

Cherry Trees School News



Diary Dates

**Monday 30th
May 2022 -
Friday 3rd June
2022 - Half Term**

**Wednesday 8th
June 2022 -
Swimming Gala
Day 1**

**Friday 10th June
2022 - Parent
Picnic & Jubilee
Tree Planting
Ceremony**

**Wednesday 15th
June 2022 -
Swimming Gala
Day 2**

**Saturday 18th
June 2022 -
Volunteers
required to help
prepare animal
therapy area**

**Monday 4th &
Tuesday 5th July
2022 - Transition
Days**

Friday 27th May 2022: Issue 9

Headteacher's message: Laura Slinn

Hello All,

Welcome to our May newsletter, I am so pleased to share that this is the first half term, since the commencement of the pandemic, that we have been able to keep the school fully open, and what a half term it has been.

The children and staff have worked hard to carry out their learning activities, trips and visits and I hope you enjoy looking at all of the exciting experiences they have had.

This month we have also celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee, we were so lucky to join together and sing special songs for the queen, enjoy a wonderful afternoon tea style lunch and take part in memory making events.

Our new reading books have finally arrived, which is great news – this means that all of our reading materials now match to our planned scheme, which is part of our planned actions for this year. We hope you enjoy the new books when your children bring them home.

This evening you will have been emailed a copy of the Rapid Action Plan 1 and 2 that we are working on as we move through the summer term. You will also receive a document that outlines the comments shared by parents at our post Ofsted event. We will continue to share this information through email with you, as they are larger documents.

Laura Slinn

Executive Head Teacher

Cherry Trees Learning



Blue Class News

Blue Class have had a lovely and busy time this month as I know many of you have seen on our Class Dojo page. We have all shared some exciting and enjoyable learning activities together.

We have really enjoyed our topic "Going on an Adventure" and all the lovely learning activities we have taken part in as part of this. Firstly, we had our Bear Hunt Adventure where we engaged in lots of sensory activities based upon this story. Some of our favourite activities included making polar bear biscuits and having our own bear hunt.

Our next adventure began with the story "Whatever Next!" and this led us into a pretend journey into space. We re-enacted the story and explored many space related activities including playing with moon sand and mini moon buggies. We have painted on different textures to create our own planets. Everyone also enjoyed discovering and counting aliens, planets, stars and spacemen during our space hunt!

We have thought about what we would take on our own picnic, developing independence skills through making sandwiches and cakes.



Red Class News

Wow! Where did that half-term go to?

It has been an exciting and fun filled half-term and the children have worked so well in all areas of learning.

We have been exploring lots of things as part of the topic 'Our Local Area' and the boys even enjoyed making an open top bus for our very own sightseeing tour of the local landmarks.

In Science, we have learnt all about living things and have been able to identify and classify a range of creatures including minibeasts. We enjoyed a mini beast hunt and have been busy making microhabitats for a creature.

In Maths, the boys consolidated their addition and subtraction skills and then we explored capacity and time. We particularly liked using the water play to explore full, half-full and empty.

During our English sessions, we read the stories 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Tadpoles Promise'. These were really fun and engaging stories and the children loved hearing them and speaking about their favourite parts. We also looked at a range of non-fiction texts about butterfly and frog life-cycles.

We can't wait for our next and last busy half-term.

Have a great holiday!



Cherry Trees Learning



Orange Class News

WOW! We have had an amazing start to summer term!

Our topic this term has been A Teddy Bears Picnic.

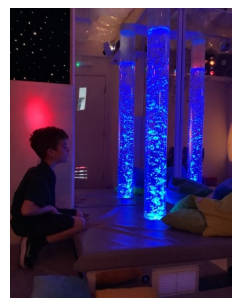
Linking to our topic we have covered a range of activities including lots of teddy bears picnics in class.

In English, we have been developing our writing skills using Write Dance, the Sandy Hill Song.

Staff modelled the actions to children and encouraged them to copy. Children have had access to mark making materials to 'Scrimble' and copy writing patterns for vertical, horizontal lines and circles and dots.

In Maths, we have been focusing our learning on 2d shapes; rectangle, triangle, circle and square. We have been using our ICT skills to access Shape monster on Topmarks.com. The children have all experienced this and some have shown how amazing they are at completing a simple ICT game.

