

NEWSLETTER



CherryTree
ACADEMY

MESSAGE FROM MISS NEWLEY

Dear All,

It has been magical this week in school!

Christmas jumper and dinner day on Tuesday was a huge success. Mrs Granger, Miss Reynolds and Miss Shute cooked up a storm in the kitchen, producing a wonderful festive feast for the children and staff to enjoy. The hall was decorated with the help of Mrs Baxter and the whole operation ran smoothly thanks to the serving duo - Miss Hartley and Mr Bullivant - and the Year 6 helpers.

The children loved eating with the staff, but loved the pigs in blankets and Yorkshire puddings more!

Thank you to everyone!

The Christmas Fayre was another brilliant event due to everyone pulling together and supporting the cause.

It was super busy so thank you for everyone's patience but mostly, thank you to everyone for their generosity with donations of prizes, giving up their time and parting with money for treats, games and gifts.

Together, we raised a whopping £1,322 which will go into our fundraising pot and towards exciting plans to improve our school.

The iRock performance yesterday was incredible! The children have been practising hard to get to grips with learning their chosen instrument each week and learn music together as a band.

Their performance today inspired other children (and staff!) to start lessons in the new year and made staff quite emotional - particularly Mrs Dunn who beamed watching her Year 3 pupils put on a show. Well done everyone!

Autumn term has certainly been a busy one! I am so proud of all of the children and the team that I am privileged to lead. They make me smile, laugh and surprise me every day with their wonderful and varied achievements! The support from parents and carers is also very much appreciated and makes all the difference.

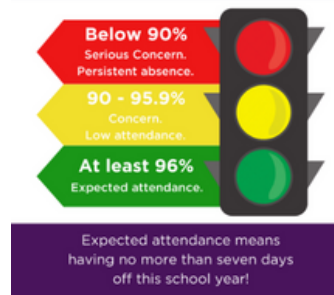
I would like to wish all of our school community a wonderful Christmas break and a happy and healthy new year!

We will see the children back in school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Enjoy the festivities everyone 😊!

Miss Newley

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



EYFS	95.2%
YEAR 1	91.8%
YEAR 2	93.7%
YEAR 3	98.4%
YEAR 4	92.9%
YEAR 5	87.8%
YEAR 6	87.3%
TOTAL SCHOOL	92.44%

READING AT CHERRY TREE



AT CHERRY TREE ACADEMY WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT ENSURING THAT EVERY CHILD IS A READER. ONE OF THE WAYS WE DO THIS IS TO USE A COMPUTER PROGRAM CALLED ACCELERATED READER (AR). AR HELPS TEACHERS MANAGE AND MONITOR CHILDREN'S INDEPENDENT READING PRACTISE. YOUR CHILD PICKS A BOOK AT HIS/HER OWN LEVEL AND READS IT AT HIS/HER OWN PACE. WHEN FINISHED, YOUR CHILD TAKES A SHORT QUIZ ON THE COMPUTER - PASSING THE QUIZ IS AN INDICATION THAT YOUR CHILD HAS UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAS BEEN READ.

Weekly word count ...

WB 19.12.24		
Year	Most words read - individual	Total words read – whole class
Year 1	Brian and Rayven	
Year 2	Anifowose – 2,838	5,373
Year 3	Nuala – 11,963	21,224
Year 4	Nicholas -10,064	57,890
Year 5	Noah – 37,724	54,700
Year 6	Victoria – 90,717	1,064,508

RESULTS

The highest number of minutes played:

Fosterina Year 5

Foster Year 3

Dwelldelina Year 6

The highest accuracy this week

Vinnie Year 3

Archer Year 3

Nicholas Year 4

The most improved speed this week

Arabella Year 3

Sydney Year 4

Apalachee Year 4



LEARNING YOUR TIMES TABLES IS SO IMPORTANT AND WE LIKE TO MAKE IT FUN FOR THE CHILDREN. WE USE TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS WHICH AN AWARD-WINNING MATHS PLATFORM WHERE CHILDREN CAN PRACTISE THEIR TIMES TABLES LIKE A ROCK STAR!

