



16th October 2026

Newsletter No 7

Message from Mr Bullivant

What another fantastic week we have had at Cherry Tree Academy! We started the week with a whole-school pantomime of Pinocchio, which was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. The children were fantastic, getting fully involved in the performance and embracing the opportunity to experience live entertainment together. It was a brilliant way to start the week and create some special memories for our children.

Road safety has also been a focus this week, with workshops taking place for our EYFS and Year 5 children. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for the children to learn about keeping themselves safe when out and about. A big thank you to the parents who joined us for

the EYFS workshop. It was lovely to see you taking the time to learn alongside your children about the importance of road safety and how we can all help to keep our youngest pupils safe.

It was also a pleasure to see our Year 1 children thoroughly enjoying their Ice Age Day, linked to their history topic. This was a fantastic and creative way to consolidate their learning from this half term, and the children looked amazing in their outfits! It was wonderful to see them so enthusiastic and engaged as they took part in a range of exciting activities. A huge well done to Year 1 for embracing the day so brilliantly!

I have also been incredibly impressed by the homework coming into school this week. We have seen some fantastic pieces of work, with children showing creativity, effort and real pride in what they have produced. A huge well done to all the children, and a big thank you to the families who continue to support their child's learning at home. I have particularly enjoyed the children coming to share their work with me and proudly explain what they have created. It is always a pleasure to see their enthusiasm and excitement when talking about their learning.

As always, thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our Cherry Tree community.

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

Warm regards,

Mr Bullivant

Ofsted

This week saw our Ofsted inspection on Tuesday and Wednesday. I could not be prouder of our whole school community and the way everyone came together to showcase what makes Cherry Tree Academy such a special place. It was wonderful to see so much excellent learning taking place across the school and our children demonstrating their enthusiasm, curiosity and pride in their work.

I was particularly proud of the children who spoke to our visitors, sharing their experiences and talking so confidently and articulately about their learning and life at Cherry Tree. The inspectors commented on the maturity, compassion and respect shown by our children, which is a fantastic reflection of the values we work hard to develop every day. Our children were brilliant ambassadors for the school, and they should feel incredibly proud of themselves.

A huge thank you to the parents and carers who took the time to share their views and provide personal comments about their experiences of Cherry Tree Academy. Your support and

feedback are greatly appreciated. We look forward to sharing the inspection report once it has been published, giving everyone an opportunity to read the findings and learn more about the work taking place across our school.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment throughout the inspection. I know how much effort goes into the work we do every day, and this week was a fantastic opportunity to showcase that. I am incredibly proud of the way everyone came together, supported one another and continued to put our children at the heart of everything they do. It was a real demonstration of what a fantastic team we have at Cherry Tree Academy, and I feel very fortunate to work alongside such a dedicated group of people.

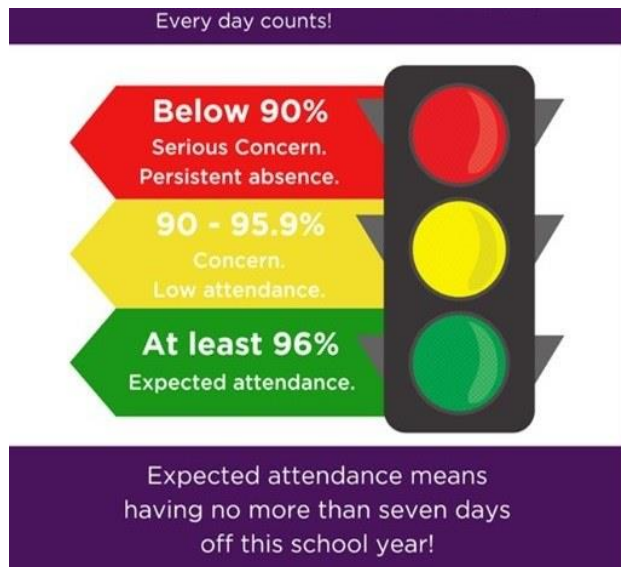
Attendance Matters

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.



What to do Advice on childhood illnesses Go to school; if needed get treatment as shown Can be catching. Some restrictions for school attendance Don't go to school and see the GP				
What it's called	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Chicken Pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters	●	Pharmacy	Back to school 5 days after on-set of the rash
Common Cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat	●	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Tearry, red, itchy, painful eye(s)	●	Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat	●	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
German measles	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards.	●	G.P.	Back to school 6 days from on-set of rash
Glandular fever	high temperature, sore throat; usually more painful than any before and swollen glands	●	G.P.	Child needs to be physically able to concentrate
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)	●	G.P.	Only need to stay off ill feeling too ill for school
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)	●	Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness	●	G.P.	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, and watery inflamed eyes. Small red spots with white or bluish white centres in the mouth, red, blotchy rash	●	G.P.	Back to school 4 days from on-set of rash
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty	●	G.P.	
Scabies	Intense itching, pimple-like rash itching and rash may be all over the body but commonly between the fingers, wrists, elbows, arm	●	G.P.	Back to school after first treatment
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash	●	G.P.	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea	●	Pharmacy	See GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus	●	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsillitis	Intense Sore throat	●	Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, over and over, until child inhales with "whooping" sound to get air into lungs	●	G.P.	Back to school after 5 days of antibiotics or 21 days from onset of illness

As we are now settling back into a new routine, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you all the expectations with regards to attendance and punctuality.

