



# NEWSLETTER

21ST MARCH 2025

## WELCOME

We have thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine this week and hope it continues!

Our recent local excursions have been delightful. Year 5 embarked on an adventure to Leavesden Country Park, demonstrating incredible resilience during their long walk. They arrived with smiles and had a wonderful time. Year 2 visited Waddesdon Manor on a beautifully sunny day. This weekend, Miss McCafferty is taking our choir to perform at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala on Sunday, 23rd March 2025. We can't wait for our children to experience this. We are immensely proud and wish them the best of luck!

Last week, you may have noticed, our Key Stage 2 students experienced their first Holi celebration at Cherry Tree. It was heart-warming to see so many smiles and laughter. We look forward to making this an annual tradition. For more details, please see the next page.

Next week, we anticipate our Key Stage 1 Easter Bonnet Parade to celebrate Easter. Unfortunately due to logistics we can't invite parents, but we are sure your children will be excited to tell you all about it. Additionally, with many in our school community preparing for Eid, we have scheduled classroom Eid parties for 4th April.

We kindly remind you of the importance of adhering to the school uniform policy. We are collaborating with you and your children to ensure everyone is comfortable and safe in their attire. Thank you for your support in this matter. If you need any assistance or have questions regarding the uniform, please don't hesitate to reach out.

To stay updated and celebrate our students' learning experiences, follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). We also aim to enhance our presence on [Instagram](#). Please do follow us to see what's going on.



Thank you,  
Cheska Tyler  
Headteacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 23/03/25 - Year 4 & 5 Choir to the Royal Albert Hall
- 27/03/25 - Year 6 Lincolnsfield Centre Trip
- 28/03/25 - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2 Easter Bonnet Parade
- 28/03/25 - Year 6 Parents SATs Information meeting
- 02/04/25 - 9am & 6pm Phonics Workshop for Year 1 Parents
- 03/04/25 - Parent Open Classroom (3 - 3.30pm)
- 04/04/25 - Eid celebrations in classes
- 04/04/25 - Last Day of Term (School finishes at 1.30pm)
- 22/04/25 - INSET Day School closed to students
- 23/04/25 - First Day of Summer 1 Term

## WATFORD HARRIERS JUNIOR CHALLENGE - 29th MARCH 2025

The Junior Challenge is a fun road race held annually by Watford Harriers at Cassiobury Park.

This is open to all children up to Year 9, regardless of ability, and offers a fantastic opportunity for young athletes to take part in a competitive event.



If your child would like to enter please [click the link](#) for more information.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS - APPLY BEFORE MARCH 2025

Over 6,000 households in Hertfordshire may be eligible for free school meals but haven't yet applied! If your child qualifies, they could also receive benefits such as food vouchers, free school holiday camps, discounted travel, and help with music fees.

Additionally, every eligible application provides extra funding for our school to support disadvantaged pupils.

The eligibility criteria may change after March 2025, so we encourage you to apply as soon as possible. Full details have been sent via email. However, if you think you may be eligible, please [use this link](#) to apply.

**We are kind, we aim high, we are brave!**

## BOOK CORNER

Today is Comic Relief Day, and this year, the long-running fundraising charity is celebrating '40 Years of Funny.' Since its inception in 1985, Comic Relief has invested over £1 billion in supporting vulnerable people and communities, aiming to create a just world free from poverty.



This got me thinking about the importance of laughter for our well-being and the books that have made me giggle or laugh out loud while I've been lost in their pages.

Here are a few of my favourites, including 10 Delicious Teachers, which we all enjoyed reading during book week. Please let me know which books have made you chuckle too!

Emma Hill  
Class teacher/English Leader

## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Following last week's celebration of Ms. Parles' certification, we're excited to announce that Miss Adams has also completed the Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Two-Day Course and is now certified!



With both Ms. Parles and Miss Adams trained to recognise mental health issues, reduce stigma, and support our students, we can proudly say we're one of the best-trained schools when it comes to mental well-being. Join us in congratulating Miss Adams on this fantastic achievement!

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Please be aware of our designated safeguarding team here at Cherry Tree. If you ever have a concern about a child, family or staff member in our school, please contact one of these members of staff: Emma Hibberd (Assistant Headteacher), Katy Wolstencroft (Deputy Safeguarding Lead) Cheska Tyler (Headteacher), Vicky Carrack (Inclusion Leader & SENDCo), Emma Birdsall (EYFS & KS1 Lead), Emma Penfold (KS2 Lead), Jo Crocket (Pastoral Leader) or Sarah Wickham (Wrap Around Leader).

## HAPPY HOLI!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in our Holi festivities. Your enthusiasm made the event truly memorable - filling the day with smiles, collaboration, and laughter.



It was wonderful to see our community come together to learn more about this vibrant celebration. Thank you once again to our KS2 teachers and Mrs Chauhan for making this event so special.