KS1 NUMBOTS CHALLENGE



AWARDED TO THE CHILDREN THAT PLAY FOR THE MOST TIME.

**1ST ANIFOWOSE
2ND RITAL
3RD MARCUS**

EYFS 2025

If you, or anyone you know, has a child that is due to start school next September 2025 please read the below.
If your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, you can now apply for primary (reception) school places. The application window is open between 4 November 2024 and 15 January 2025. Those received after the 15 January deadline will be considered once all on time applications are determined. This means applying late could reduce the chance of getting a place at your preferred school.

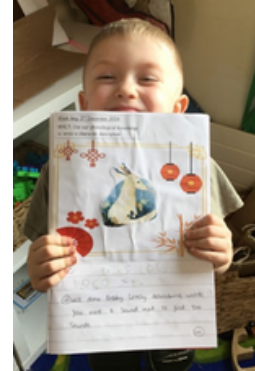
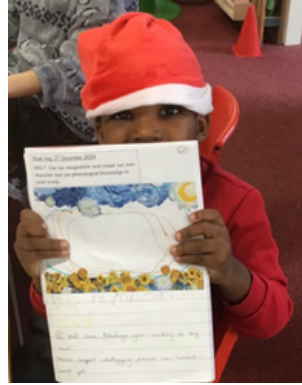
Message from the Office

Have a really lovely Christmas and happy New Year - we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

*Happy
Christmas!*

Acorn Class Autumn two update

This half term Acorn class have been extremely busy! All the children in Acorn class have shown real enthusiasm and willingness to learn, especially during our English lessons. They have all enjoyed our new class books and produced beautiful pieces of work.



During our wider curriculum lessons, we have been learning about different festivals and celebrations that take place across the world, this has included Halloween, Children in Need, Remembrance Day and Christmas!





Year 1 - Autumn term 2024

We have had a fabulous Autumn term and are proving to be super scientists, awesome authors and marvellous mathematicians! The book 'Send for a Superhero' has been a firm favourite this term, with the children becoming superheroes and saving the school from baddies Sugerplops and Ratbag. All the children had fantastic ideas, such as Terrific Tofunmi with her flame hands and Super Lucas with laser eyes!

In maths, children have been learning 3D shapes and subtracting on number lines. Science has been full of investigations and experiments. Children particularly loved the taste test. We jumped inside maps and created our own town in our geography lessons and the den building for our DT project was a huge success.

Best of all, children enjoyed splatting Mrs Griggs in the face with custard pies, so much so that they have chosen that as their class prize activity for next term! Look out for the Nativity picture which has been published in this week's Colchester Gazette Christmas supplement.



November Update: Year 2 – Elm Class

The Autumn term has been extremely busy for Elm Class and what a transformational term we have had!

We have been very busy with all of our topics from learning all about our planet in geography, learning all about significant people throughout history to learning about the nativity story within RE. The children have really enjoyed lots of their learning this month; they have particularly enjoyed Art where we have been exploring with primary and secondary colours to make different hues. The children are also really enjoying our New Science topic and particularly enjoyed our germs experiment! Feel free to ask them about this at home.

In maths, the children have been developing their addition and subtraction skills as well as their 2D and 3D shape recognition. They have shown great resilience and resourcefulness as they have worked their way through using dienes, place value grids, 3D shapes and we have learnt and embedded some great maths vocab- Why not ask your child what a vertex or an edge is? We look forward to working on our next unit in the new year- money. In fact, it would be great if you could expose them to the different coins and explain what their value is as this will help recap their year 1 learning before we move on.

In English and Reading we have explored a variety of texts from alternative books to traditional fairytales to non-fictional based stories! The children have created some lovely pieces of writing and are working hard to include the basic features of a sentence (capital letters, finger spaces and full stops) and are now working on including adjectives, ambitious vocabulary and adverbs! Why not encourage your child to write a holiday diary to help them practice their phonics application and writing skills?