We understand that children may occasionally experience minor aches, pains, colds or coughs. However, these symptoms do not always mean that your child needs to stay at home. We can administer medicine if you supply and authorise us to do so.

We are happy to discuss any concerns and help you make an informed decision. Please note that any frequent or repeated illness may need to be supported by appropriate medical evidence.

Please find a link to the Essex County Council and NHS guidance on What To Do, Advice On Childhood Illness.

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!



Thank you and well done to all of you who took part in our Fill the Van Plan 2026!

Together with other schools in Colchester they raised a massive donation of 1898.2kg!!!!

Autumn Term 2026 Dates

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.

Solar Systems

Peyton has created a beautiful model of the solar system, which is part of our current Year 5 science topic. Her model also includes constellations, demonstrating her enthusiasm for extending her learning beyond the classroom.



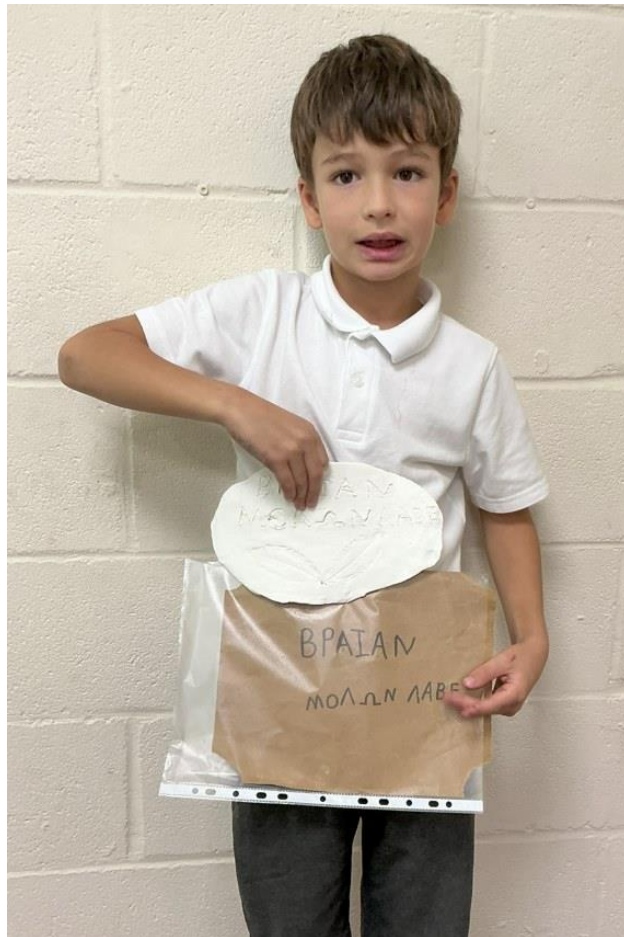
Ancient Romans

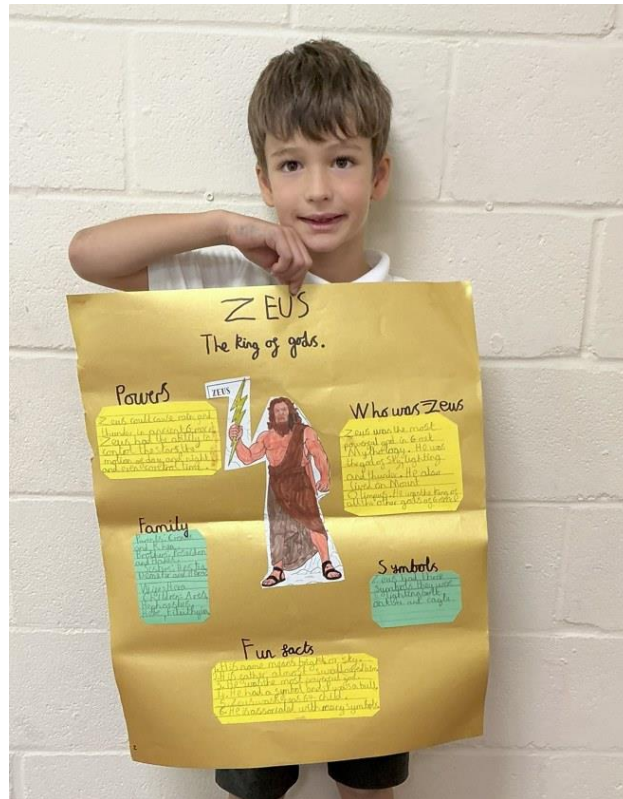


Ava has created an excellent model of an Ancient Roman sailing boat. Her project is carefully made and shows great attention to detail, including realistic sails and oars. The model demonstrates her understanding of Roman travel and trade. Ava worked creatively and accurately, producing a high-quality piece of homework that is both informative and impressive. Well done, Ava!"

Ancient Greece

Brian in Year 3 worked really hard to create an eye-catching fact file on Zeus. He also wrote his name in the Greek alphabet – very well done amazing work!





Special Award for Writing



Year	Awarded to
EYFS	Freddie
Year 1	Husna
Year 2	Indie-Mae
Year 3	Eloise
Year 4	Sophie
Year 5	Alicia
Year 6	Alex

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 2 seconds per question	Marcus	Year 4
Under 5 seconds per question	Sunny Rital Alexandra	Year 4
Under 8 seconds per question	Charlotte	Year 4
Under 9 seconds per question	Bonnie-Rae	
NUMBOTS		
Highest number of minutes played	1 st Halper 2 nd Cameron 3 rd Archie	Year 2 Year 2 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.