

# Cherry Trees School News



## Diary Dates

**4th January -  
INSET Day  
(School Closed)**

**5th January -  
First Day of  
Term**

**24th January -  
Mental Health  
Week**

**21st February -  
25th February -  
Half Term**

**16th December 2021: Issue 4**

## Headteacher's message: Laura Slinn

Dear Parents and Carers,  
Welcome to our December newsletter - school has been celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas this month, and whilst we haven't had lots of visitors into school we have still managed to celebrate with the children - please do look at the lovely photographs throughout the newsletter.

We have worked hard to put together a Christmas Show video which features the classes, this will be put on to the website for you to view in the coming days - we hope you enjoy that.

This year we have been fortunate to receive some gifts from The Salvation Army toy appeal - which have gone out to some of our families - here you can see Ruth visiting school to share those with us.



If you need any support over the holiday period, please do contact me or David through the Class Do-jo and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 5th January at their normal time.

I hope you have a restful break.  
Laura

# Cherry Trees Learning



## Blue Class News

Blue Class have had a fantastic start to the school year during the Autumn Term on their learning journey.

We are so proud of all of their achievements in all areas of their learning.

The month of December has been very strange for Blue Class. However, the time that children were in school they were able to experience some lovely Christmas activities. We iced our Christmas cakes in our cooking lesson, we hope you enjoy eating them! We listened to Christmas stories, and continued to learn the Makaton signs for 'Silent Night'.

In ICT we began to learn to use the school ipads, these lessons will continue as we move into the Spring Term 2022.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas to you and your family and look forward to welcoming the children back into school to begin our new school term.

Blue Class staff.



# Cherry Trees Learning



## Red Class News

This half-term, Red Class have been busy looking at Maps and the local area they enjoyed finding their streets and houses on Google Maps. We have then spent some time making wonderful decorations for our class.

Have a great Christmas break and we'll see you in January!



# Cherry Trees Learning



## Orange Class News

Orange Class have worked so hard this hard term and we are so proud of all of them and their achievements!

We have been taking part in lots of Christmas Activities! We have helped to put up our Christmas Tree and loved seeing what Ernie the Elf has been up to in the night!

We have all had turns to open our Advent Calendar.

Orange Class all dressed up for Christmas Jumper Day and we all looked very festive!

We have celebrated Hanukkah by making candles and cooking Potato Latkas

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you back in the new year.

Love from Mrs Bond, Mrs Chahal, Mrs Green and Molly x



# Cherry Trees Learning



## Green Class News

During this term, we have made £60 on Enterprise Day, enjoyed Christmas jumper day, sang and signed beautifully to Silent Night AND filmed the final scene of The Snowman.

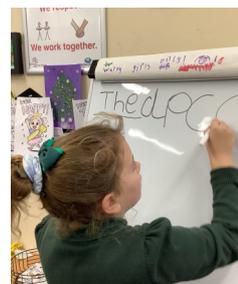
As always, green class has worked their socks off!!! I am so proud of them all.

We have enjoyed the focus of our 20 20 sessions, loved looking at stories with familiar settings and displaying our work on our working wall.

We followed our maps and added points of interests to a map of our local area to the school. During our walk we impressed the members of the public that we met for our impeccable behaviour and wonderful manners.

Some of us decorated the tree and classroom with tinsel, tinsel and more tinsel.

Have a really lovely Christmas and I hope Santa comes to us adults as well, after all, we deserve it! I will see you all in the New Year x



# Cherry Trees Learning



## Yellow Class News

This half-term Yellow class have been working hard.

In Maths and English, we have set up TEACCH stations, this allows for children to work with an adult on target work, by themselves in myself, in a group and to chose their own learning through play. TEACCH has worked extremely well in yellow class and we will continue to use this approach throughout the year.

We have also enjoyed exploring this terms topic Winter Festivals of Light. The topic has been a great sensory exploration opportunity. We have been able to spend time in the light room, exploring ice and water bottles, and exploring colours with paint and rice.

Yellow class have also spent Wednesday afternoons out in the community. We have been for local autumn and winter walks, visit Sainsbury's café, and we have been lucky enough to get on the mini bus to visit a local garden centre and look at the lights.

