue. They enjoyed a delicious themed lunch before taking part in lots of fun and engaging French-themed activities during the afternoon.

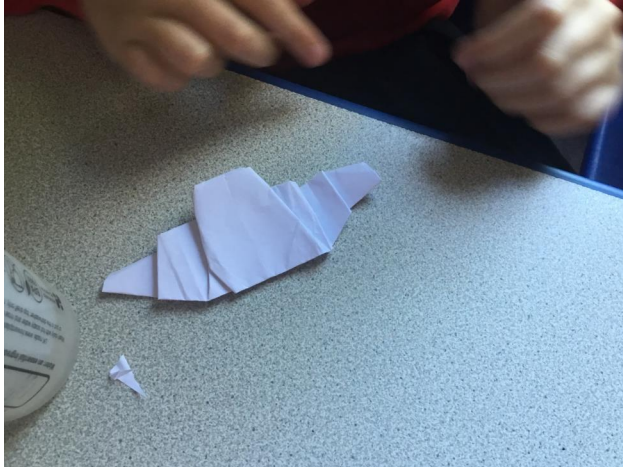
It was wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves while learning more about the French language and culture.















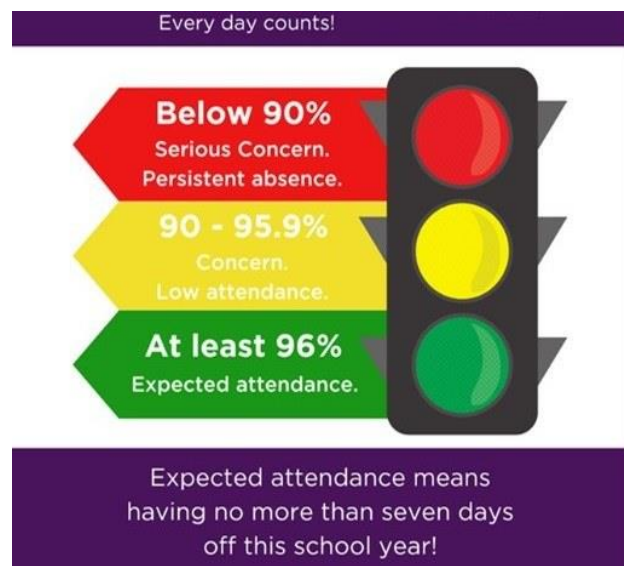
Attendance Matters

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 2nd October 2026

EYFS	92.62 %
Year 1	97.39 %
Year 2	96.19 %
Year 3	97.00 %
Year 4	97.60 %
Year 5	99.13 %
Year 6	97.50 %
Whole School	97.02 %
YTD (from 01.09.2026)	94.16 %

Early Years Reception Road Safety Session

We are pleased to invite EYFS parents to attend a Road Safety session delivered by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership Education team.

Date: 14th October 2026

Time: 9am

Location: Cherry Tree Academy

The session will begin with a short parent talk, followed by an interactive road safety session for the pupils.

During the session the pupils will learn to cross the road using our road mat, using the Green cross code: Stop, Look, Listen and Think!

The informative 45-minute presentation aims to equip both parents/carers and pupils with vital road safety knowledge. It will allow you to reinforce the key messages at home, ensuring your child understands and practices road safety consistently.

School Photos

Individual and sibling photos will take place on Thursday 22nd October 2026

Please ensure your child is in the correct uniform. If you would like younger siblings in the photos, please arrange for your children to be at school from 8.20am and enter the school through the side gate. Siblings that already attend school will be done later on in the session.

Thank you

FILL THE VAN!



Colchester Foodbank came to talk to us about the great work they do. After the success of their Fill the Van Plan last year, they are looking to make this year bigger and better!

We have pledged to collect as much food as we can and the foodbank will collect from Cherry Tree Academy on Wednesday 14th October 2026. Anything you can donate will be gratefully received and we thank you in advance for your support.

Autumn Term 2026 Dates

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

Thursday 22nd October School Photos

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.

Ben's swimming

Well done to Ben in year 4 who has achieved Sealion Award Level 1 in his swimming lessons – These are such great skills to have - amazing work!





Special Award for Writing



Year	Awarded to
EYFS	Neariah
Year 1	Penelope
Year 2	Rory
Year 3	Oliver
Year 4	Ben
Year 5	Murphy
Year 6	Evie

Times Tables Rock Stars & Numbots Challenge



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		
Under 3 seconds per question	Marcus	Year 4
NUMBOTS		
Highest number of minutes played	1 st Cameron 2 nd Leon 3 rd Rory	Year 2 Year 1 Year 2

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.

Useful Info

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.