Well Done Orange class what an amazing half term we have had!



Cherry Trees Learning



Green Class News

Green class have enjoyed a lovely half term, full of new and exciting activities. Firstly, thank you to the pupils and parents of green class for welcoming and working alongside me to improve the education and welfare of our amazing class. During these 5 short weeks, we have started our phonics programme, improving our use and recognition of sounds, 3x a week. We have also ramped up our reading and now enjoy reading for pleasure books at home, eBooks on Bugcub relating to their phonic level, guided reading books targeted at their reading level and whole class reading done at the end of most days. A chunk of our English looked at the amazing Beatrix Potter and the tales she wrote. We have covered a great amount in maths, including bus timetables, specifically the timetable for the bus we travelled on to town. Our topic focus was The Great Outdoors, in geography we compared town and countryside and got to enjoy trips out to these locations to identify features for ourselves. We've been making natural sculptures in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. Identified and tested materials in science and learnt about the Five Pillars of Islam. Most exciting many of our children got to enjoy a journey on a double-decker bus into Kingswinford and ribbon dancing every Friday as part of our sensory Friday.



Cherry Trees Learning



Yellow Class News

WOW! We have had an amazing start to summer term! The children have worked super hard and now very aware of the TEACCH set up and musical cues to transition from activity to activity.

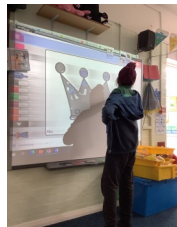
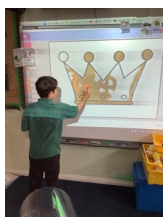
Our topic this term has been A Pirates Life for Me!

Linking to our topic we have covered a range of topics for each subject. In Science, we have focused our learning around rocks and exploring the textures of them, we even had a visit to Kinver Edge Rock Houses!

In Geography, we have been looking at our local amenities and surrounding areas, the boys have loved exploring how much space they have to run around in at different parks.

Yellow class have also explored a History Unit linked to the Monarch, this has included making crowns, learning to march to music and completing a dough disco activity to the Grand Old Duke of York.

Well Done Yellow Class we are super proud of you all!



Cherry Trees Learning

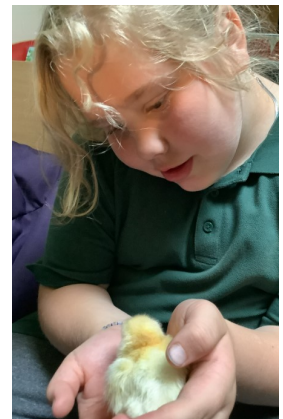
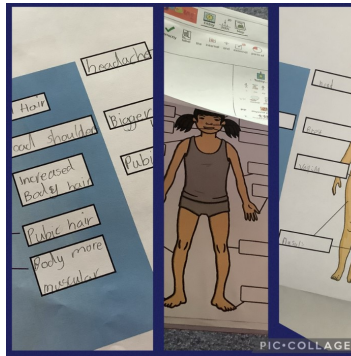
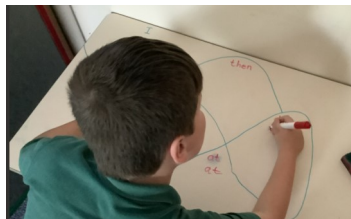


Purple Class News

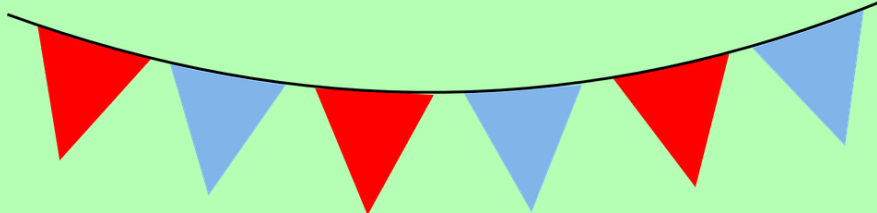
What a half term!! Coming to the end of my first half term in Purple Class I can honestly say that I am so proud of them all. We have done so much and they have all tried hard with their learning for me. We have been lucky enough to see the eggs hatch into little chicks and we even got to handle them. Our History topic was Crime and Punishment hence the wonderful display with blood, police tape and even a dead body! We researched historical figures, found out about the crime and decided whether we thought the punishment fit the crime. We created the bust for our chosen person and looked at the characteristics to help us create a large cardboard cut out. During our Jigsaw sessions we have focused on the changes in our bodies, on the inside and out as we get older, self image and characteristics.

