



# NEWSLETTER

12TH JULY 2024

## WELCOME

Sadly, we are seeing an increase in inappropriate conduct amongst parents, towards staff. Our staff do not come to work to be shouted at, abused or made to feel frightened in their workplace. They are wholly committed to our children and will always prioritise them, as they have been trained to do. I will write more on this in a separate communication, but please ensure that our parent community models the trust and respect that you would expect in return. A huge thank you to those who model this every day.

We had a truly wonderful 'Move Up Day' yesterday, where our children spent the whole morning with their new teachers in their new classes. It was a joy to walk around and see the new relationships begin to grow and the excitement build for the new academic year.

It is time to say our last goodbyes. Mrs Sibbit will be leaving us at the end of this year to enjoy a very well-deserved retirement. Mrs Sibbit has worked in schools for years and has loved sharing her passion for reading, gardening and many, many other things with us all. We wish Mrs Sibbit a happy and relaxing retirement but look forward to seeing her again at our Cherry Seeds Gardening Club each week. Miss Massey is also leaving us this year to continue her work in pastoral care and will be working at the Acorn centre, a behaviour support provision. We are sure that we will continue to work with Miss Massey in her new role so she will still be part of our school community. Lastly, Miss Dobson will be leaving us after a short time at Cherry Tree. We wish her well in her new venture and will miss her very much.

Cheska Tyler  
Headteacher

## NEW AFTER SCHOOL CLUB!

We are DELIGHTED to announce that we have secured funds to extend our popular 'Red & Ready' Morning Club to include after-school provision. This provision will run Monday - Friday from 15:15 - 18:00 and will be run by our very own Cherry Tree staff. There will be much more information to follow, which we hope to get to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 15/07/24 - 2pm Proms in the Playground (Year 5)
- 15/07/24 - Reports sent home to parents
- 15/07/24 - 6pm Year 6 Performance - Bugsy Malone
- 16/07/24 - Friends School Disco
- 18/07/24 - 09:15 Y6 Leavers Assembly for parents
- 18/07/24 - Nursery Trip to Berry Avenue park
- 19/07/24 - Last Day of School - finish 1.30pm 🎉
- 02-03/09/24 - INSET Days - School Closed
- 04/09/24 - Start of new school year
- 05/09/24 - Meet the Teacher meetings begin daily
- 06/09/24 - Reception Coffee morning

## INCLUSIVE MAT OLYMPICS - CHERRY TREE ARE WINNERS!

Years 1-6 participated in the Inclusive MAT Olympics against our sister schools Laurance Haines and Beechfield. This was a fabulous opportunity for our children to experience the excitement of competing and supporting their friends in a sports stadium.



We were so proud of the courage and integrity demonstrated by our pupils as they participated in a range of activities. We are also happy to report that the overall winners of the event are....CHERRY TREE 🌟🍒🌳🌟

A huge well done to all the Inclusive MAT schools and thank you to our wonderful sports coaches from Challenge Sport, who worked so hard to organise this event and prepare the children.



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

## BOOK CORNER

Summer is such a fabulous time to sit in the sunshine or curl up in the shade and lose yourself in a book! Think of all the adventures you can go on this summer, the places you can visit and the people you can meet...all waiting for you between the covers of a good book!

Recently, the children met with the librarian from North Watford Library. She told them all about the exciting [Summer Reading Challenge - Marvellous Makers](#). Pop down to your local library to find out more.

Please don't forget that National Book Tokens are running their annual competition for schools to win £1,000 for their libraries. Please [click this link](#) to support Cherry Tree, Watford.

From my very last book corner I wish you all a very happy holidays with family and friends!  
Happy reading everyone.

Jane Sibbit  
LKS2/Reading Leader



## SUMMER FAIR SUCCESS

Thank you to those families who braved the rain on Saturday and came and had fun with us all! We raised lots of funds for the school and are so grateful to the team who made this happen - we couldn't do it without your time and kindness. We are delighted to announce that we raised at least £2,859 for our school funds!



## ROAD SAFETY

A dangerous situation was reported to the school office when two Cherry Tree boys were spotted crossing the dual carriageway, alone, without using the designated crossing places.



The KS2 teachers have discussed this with the children in class, but please reinforce road safety messages at home as well. To help you with this Brake, the road safety charity, has lots of advice [on their website here](#).

## KEEPING 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.

## GOODBYE YEAR 6

The time has come for you to leave us and move on to pastures new and we would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you the best of luck.



The next step in your school journey is an exciting one, and it is quite likely that you could have feelings of uncertainty and possibly even feel slightly daunted by the huge world that lies at your feet. However, we have every confidence that you will continue to grow and flourish as you join your secondary schools. Our many school values and beliefs have given you the tools to succeed in your chosen paths, and we hope that you will continue to rely on these throughout your future. Remember that every end is a new beginning, so rise to the challenge and shine bright!

Do pop back and visit us some day. We would love to see you and hear what you have been up to. Farewell until we meet again...

Year 6 parents don't forget to watch out for the Leavers Supplement starring our children in the Watford Observer today.

## FABULOUS FOOTBALLERS

Last week, we had our final football fixture of this academic year!

Well done to everyone who has represented Cherry Tree this year, and congratulations to Mr Littleboy and the team for finishing the year with a 3-1 win!



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Hertfordshire County Council have decided to provide a £60 digital supermarket voucher for the summer holidays to every child that is entitled to benefit-related free school meals. This voucher will be emailed to you on Monday 15th July 2024, please check your emails.

If you believe you might be eligible for free school meals due to low income, please [use this link](#) to check your eligibility. It only takes a few minutes to apply, and you may be entitled to extra help in school.

Year 2 parents, please check your email regarding the change to school meals when your child goes into Year 3.