## EASTER TECH & STEM CAMP

An exciting new holiday camp is coming to Cherry Tree this Easter from 14th to 17th April. Children in receipt of Pupil Premium can use their previously emailed HAPpy Camps code to book their place. [Click here for more information.](#)



## EASTER BONNET PARADE

As part of our R.E. curriculum, we will be learning about the Christian festival of Easter and will be holding an Easter Bonnet Parade for EYFS and KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) on Friday 28th March. We would like the children to decorate a hat at home and bring it into school on this day.

Please do not feel any need to buy or make anything special - below are some ideas.



However, a simple paper hat with decorations is fine too! Children do not have to make or wear a bonnet if they do not want to- it is optional! We look forward to sharing all the lovely hats at our parade.

# What we are learning.....

For EYFS, please see updates on your weekly letters and Tapestry.

## Year 1

Writing - writing instructions for recipes based on the book 'Oliver's Vegetables'.

Phonics- /c/ in school, /sh/ in chef, /z/ in freeze, tease, /s/ in dance, /o/ in wasp, /ar/ in father, /or/ in water, /ai/ in baking.

Maths - finding the difference between numbers.

Science - looking at how plants have changed over time.

Wider Curriculum – creating nature inspired art using different resources.

## Year 2

Writing - exploring setting and character descriptions based on "The Wind in the Willows".

Maths - recognising the value of coins (20p, 50p, £1) and using £ and p symbols.

Science – finding out how and why plants disperse their seeds.

Wider Curriculum – drawing our own fairytale maps using a key.

Guided reading – 'The No. 1 Car Spotter' by Atinuke.

## Year 3

Writing – exploring newspaper reports and writing about Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun.

Maths - adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator.

Science - sharing our learning about sustainability with others.

Wider Curriculum - visiting the British Museum to explore Egyptian artefacts and discovering how Egyptians were mummified.

Guided Reading - 'You're a Bad Man Mr Gum' by Andy Stanton.

## Year 4

Writing - using 'The Man Between the Wire' to look at the key features of a newspaper report and then producing our own.

Maths - focusing on division. We are starting with short division and then we will move onto long division.

Science - reviewing our work on climate change and looking at what we can do to help this matter.

Wider Curriculum - looking at the Taj Mahal.

Guided Reading – 'The Borrowers' by Mary Norton.

## Year 5

Writing – planning and writing a narrative based on a stimulus.

Maths - investigating translating and reflecting shapes.

Science - exploring reversible and irreversible changes and investigating our own STEM heroes.

Wider Curriculum - designing and making sculptures inspired by our heritage.

Guided Reading – 'The Lion above the Door' by Onjali Rauf.

## Year 6

Writing - writing narratives about concentration camp escapee.

Maths - solving problems involving measures, analysing statistics and exploring algebra and number sequences.

Science - investigating invertebrates to identify the groups they belong to.

Wider Curriculum –investigating the messages behind propaganda during WWII.

Guided Reading – identifying techniques to answer reading comprehension questions.

## Reminders

Don't forget our 'Open Classroom' event on Thursday the 3rd of April between 3.00pm - 3.30pm where parents are invited to visit classrooms to chat informally to the teacher and look at children's work.

We have been participating in the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project which aims to improve the school experience and outcomes for children who are neurodiverse and attending mainstream primary school. We would appreciate it if you could complete the PINS Parent Carer Survey [by clicking this link](#). The survey should take less than five minutes to complete and is open until 28th March 25.



# TOP CHERRIES



Our Top Cherry Award is an award to celebrate exceptional behaviour, learning or manners. These children really are going above and beyond!

Class	Child's Name	Reason
Lunchtime	Millie	For being so caring, understanding and supportive with the children that are still learning their social skills.
Sunrise/Sunset	Reuben (2C)	For being a great role model. Well done Reuben!!
Fireflies	Ryley (Fir)	For always being a great role model whilst at forest school. Well done Ryley.
Cherry Blossoms	Jeshwin	For his amazing enthusiasm during bucket time and singing! Great work!
Berries	Lucas	For being independent in self-help skills.
Acorns	Lubaba	For settling into Acorns well and aiming high with your phonics.
Conkers	Lily	For always trying her best and helping others to follow rules.
Maple	Iris	For aiming high in her writing, making superb progress, we are so proud of you!
Birch	Myla	For always aiming high in every lesson and challenging yourself. Well done!
Cedar	Aida	For always being a great role model.
Willow	Marcel	For aiming high and making great progress.
Sycamore	Arhab	For aiming high by working hard both at school and at home – well done.
Hazel	Shayne	For always aiming high in his presentation and content of his work.
Ash	Samreen	For aiming high and making fantastic progress as a result.
Yew	Suruthika	For always having a smile on her face and being kind to everyone around her.
Pine	Kushil	For aiming high with his writing - we are proud of you Kush.
Fir	Jonah	For settling into his new class so brilliantly - well done Jonah!
Oak	Michael	For being a shining star this year. Your progress has been phenomenal because you consistently aim high in your learning.
Elm	All of Elm Class	For aiming high and persevering through your mock SATs week! You should be so proud of yourselves!

Well done, Cherries!



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