We would also like to welcome back Miss Slatter who will be working in yellow class alongside Miss Smart. Miss Slatter has been getting to know the children and we are all excited for next term!

Have a lovely half term!



# Cherry Trees Learning



## Purple Class News

A busy couple of weeks here in Purple Class gearing up for Christmas. Here you can see some turn taking, sharing, English, prop making and festive pictures.

The class team would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year —

From James, Billette, Emma, Abbi and Andrew.



# Cherry Trees Communicating



The children had been working really hard on this years Christmas production. However we were not able to fully record it this year. We look forward to sharing our Christmas production with you next year.

The children have participated in a Christmas singalong and we are going to share this with you on the school website

## Volunteers Required!

We are looking for new parents and carers to become members of the Friends of Cherry Trees. Members help to plan and run various fundraising events throughout the year and we are on the lookout for new members as many of the existing members have left now that their children no longer attend Cherry Trees School. If you are interested in helping out, please email Mandy Bytheway at [office1@cherrytrees.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office1@cherrytrees.staffs.sch.uk) and your details will be passed to the Chairperson in the new year.



# Cherry Trees Sharing



## Sign of the Month



### Christmas Tree

Our sign of the week is Christmas Tree – Mime the outline of a Christmas tree.

You can see how to do the sign here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZhy\\_4y6t6I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZhy_4y6t6I)

## Whole Class Monthly Attendance

Group	% Attend
Blue Class	76.7
Red Class	92.1
Orange Class	86.2
Green Class	94.4
Yellow Class	90.7
Purple Class	81.4



Congratulations to:

**Green Class**

You have the best  
Attendance for the Month  
Well done to all of you.

**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**

# Cherry Trees Safeguarding



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to...

## MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS



### 1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

### 4 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

### 2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizard.

### 5 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

### 3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

### 6 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too, get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

### 7 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Flötcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

### 8 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

### 9 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

### 10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.



# Cherry Trees Safe & Well



Christmas is nearly here! For most families, Christmas is a joyful occasion, an opportunity to spend time together and enjoy a bit of overindulgence. For families of children with extra needs it can be a very different story. Their surroundings are full of noise and people, normal routines are abandoned, and our special children can be stressed by crowds, lights and unfamiliar sights and smells.

Whilst no amount of preparation can make the Christmas celebrations easy, there are many things you can do to make them easier. Here are some suggestions that should make the season more enjoyable for everyone.

**Maintain Routines – as much as possible.** There will be routines that are adjusted or forgotten. Try to maintain usual routines if you can. This is especially important for bedtimes and getting up times.

**Create a Christmas-free zone.** Leave one room in the house, perhaps your child's room, free from anything to do with Christmas, so that they can come back to the room as a safe space if necessary. This room should be accessible at all times.

**Decorate Slowly.** Don't put up the decorations when your child is sleeping -if possible, get them involved. Introduce new sights, smells, and sounds one at a time.

**Create a plan.** Make a visual plan. You could print off a week-to-view calendar page and add pictures of planned activities during the Christmas holidays.

**Make special time for your children.** It is easy to get overloaded with Christmas preparations so put time aside to forget about Christmas and do a familiar activity that interests your child.

**Prepare your extended family.** Talk to family members ahead of time. Discuss your child's specific needs and tell them what your plans are. Ask for their support.

**Simplify opening presents.** Break up present opening over Christmas Day and Boxing Day. For children who struggle with fine motor skills, reduce frustration by loosening ribbons, unsealing envelopes, and minimizing tape. For children with limited attention span, make sure that batteries are in gifts and that they are set up and ready to use as soon as they are unwrapped. Wrap up something familiar and comfortable as well as new gifts.

**Christmas Dinner.** Remember your child does not need to eat it. Give them some of their favourite foods at the table.

**New Clothes.** Don't worry if your child does not want to wear new clothes. Remind family and friends about any sensory issues if they want to buy clothes as presents for your child.

**Plan a calming activity.** This could be a walk outside or watching a familiar movie when things get too much. Fill a bag with things your child finds comforting or enjoys playing with. If they get overstimulated find a quiet place to get them out.