# EdTech

## SUMMER HOLIDAY GUIDE

It can be challenging to find holiday activities for digitally savvy young ones. There are plenty of edtech (educational technology) avenues to explore this summer, however, and we've compiled a rundown of our favourites...

### For the gamer

There are some excellent free (or cheap) platforms out there which let budding programmers create their own games and characters. Children can discover the basics of game design as they learn how to build characters and make them speak, move and interact with each other. Young ones can construct a game from scratch and then share it with their friends.  
**Try:** Play Lab at [code.org](http://code.org) • Toca Builders

### For the photographer

If your child is an aspiring photographer or loves fine-tuning images before posting them on social media, there are options which young people may find less daunting than Photoshop. As well as editing and adjusting photos, making illustrations or converting between image formats, some packages are geared towards illustration while others let you work with raster and vector graphics.  
**Try:** Photopea • Sumopaint • PhotoGrid

### For the sports fan

Video games are usually seen as reducing the time young people spend exercising. However, there is a genre that encourages physical activity: from music-based games that get users up and dancing, to sports simulators where the controller becomes a tennis racket. Devices' ability to track movement in real time and translate it into a game can make physical activity less of a chore.  
**Try:** Runkeeper • Strava • Zombies, Run! (12+)

### For the coder

**HTML** `<CODE/>`  
 Online, you can find a selection of programming environments where users can learn to make simple apps. Young people can design an app, code it in JavaScript or work in text-based language, then share their newly created app with friends. With millions of aspiring coders in the world, the internet has an abundance of tutorials to get young ones started.  
**Try:** App Lab at [code.org](http://code.org) • Dance Party at [code.org](http://code.org) • Flappy Code at [code.org](http://code.org) • Hour of Code  
**CSS** **XML**

### For the explorer

Young adventurers can discover the world from new perspectives – strolling Tokyo's streets or soaring over Yosemite. For those with virtual reality headsets, Google Earth VR puts the whole planet within reach, while – even further afield – youngsters can use their device to delve into the wonders of our solar system with virtual tours of NASA's labs and mission control centres.  
**Try:** Google Maps Treks • Google Earth VR  
 NASA at Home: Virtual Tours

### For the avid reader

Your child's smartphone or tablet can become an inspirational learning tool that fires their imagination while improving their reading, vocabulary, spelling and comprehension. Mobile reading apps and audiobook libraries are worth setting some screen time aside for. As well as developing young ones' language skills, they also encourage the unbridled bliss of enjoying a good story.  
**Try:** Hoopla • Epic • Audible

### For the musician

Learning to play an instrument and creating music electronically has become much easier thanks to technology. As the field keeps advancing, more software is being created – and there are many applications which are compatible with various devices, including mobile phones. For example, your child could start their journey to becoming a superstar DJ with real-time mixing and editing tools.  
**Try:** Let's Play Kids Music: Summer Musical • GarageBand • Transitions DJ • YouTube music tutorials

### For the historian

Virtual tourism boomed when the pandemic cancelled everyone's travel plans. Let technology transport you to jaw-dropping historical sites or inside some of the world's most inspiring museums. Explore the Colosseum or the Amazon rainforest in VR, take a virtual tour of the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park or step inside the British Museum without leaving your living room!  
**Try:** HistoryView Virtual Library • The British Museum – Google Street View • The National Museum of Computing 3D Virtual Tour

### For the artist

Unleash your child's creative streak over the holidays with these arts and craft activity ideas! Most are quick and easy to make with materials you'll probably already have at home. There are ideas for young artists of all abilities, so you're sure to find a few exciting projects to try out. Children could also take a virtual tour of some stunning galleries and art installations.  
**Try:** Artist at [code.org](http://code.org) • Summer crafts for kids at Activity Village • Summer arts and crafts at Projects with Kids • Google Arts and Culture – virtual reality tours you'll love

### Meet Our Expert

Gary Reddin is Leader of the Virtual Curriculum at Alt Bridge School, a specialist provision school in Liverpool. He has supported the integration of technology into the teaching practice across the curriculum to empower young people to reach their academic potential and prepare for life beyond school.





# 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	Reception & Year 2	What a fabulous job you have all done transitioning to your new playgrounds. Well done to all of you!
Red & Ready	Ava	For always persevering and giving every art and crafts activity a go. Well done!
Fireflies	All Fireflies	For aiming high, being kind and being brave whilst at Forest Schools this year. Well done everyone.
Cherry Blossoms	Ghezal (Yr. 2)	For joining in with activities during choosing time.
Berries	Enzo	For developing his confidence and English language over the course of the year to be able to interact with staff and peers.
Acorns	Myan	For consistently aiming high and showing enthusiasm in all areas of the curriculum.
Conkers	All Conkers	For aiming high this summer term! Well done everyone!
Maple	Emilia	For being a polite, kind and respectful member of our class.
Birch	Catalina	For being so passionate about looking after our world and working hard on your poster! Well done!
Cedar	Amayah-Renae	For always aiming high and being kind to others.
Willow	Logan	For aiming high and making great progress in maths lessons.
Sycamore	Yusuf	For aiming high and always trying to do their best.
Hazel	Amelie	For always having a positive attitude and aiming high in everything she does.
Ash	Rosie	For her commitment to being our class representative this year. Thank you for your hard work and commitment.
Yew	Olivia	For her incredible enthusiasm, engagement and hard work during year 4.
Pine	Rayan	For always working hard and aiming high in Year 5!
Fir	Minahil	For really aiming high with the Fiver challenge and consistently being a breath of fresh air in our class.
Oak	Millie	For being brave and stepping into one of the main roles for our Year 6 production at the very last minute. What a star!
Elm	Kamil	For learning all the words to his solo song so quickly!

Well done, Cherries!



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**INCLUSIVE | MAT**