



# NEWSLETTER

14TH FEBRUARY 2025

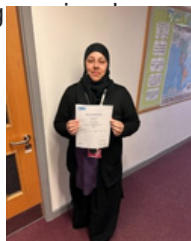
## WELCOME

Please look out for Mrs Hibberd's OPAL emails this week. We are very excited to be embarking on this journey and truly believe it will transform lunchtimes for our children once we start in April. Please engage in the OPAL survey also sent by Mrs Hibberd at your earliest convenience. As mentioned in the information provided, we will soon be asking for various resources to use on the playground. If you're having a clear-out over the holidays, please keep this in mind! We will be looking for dressing-up clothes, small world items, scooters or small wheeled vehicles, tyres, tubes - the list is endless! We have an Amazon Wish List set up, and any donations would be greatly appreciated - [you can find the list here](#).

We have some exciting news to share! We are delighted to announce that both Mrs. Davis and Miss Holden are expecting babies this summer. We are overjoyed for both teachers and will update you on our plans for ensuring a smooth transition for our children.

You may have noticed that we have been working with Hertfordshire University this year to assist student teachers with their teacher training. We have been fortunate to have been working with many talented trainee teachers who have given additional support and guidance to our children. While we are sad to say goodbye to Miss Leila Whiting, who has been an invaluable addition to Year 2 Willow Class, we are thrilled that Miss Yasmin Sidrah will be continuing her placement in Reception Acorns until June. We are also pleased to welcome back Miss Laura Page to Year 3 Hazel Class. She continues her placement, having spent time with us in the Autumn Term.

A huge congratulations to Mrs Shah who has achieved her Eiklan Level 3 in Speech and Language! We are very proud of her and grateful for her dedication to our school and children.



Finally, thank you to all parents who joined us yesterday for our termly Open Classroom event, celebrating the children's learning. Don't forget - these events take place on the last Thursday of each half-term!

Cheska Tyler  
Headteacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 04/03/25 - Year 6 Secondary Transition Meeting with Lisa Sillitoe from DSPL9 (1:15pm - 3:15pm)
- 04/03/25 - KS2 Author Visit Karun Chandhok
- 05/03/25 - Conkers North Watford Library Visit
- 06/03/25 - World Book Day - Dress Up as a Book Character
- 06/03/25 - School Choir to Eric Morecombe Centre in Harpenden
- 12/03/25 - Acorns North Watford Library Visit
- 23/03/25 - School Choir to the Royal Albert Hall
- 27/03/25 - Year 6 Lincolnsfield Centre Trip
- 03/04/25 - Parent Open Classroom (3 - 3.30pm)

## AUDENTIOR CIVIC AWARDS 2025

Last Friday, Miss Tyler and Mrs Crocket were invited to attend the Audentior Civic Awards hosted by the Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor.

The awards were to celebrate those working in the local community and the significant contribution they make. It was an absolute privilege to be invited.



It was also an honour to see Pastoral Lead, Nicola Furey from Laurance Haines receive the Public Service Award!

But the highlight of the evening was a stunning performance by 'The Dan Tien' performing arts group, featuring three of our Cherry Tree children: Daisy, Eva and Tamina. Well done to these talented pupils for their exceptional performance and bravery - we are so proud of you!



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

## NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2025-26

The deadline for applications for Nursery class admissions for September 2025 intake is 1st of March 2025. For more information about Nursery Admissions [please click this link](#).

## STEM HERO OF THE MONTH - MARY ANDERSON - INVENTOR OF THE WINDSCREEN WIPER!

To celebrate International Women and Girls in Science Day (11th Feb), we're shining a spotlight on an amazing female inventor!

Over 100 years ago, Mary Anderson was riding a tram through snowy New York City when she spotted a big problem - the driver couldn't see properly! He had to keep stopping to clear the windscreen by hand. That's when Mary had a brilliant idea... she invented the world's first windscreen wiper! 💡



At the time, cars weren't very popular, so Mary didn't make any money from her design. But fast forward 20 years, and every car in the world was using her invention!

Next time you're in a car on a rainy day, remember Mary's clever thinking—her brilliant idea helps keep millions of journeys smooth and safe every single day! 🚗🌧️💡

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Christ Church & St Mark's  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

### Happy Sundays Munch Bunch for Families

**Last Sundays of the Month.**  
**12:30 - 1:45pm**  
St Mark's Church  
Leggatts Way  
WD24 5NQ

Free Lunch Fun Songs  
Friends Activities

All Welcome

## INCLUSION UPDATE - THE TOOLBOX

The Toolbox is a free online service designed to support children and young people who have, or think they might have, Autism or ADHD. It includes a resource zone, a Live Chat for advice, and a special section for parents.



Click the link to learn more: [The Toolbox | Autism & ADHD Support for Young People](#).

## NORTH WATFORD LIBRARY - SPRING ACTIVITIES

North Watford Library are offering exciting activities this half term! Special events include:

- A free 11+ exam workshop for parents on Monday 17th February
- Virtual Reality headset demonstrations on Wednesday 19th February (10:30am-12pm, free)
- The Great Big Dinosaur Show on Friday 21st February (10:30am, £5 per person, ages 4-10)

Regular activities include free Storytime (Tuesdays 11am), Baby Rhyme Time (Fridays 2pm), and Lego Club sessions (alternate Saturdays, £4 per child). Parents can also join the free Monday morning club at 10am.

