



NEWSLETTER

15TH MARCH 2024

WELCOME

Firstly, might I start by saying Ramadan Kareem to our Muslim community. Wishing you a Ramadan filled with peace, joy and spiritual fulfilment.

I'd like to welcome Poppy Davis to our Reception team. Mrs Davis will be the Conkers Class Teacher after the Easter holidays, but has already been working with Year 2 and in our Cherry Blossoms class. I'd also like to update you that Fiona Sparks, who has been working at Cherry Tree for some time now, will become our Teacher in Cherry Blossoms. Sadly, Mrs Waheed (working in EYFS) will be leaving us after Easter and will be taking up an exciting new job role within the county. We will miss her very much but wish her lots of luck!

I would like to share a big congratulations to Edmitchel in Year 3 for achieving first place in his recent Bible competition. His outstanding performance has earned him a spot in an upcoming international contest taking place in the Netherlands in April - well done, Edmitchel! We are very proud of you.

Thank you to our families for helping us celebrate World Book Day, we had lots of fun and appreciate your support.

Cheska Tyler
Headteacher

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

This week Miss Tyler represented Cherry Tree at a reception for 'Community Education Champions' hosted by the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP (who is the Minister of State for Schools) at Number 10 Downing Street.

Miss Tyler was nominated to attend by Dean Russell, the MP for Watford, with Michael Jones the Headmaster of Parmiter's School.



We are so grateful to have the opportunity to work with our local partners, to support our community.

What an experience!

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Tuesday 19th March - Hot Dog Fun Lunch
- Wednesday 20th March - Year 4 PE Competition at Laurance Haines School
- Wednesday 20th March 3.30pm - Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Meeting
- Thursday 21st March - Year 2 Cheslyn House trip
- Thursday 21st March 2pm - 3.15pm SEN Coffee Afternoon in the Hub
- Friday 22nd March - EYFS, Year 1 & 2 Easter Bonnet Parade
- Friday 22nd March 3.15pm - Homegrown Plant Sale
- Friday the 22nd of March - Deadline to order milk
- Saturday 23rd March - Year 5 Youth Champs 2024 Competition
- Thursday 28th March - Last Day of Term (School closes at 1.30pm)
- Monday 15th April - First day of Summer 1 Term
- Friday 26th April - EYFS Archaeology Workshop
- Friday 24th of May - Last Day of half term (School closes at 3.15pm)
- Monday 3rd of June - First Day of Summer 2 Term
- Thursday 6th of June - Class Photos
- Friday 21st June - Occasional Day School Closed
- Friday 19th July - Last Day of School - finish 1.30pm
- Wednesday 4th September - Start of new academic year

PLANT SALE

We will be raising funds for our Community Allotment project with a homegrown plant sale.

This will take place in the playground after school on Friday the 22nd of March 2024 at 3.15pm.

Please do come along, support the school and pick up a locally grown bargain.



READING CORNER

Welcome to Book Corner!

Last Friday we had a great time at Cherry Tree celebrating World Book Day! A huge thank you to everyone for your enthusiasm and support in making this such a wonderful day. The school was filled with laughter, fun, mystery and drama thanks to all the book characters that came to school. Don't forget to look out for Cherry Tree in today's Watford Observer supplement about World Book Day.



Congratulations also go to all the budding authors in Years 4, 5 and 6. We had a great response to our story writing competition. A huge well done to everyone! Miss Penfold and myself had the very difficult task of selecting a winner from each year group and after much deliberation the winners were... Daisy in 4 Ash, Andre in 5 Pine and Vanisha in 6 Oak - bravo!

Happy reading!

Jane Sibbit

LKS2/Reading Leader/Class Teacher

ACORNS VISIT THE LIBRARY

Reception Acorns had fun on their trip to North Watford Library on Wednesday and followed the school values throughout their visit. They enjoyed listening to traditional stories and taking part in activities. Thank you to all the parents that came along to help support. Conkers are looking forward to their visit next week. Remember it is FREE to join your local library - [more information here.](#)



EYFS GET EGG-CITED

EYFS were very excited when batches of mysterious eggs arrived. They have been observing them carefully and trying to figure out what type of feathered friends were growing inside. They have been delighted to watch the cracks emerge and chicks, not crocodiles, hatch! The children have enjoyed watching the chicks grow. Thank you to the Friends who funded this activity.



STEP2SKILLS

The [Step2Skills team](#) at Hertfordshire County have been running taster sessions designed to help you support your child's learning. There are still places in the 2-hour session on Thursday 21st March at 10.00am which is called 'Help your child with Writing'. This session costs £5.00 and will be run online with a live teacher. For parents of children in years 4,5 and 6 there will be a free online session on Tuesday 26 March at 6:00pm about how you can help your child with Maths in KS2 as they prepare for SATs. Please book for either session [at this link.](#)

WATFORD FC TRUST

We would like to thank the Watford FC Community Trust team who continue to have a significant, positive impact on our local school community through a series of engaging initiatives. Last term, Year 5 classes benefited from sportsmanship sessions - fostering teamwork and fair play. Then the Trust's free sports club during the February half-term provided some of our students with a chance to enhance their skills while building a sense of unity.



Looking ahead, we eagerly await their return later in the Summer term for healthy lifestyles sessions with our Year 5 students. This collaborative effort showcases the positive influence sports and community engagement can have on our pupils. As the partnership continues to grow, it promises a brighter and healthier future for the students at Cherry Tree.