I have noticed that the children's attitude to learning, their resilience and their respect has come on leaps and bounds and myself and Mrs Ellis are so incredibly proud of the great role models that they are becoming. As we progress into year 2 we are excited to watch them further bloom into the wonderful individuals we know they are. We are very proud of them.

In the new term we are looking forward to taking our trip to Friday woods to explore habitats - when the weather improves and the animals begin to come out of hibernation! We will be continuing with our current Science topic 'Human Survival' where we will be looking at the importance of sleep, exercise and a healthy, balanced diet. We are also looking forward to starting a variety of new topics across the curriculum!

We look forward to sharing our amazing learning with you in the new year so please keep an eye on our FaceBook page for updates.

Please keep up the daily reading, spelling practice, Numbots/TTRS and Phonics Play at home as this makes a huge difference. As always, a sincere thank you for your ongoing support from myself and all staff at Cherry Tree.

Elm Class Team – Miss Bassnett and Mrs Ellis



Autumn Term Update: Year 3 – Willow Class

Year 3 have had an extremely busy term and it has been lovely to still be their teacher again this year. They have worked very hard on their learning behaviours as they are growing in confidence and independence now they have started their journey into KS2.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. We know have learnt how to answer these questions mentally and using a range of written methods. We have also been completing our fluent in 5, ensuring that we increase our pace and answer all questions.

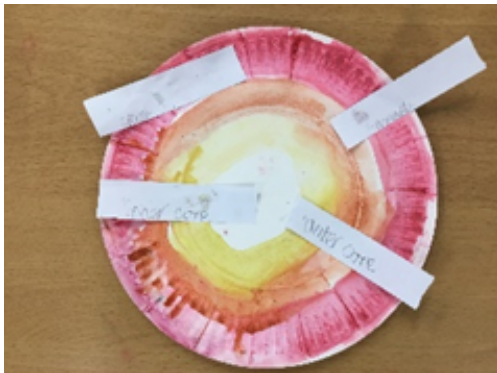
In English we have studied many books including, Arthur and the golden rope, The BFG, The Tear thief, The seed that grew the tree, The first drawing and Leon and the place between. We have been totally immersed in these books and love having them to look at during our reading and writing sessions. We have been working incredibly hard on our spellings this term. Our new blue spelling books are really helping, they give the children space to practice and try at home. Keep working hard on this year 3! The children have enjoyed our new Science topic 'Animal nutrition and the skeletal system'. The children really enjoyed learning the names of the bones and why they are important to humans and animals as you witnessed in our assembly! We have spent a lot of time learning new vocabulary and have tried really hard to demonstrate this when conducting various experiments.

In geography we have learnt a lot about our planet. Children have learnt about the different layers of the earth, tectonic plates, capital cities and counties. We love using an atlas and children have really been really inquisitive about this topic.

Our favourite lesson has to be History. It has been so much fun learning all about the Stone age, Bronze age and Iron age. The children have learnt so many facts and have really enjoyed role play in these lessons. We have also made pre-historic pots in Art which linked very nicely to this history topic.

The highlight has to be our class assembly and their Christmas performance. They worked so well as a team and had so much fun. This class are truly amazing and I couldn't be any more proud of them. My face is constantly smiling by how much they amaze me every day.

Merry Christmas from all the children and their adults in Willow Class.



Year 4 Christmas Newsletter!

In guided reading, we have started reading *The Wild Robot* book. We have really enjoyed reading it this term, Jess' favourite part was when Brightbill returned home and told us about his journey. Delilah's favourite part was when Brightbill left home, even though it was sad. We look forward to finding out what happens next!

In Science we have been learning about sound. This is a new topic for us but we have already learnt that your ear can hear up to 20,000 hertz, when we hear sound it's through vibrations, only dogs can hear dog whistles because dogs can hear very high pitched sounds that humans can't! Before we moved onto sound—we were looking at the digestive system & eco systems. We completed an experiment to see how pollution affects habitats. For our experiment, we put some pondweed into 5 separate jars filled with different liquids.