The library is celebrating its 100th anniversary this February, with special events planned throughout the year. If you want to be the first to know about library events and activities? Follow North Watford Library on Facebook! The library team regularly posts updates about regular sessions, special events, and centenary celebrations. It's the best way to stay informed about everything happening at your local library.

## 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.



PLEASE STOP



SPEAK OUT



DON'T TOUCH

# What we are learning.....

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

## Year 1

Writing - exploring the traditional story "The Enormous Turnip" to write our own version.

Phonics - /ur/ in word, /oo/ in awful and could, /air/ in share and /or/ in author, dinosaur, floor, walk, /ch/ in match and nature, ar half, father.

Maths – how subtraction means numbers decrease and look at how addition and subtraction are linked.

Science - name common flowers and plants found in the UK.

Wider Curriculum – exploring patterns in Nature and observational drawing of parts of plants.

## Year 2

Writing - using 2 versions of 'Goldilocks & the 3 Bears' to identify key features of fairy tales and write our own narratives.

Maths - addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers.

Science - explore the features of plants and seed dispersal.

Wider Curriculum – developing our geographical map skills through exploring the journeys fairy tales characters make.

Guided Reading – Our new book will be 'The No. 1 Car Spotter' by Atinuke.

## Year 3

Writing - exploring a book called "Weslandia" and will recognise the features of a recount.

Maths - looking at data using bar charts and pictograms.

Science - learning about sustainability and where we can see in the world around us.

Wider Curriculum - learning about Ancient Egypt. We will be exploring different artefacts to see what they tell us about the past.

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

## Year 4

Writing - introducing our next text 'The Man Between the Towers' focusing on the main themes.

Maths - continuing to look at fractions, focusing on quantities then ordering and comparing fractions.

Science - looking at our new topic 'climate change' and the impact it is having on our world.

Wider Curriculum - introducing our new topic 'landmarks' and defining what is a landmark.

Guided Reading – 'The Borrowers' by Mary Norton.

## Year 5

Writing - using the new text 'Room 13' to create atmosphere within a spooky story.

Maths - explore volume, as well as scaling fractions and percentages.

Science - recap our knowledge of materials and their properties and begin investigating separation of solutions.

Wider Curriculum - learning what a sculpture is and exploring famous sculptures in the UK.

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

## Year 6

Writing - writing diary entries in the role of a concentration camp escapee inspired by 'I am David' by Anne Holm.

Maths – solving fraction problems and looking at ratio and proportion.

Science - exploring how animals are classified into vertebrates and invertebrates.

Wider Curriculum - exploring the reasons behind WWII and the impact of the Battle of Britain.

Guided Reading – tackling reading comprehension problems.

## Reminders

On Thursday 6th March we will be celebrating World Book Day. We are asking children to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters and bring in their favourite books. We do not expect you to buy new costumes - let's reuse and recycle things we already have at home.

📣🌟 Exciting news! Keep an eye on your inbox later today for details about delicious new changes to our school menu - coming after the half-term holiday! 🍴👨🍳



# 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       | Suki            | For showing confidence and joining her peers playing basketball at lunch times.                                    |
| Sunrise/Sunset  | Angelus (Maple) | For always helping to tidy up. Great job Angelus.  |
| Fireflies       | Rayan (Elm)     | For always being a good role model whilst at forest schools. Well done Rayan.                                      |
| Cherry Blossoms | Dominic         | For being kind and always helping his friends and teachers!  |
| Berries         | Rayleigh-Karter | For working hard on his communication skills.  |
| Acorns          | Sophie          | For aiming high in all areas of your learning and being a kind friend.   |
| Conkers         | Aari            | For aiming high with his home learning and sharing this on Tapestry  |
| Maple           | Ayana           | For aiming high in all areas of her learning!  |
| Birch           | Jeshaan         | For aiming high and being brave. We are so proud of you for becoming more independent and working hard in class.   |
| Cedar           | Zainab          | For always being a kind and caring friend.   |
| Willow          | Rehaan          | For always being ready to listen and learn.  |
| Sycamore        | Athavan         | For aiming high and challenging himself in his lessons.  |
| Hazel           | Aidan           | For making everybody smile every day.  |
| Ash             | Anastasia       | For aiming high with her times tables and making lots of progress as a result!                                     |
| Yew             | Amelie          | For being the perfect role model, always aiming high and being kind to everyone around her.                        |
| Pine            | Jordan          | For showing bravery and kindness as he joins our Cherry Tree family- we are proud of you!                          |
| Fir             | Olivia          | For persevering in maths, and for your expertise in giving a great science talk! Well done!                        |
| Oak             | TJ              | For aiming high in his letter writing this week and having a fabulous 'can-do' attitude to his learning in Year 6. |
| Elm             | Mahdiya         | For aiming high in every lesson! Well done you!  |

Well done, Cherries!



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**INCLUSIVE | MAT**