SEN COFFEE AFTERNOON



Are you a parent of a child with SEN? Are you unsure of how to manage your child's behaviour? Are you looking to extend your support network? Then on Thursday 21st March come along to our 'Parent Hub' from 2 - 3.15pm and chat to other parents, offer each other practical and emotional support and share tips and strategies. Everyone is welcome - just drop in.

SCHOOL MILK

All children from Nursery to Year 6 can enjoy a carton of milk in school every day. Your child may even be entitled to receive this milk free - you can [check your entitlement here.](#)



If you would like to order school milk for your child, please follow the directions on the email that was sent out last week. The deadline to [order school milk on Arbor](#) for the Summer term is Friday the 22nd of March 2024.

10 Top Tips for Respect Online: INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BUILD A BETTER DIGITAL WORLD

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about our young people is understandable, and not unjustified: in 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. Our tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviours: by adopting and following 'netiquette', we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Just like etiquette is a set of rules which guides and governs our interactions with others in everyday life, netiquette – etiquette on the net – is the framework which helps inform how we communicate with people online. The rules of engagement often aren't the same as a face-to-face meeting, so it's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

1 ACCEPT DIFFERENT RULES

A lot of our interaction with others is helped by non-verbal signals like body language and facial expressions. Online, of course, many of these clues are missing. Talk to your child about why this makes misunderstandings more likely to occur in the digital world and why keeping in mind that online communication is a very different process can help to prevent difficulties from arising.

2 PRESS 'PAUSE'

It's so easy to do things quickly online that most people (adults included) habitually send or respond to messages without considering the consequences. Pushing 'the pause button' buys a young person some time while they ponder the golden rule: "Would I still say this if the other person was right front of me?" You could practise this with your child on some made-up tricky situations.

3 THE INTERNET IS ADDICTIVE

Apps and sites use sophisticated algorithms and clever marketing to keep us engaged, while notifications to our devices are designed to draw us back in. It's no wonder that people continually return to the digital world, sometimes spending long periods of time there. You and your child could trial turning off notifications on certain apps and instead agree a time to check for updates manually.

4 BEWARE THE DARK SIDE

Getting a hurtful or unhelpful comment on social media or in a group chat can make the recipient feel publicly shamed. That's painful for anyone – but especially for a young person whose status in a group is integral to their sense of identity. Encourage your child to think about the best and safest way to send a message: for example, doing it as a private message rather than a public post.

5 HARMFUL INTERACTIONS

Unfortunately, it's very easy to send a hurtful message or to spread gossip and rumours online. We all know this happens regularly. Not having to deal with actually seeing the other person's distress usually doesn't help people to make a positive decision in the moment. It's important that trusted adults help children to visualise the potential consequences and have empathy for others.

6 APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES

We're all built differently; some people are simply more emotionally sensitive than others. Young people can be particularly affected by negative online communication, such as group shaming. Even a single message (which might seem trivial at face value) can cause deep anguish. Trusted adults should be prepared to be patient and listen to any difficulties their child might have had online.

7 ACCENTUATED ANXIETY

Young people's online lives create a lot of anxiety. Messages go into a 'black hole' until someone responds, there are more reasons to compare ourselves negatively, and social media can make us feel like we're missing out. Encourage activities such as sports and hobbies to balance this out, and remember that merely blocking out thoughts (by gaming, for instance) isn't the same as relaxation.

8 PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A huge positive for the internet is how it helps people to feel connected and makes being kind and helpful easy to spread. When young people get involved in pro-social behaviours online, it creates a positive feedback loop which makes them feel good. Show your child examples of when you've done or said something positive online, and praise and encourage them when they do the same.

9 BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

One of the best things we can do as trusted adults is to role model positive online behaviour. Just letting your child see that you know when it's time to put your phone away and do something more productive can set a strong example. Some families set aside particular times of the week (such as mealtimes or a family walk) where digital devices aren't allowed and conversation takes precedence.

10 SHOW COMPASSION

Mistakes can feel much bigger online, because they're so public. If a young person does or says something regrettable on the internet, it's important to support them to forgive themselves, learn any lessons and move forward positively. Even as adults, we can often stumble when learning how things work in the fast-moving digital world, so it's important to have compassion for ourselves, too.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



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	Tiana (3S)	For being respectful and helping during lunch time.
Red & Ready	Angelus	For being brave and settling in so well at Red & Ready.
Fireflies	Evan (5P)	For independently engaging in the forest school activities.
Cherry Blossoms	Ali	For independently matching eggs from numbers 1-10, great number work Ali!
Berries	Khloe	For her creative ideas in designing her own teapot.
Acorns	Whole class	For being amazing on our trip to North Watford Library by representing the school so well. We were very proud of you all!
Conkers	Jeshwin	For lovely sharing and exploring whilst outside on the climbing equipment.
Maple	Azfar	For being brave and aiming high with his answers in every lesson.
Birch	Pranav	For showing bravery and aiming high!
Cedar	Leo R	For listening well and aiming high, particularly in our Geography lessons creating maps. Well done Leo!
Willow	Ibrahim	For being a wonderful role model by being a consistently kind and helpful member of Willow Class.
Sycamore	Gladys	For showing perseverance and a positive attitude on our school trip.
Hazel	James	For showing excellent perseverance and determination through his assessments.
Ash	Ollie	For showing perseverance and resilience in assessments this week
Yew	Ayomi	For producing some incredible writing this half term.
Pine	André	For consistently aiming high and being a fantastic role model for your peers- very proud of you André!
Fir	Tariq	For showing amazing independence and perseverance in your assessments this week. Well done you!
Oak	Harley	For always being kind and being a little ray of sunshine!
Elm	Subhan	For being AMAZING all week during our mock tests!

Well done, Cherries!



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