



NEWSLETTER

15TH DECEMBER 2023

WELCOME

We have celebrated the festive season with a number of spectacular events. Thank you so much to the many parents who came to support your children and watch them shine. I'd like to say a huge thank you to our EYFS for their fabulous nativity 'The Angel Express'. Our youngest children were so brave - we are very proud of them! This event also raised £93.26 for our Friends so thanks to all who made a donation. Congratulations also go to our choir who entertained shoppers at Asda raising £82.07, which will be used to partially fund the brass band's trip to the Youth Champs Brass Band Championship next year.

A very big 'good luck' in advance of next week's performances to our Years 1-6 children and a huge 'well done' as I know they will be amazing! We also have our Christmas dinner to look forward to on Tuesday next week. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper for this occasion (full school uniform otherwise).

Sadly, it is time to say goodbye to Lianne Campbell. We will miss Miss Campbell and wish her lots of luck on her onward journey - we hope she will come back and visit us!

Thank you always for your support and a very Merry Christmas from us all here at Cherry Tree!

Cheska Tyler
Headteacher

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

With more free time over the school holiday, children often increase their screen usage. We strongly encourage families to have open discussions about online safety and what children are doing online.

Please take the time to review how safe your child is online and set limits on when and where devices can be accessed. Remind children never to share personal information or meet strangers contacted online without trusted adult supervision. Monitor your child's internet activity and utilise parental controls when possible.

Working together we can help students make wise online choices this holiday season. Please contact the school with any cyber-related concerns.

Happy holidays and safe surfing!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Tuesday 19th December 9.15 - 10am - Christmas Concert Years 1,2 & 3 (tickets only)
- Tuesday 19th of December - Christmas Lunch
- Tuesday 19th December 2.30 - 3.15pm - Christmas Concert Years 4,5 & 6 (tickets only)
- Wednesday 20th December - Last Day of Term (Finish 1.30pm)
- Thursday 4th January 2024 - First Day of Spring Term
- Friday 5th January - Year 6 trip to Nutcracker Ballet
- Thursday 25th January - Individual & Family Group photos

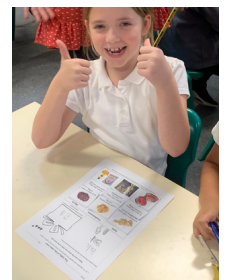


Chris the Christingle

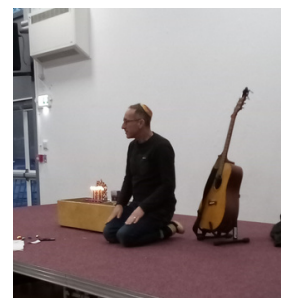
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This half term we have really enjoyed welcoming visitors from our local community to support our RE curriculum.

These include the Watford Schools Trust who came to talk about the Christmas story with Year 2, The Three Wise Men and the importance of gifts at Christmas with Year 3, Christingles and meeting 'Chris the Christingle' in Year 4 and a Workshop on the importance of Christmas for Christians in Year 6.



We have also been fortunate to receive visits from Rabbi Aaron Goldstein from The Ark Synagogue, who delivered a whole school assembly on the festival of Hanukkah and Captain Mark Scoulding from The Salvation Army to talk about Advent.



We are grateful to have these important volunteers to kindly share their knowledge with the children of Cherry Tree.

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

READING CORNER

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the last Book Corner of 2023! It has been an amazing year at Cherry Tree with so many interesting author visits and ensuring our children having the opportunity to read and borrow from our wonderful library. Reading is such an inspiration to our children's growing and inquisitive minds! Here are a few of my favourite moments...



I wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas and look forward to all the adventures we will go on together in 2024!

Happy reading!

Jane Sibbit

LKS2/Reading Leader/Class Teacher

SPRING TERM CLUBS

Our website has been updated with all the details that you need to book Clubs for the first half of the Spring term. Please check your emails for more information or [click](#) this link to view our website.

RECEPTION CLASS ADMISSIONS 2024-25

Applications for Reception 2024-25 are closing soon and the deadline for applications is Monday the 15th of January 2024. We still have a few scheduled [weekly tours](#) of the school so please share this with anyone who may be interested.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

The Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) has been set up so that all agencies and organisations who work with children and young people work together to keep children safe.

Call 0300 123 4043 at anytime if you are a child or young person being abused or mistreated; or if you are an adult worried about a young person. Call 999 if you're in immediate danger or a crime is being committed.



PLEASE STOP



SPEAK OUT



DON'T TOUCH

KINDNESS ISN'T JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

As part of our Christmas preparations, some of our classes joined the music company, Electric Umbrella in learning and signing their new Christmas single 'Kindness Isn't Just For Christmas'.



We took part in a zoom workshop with other schools across Hertfordshire which was recorded and used to create a fabulous music video.

It is a really catchy tune, with a wonderful message! Do have a watch, by [clicking this link](#), and see if you can spot any familiar faces.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Hertfordshire County Council has decided to provide a £30 digital supermarket voucher for every child receiving benefit related free school meals for the festive period. If you are eligible, this voucher should be emailed to you on Monday 18th of December 2023.

WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT!!

We would like to celebrate our very own Vanisha who became "Badger of the Year" and led the Remembrance Parade for St. John's Ambulance in the West Anglia, Bedfordshire, and Hertfordshire region. Vanisha, we're incredibly proud of you - keep up the great work!



FOOD SUPPORT IN HERTFORDSHIRE THIS CHRISTMAS

Operating hours for food support organisations (including foodbanks and pantries) have changed over the Christmas period. Christmas operating hours and details of additional Christmas sessions for residents can be found on the Hertfordshire County Council [help with cost of living page](#).

You can also access their [cost of living toolkit](#) for more information on the help available, including standard opening hours outside of the Christmas period.

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.





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 | Rachel | For always bringing a happy smile and positive energy to the Hub at lunchtimes. |
| Red & Ready | Buster | For engaging and persevering with all the Christmas crafts and activities. |
| Fireflies | Yuvan | For being brave whilst at forest school. |
| Berries | Ayla | For delivering her Christmas play lines with confidence |
| Acorns | Iris | For being so brave and confident in our Christmas play. |
| Conkers | Joseph | For persevering when learning his lines for the play. Well done! |
| Maple | Mason | For persevering and remembering to use finger spaces in his work. Well done for aiming high! |
| Birch | Jacob | For being a good role model. You are a good friend who is always kind. For working hard and aiming high. |
| Cedar | Kian | For aiming high and being brave in all lessons this week. |
| Willow | Bayyan | For persevering with her writing and consistently trying her best in lessons. |
| Sycamore | Charles | For being a great role model to everyone around the school and showing how to be kind, be brave and aim high. |
| Hazel | Haroon | For always aiming high in your work and always being willing to take on a challenge, especially in Maths. |
| Ash | Eva | For aiming high in all you do. A great role model to others! |
| Yew | Hanna | For being a kind and caring member of Yew class and always setting a wonderful example. |
| Pine | Jai | For consistently aiming high and persevering in all subjects. You are a great role model for your peers! |
| Fir | Thavaneiya | For being such a shining star in our class! You constantly display all the school's values, well done you! |
| Oak | Dilan | For always being kind and helpful around the classroom |
| Elm | Nivethan | For always being so kind and so polite. |

Well done, Cherries!



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