We had:

- Salt water
- Detergent dissolved in water
- Fertiliser dissolved in water
- Bleach
- Normal water

For 2 weeks we observed the changes to the pondweed to see which had the most drastic effect. No surprise it was the bleached water that had the most damaging effect on the pondweed—it changed colour from green to pale yellow and began to disintegrate.

In English, we were reading the book 'Varmints'. For this unit, we planted and grew our own plants that the secret gardeners had left behind for us to help them save the earth from being polluted by the evil varmints. We watched the varmints film which helped us understand the story of pollution. We also wrote letters to the varmints to get them to stop polluting and dissected lilies to help us understand more about the plants we were growing. Recently, we have been looking at a book called 'FARTHER' and learning about a father who has a dream about flight. He has made some wings out of feathers because it is his wish to fly. We have written a postcard pretending to be the boy from the story and writing about our day, we had to include perfect present tense and abstract nouns. Delilah added the sentence 'I got a tingle of wonder when we caught crabs and a wave of joy'. Caden added 'a wave of happiness took me away, I will never forget this day'.

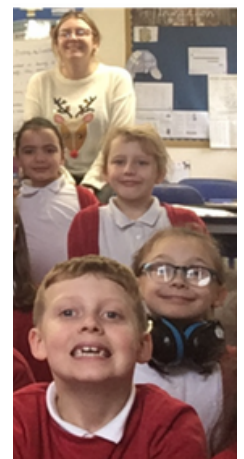
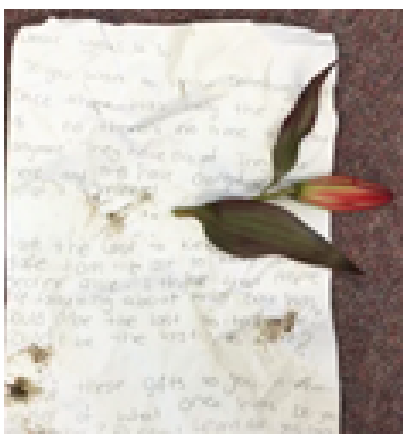
This term we have been focussing on multiplication and division facts in Maths. We have looked at all of the times tables and which ways are effective for remembering them. We have also looked at multiplying by 1 and 0 and multiplying 3 numbers.

In History we have been learning about the Anglo Saxons and Vikings. There were 4 different types of buildings that Anglo Saxon's lived in—a hall, a weaving house, a workshop and the living house. When learning about Vikings—we learnt that there were 4 people who wanted to be king after King Athelstan died. Due to them not being able to agree on who should be king, three of the people (William Duke of Normandy, Harold Hardrada and Harold Godwinson) had various battles for the title of king. Eventually, William Duke of Normandy won after killing Harold Godwinson and was then called William The Conqueror for conquering England.

We have enjoyed being in year 4 this term and look forward to learning some more exciting things after Christmas.

Have a restful, happy Christmas.

Love from
All of year 4 x



YEAR 5 – BEECH CLASS

This term, Year 5 – Beech Class have been incredibly busy, diving into a variety of exciting topics and activities across the curriculum!

In Maths, we have focused on building a strong understanding of place value, addition and subtraction, and fractions. The children have worked hard to develop their confidence in these areas, using problem-solving and reasoning skills to tackle increasingly challenging questions. Their progress has been fantastic, and they should all feel proud of their efforts!

In English, we have been inspired by some fascinating texts. Using *The Walk*, which is based on the achievements of Philippe Petit, the children wrote impressive biographies detailing his daring feats and resilience. Later in the term, we explored *Hidden Figures*, an inspiring text that celebrates the achievements of remarkable women in history. This motivated the children to produce informative non-chronological reports filled with fascinating facts and imaginative flair.

In Science, we have been investigating the exciting topic of forces. The children explored concepts such as gravity, pulleys, gears, and levers through hands-on activities and experiments. This topic sparked great curiosity and enthusiasm in the classroom! Now, we are venturing into the wonders of space, and the children are eager to learn about the solar system and beyond.

In History, we have journeyed back in time to explore the fascinating world of Chinese dynasties. The children have enjoyed discovering the rich history and cultural achievements of this period, and they have worked hard to deepen their understanding through creative projects and discussions.

In Music, we have been learning to play and sing the classic song *Living on a Prayer*. Using glockenspiels, the children practiced playing in time with the music and explored how different notes can harmonize. Their enthusiasm and teamwork have made these sessions both productive and enjoyable, and the class can't wait to showcase their progress.

This term also saw us completing our swimming unit. The sessions were a highlight for many of the children, and it was wonderful to see their confidence and skills in the water improve week by week.

Additionally, we had a valuable Police Workshop where we learned about the risks associated with being online and the impact of anti-social behaviour. The workshop gave the children an important opportunity to reflect on how to make safe and positive choices in their lives.

As the term draws to a close, we are already looking forward to the exciting opportunities that await us in the coming months. Well done, Year 5, for all your hard work and enthusiasm this term!



Autumn Term 2024/2025: Year 6 – Oak Class

We have completed so much learning, in the first full term of the year, that we may again not have enough space to fit it all in.

At the beginning of September, Mrs Helsden was lucky enough to welcome back the same class of learners as she did last year. We lost a few over the summer holidays (a bit careless of us) but we have now replenished the 'stock' and we have a full class of 30 children- yippee!

In maths, we have been learning a few new concepts, like long division and BODMAS but mostly, we are revisiting the fantastic learning we completed in year 5 (decimals and fractions may have been a part of your dinner time conversations lately). We have also put in place some more morning maths questions we are calling 10 in 10. This is because 5 just wasn't enough to keep us busy, because we are smashing maths so much!

We have been learning about World Wars One and Two in history and geography. We have learnt about how the wars began and we were lucky enough to experience some real artifacts and letters, that were brought in by Tommy, Albie and Jesse, from relatives who have been part of wars around the world. (William said the gas mask freaked us out, Phoebe said the helmet was heavy and they all agreed that the grenade 'blew us away').

In English, we have read three different books through our new Literacy units (both writing and reading) which we have absolutely adored. Because they have amazed us so much, we would now like to write some reviews on them for you:

The invention of Hugo Cabret- This was our favourite book of the set because we thought that the illustrations carried the story and it left us on a cliff hanger at the end of every chapter. During our reading, we experienced silent movies (the first movie- Safety Last- which we found hilarious but a little strange) and we watched Hugo at the end of the book study, after writing amazing biographies.

Leila and the Blue Fox- We liked the description and the pictures. We learnt lots of facts about the Arctic (along with how to survive a polar bear attack) and Hans Island. We also learnt how to recover our phones when they are coated in a mushed banana! Mrs Helsden sometimes cried, at the story, but we didn't mind. We used the book to write some very descriptive (and humorous) Blogs.

On the Move (by Michael Rosen)- This was full of poetry about refuges and migration. This linked to our history really well and helped us to understand the difference between the two words. We like poetry and the collection of poems taught us so much, through a different style of writing.

Science has been enlightening. Our topic this term has been the circulatory system and we were lucky enough to dissect some real-life hearts (although, some of us were not as keen as others)! This helped us to realise the feeling and sensation of a real heart. Additionally, we were able to observe the muscles, ventricles, atriums and different arteries. We also learnt about the functions of the heart and different features of our blood, including plasma, which helps to clot. We used our knowledge to create bloods and its components (see photo below).

We mustn't forget to mention how our class came second in the maths challenge, losing graciously to year 2 (let's face it, we were not gracious and very unhappy). We all agree though that we beat last year's total and our two movie nights were exceptional. We earnt £196.60 and we will keep you posted as to how we spend it all (video games are apparently not an option 😞).

Another massive well done to the class on their Christmas performance. We didn't burn ourselves on the candles and our singing raised the roof. Mrs Helsden still hasn't told us what the summer's 'colossal' performance is going to be, but if it is anything like the Christmas play, you will be in for a treat (year 6 wanted to add here that it is not an actual sweet treat 😊).

We are looking forward to our residential in March and we are going to work really hard between now and then. Thank you for reading about our progress.

From Oak Class (and a little input from Mrs Helsden).