We continued with Harry's Mad and have been using the information text: Until I met Dudley...

I am looking forward the next half term.. Have a good break x



Cherry Trees Communicating



Jubilee Picnic

Join us on Friday 10th June 2022 1:30 pm - 2:30pm for a family picnic on the field to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We would like to invite parents and carers to bring along a picnic and picnic blanket for yourself and your child to enjoy.

"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee!"

After the picnic, join us for our tree planting and plaque ceremony as part of the "Queen's Green canopy".

We look forward to seeing you all there!



A reminder that we would like to invite parents and carers to join staff on Saturday 18th June 2022 at 10am –12pm at Cherry Trees School to help prepare the ground for our new animal therapy area.

We will meet in the school reception at 10 am and will then begin work to dig over and level the area for a couple of hours Refreshments will be provided but please, if possible, bring your own spade as we do not have enough for everyone!

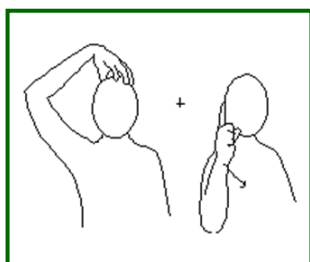
For safety reasons, this activity will need to be for grown-ups only so please do not bring your children with you.

If you can spare us some time to help, please notify the school office so we know who to expect on the day.

Cherry Trees Sharing



Sign of the Month



Queen

Our sign of the month is Queen – Hand on top of head and Straight finger moves diagonally to corner of mouth.

You can see how to do the sign here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXkf6L65Ke8>

Whole Class Monthly Attendance

Group	% Attend
Blue Class	87.8
Red Class	93.3
Orange Class	92.9
Green Class	95.0
Yellow Class	93.7
Purple Class	84.0



Congratulations to:

Green Class

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



Cherry Trees Reading & Phonics



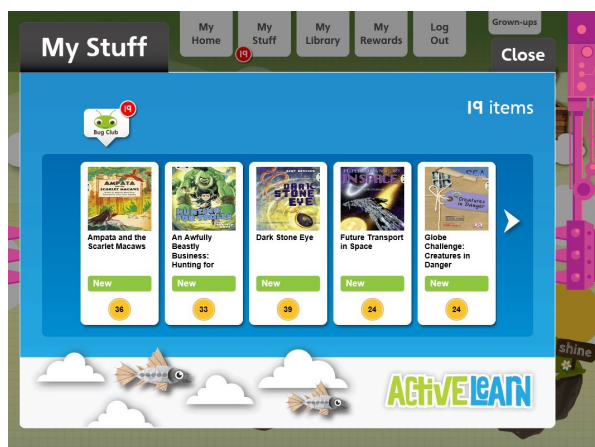
Thank you to all parents who attended our Phonics Coffee Morning on the 24th May. As you will all be aware we are now using the 'Bug Club' Reading Scheme.

At home, children are able to access 'Bug Club' books online and the reading comprehension can be monitored by the teacher, to see if the books are pitched correctly for the children.

Upon logging in you will be directed to this home page. If you click on "My Stuff", all of the books the children have been allocated will appear.



The children can then choose the book they would like to read. On each page, there will be a little yellow bug. Once they have clicked on it they will have a question to answer. If the answer is correct they can continue to read the book.



Pupils will all come home with their new reading books and reading records this week. Please can you read to/hear your child read as much as possible over the half term and fill in their reading record. It can sometimes be difficult after a busy day to think what to write in their records. Some ideas of what to comment on in the record might be :

How long did they read for? How did they enjoy the book? Did they find any words difficult? Did they read confidently? Could they guess what was going to happen next and make inferences.

Cherry Trees e-Safety



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 of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From the continuing impact of COVID-19 to the war in Ukraine, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they have seen.

2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what is happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make us feel angry, scared. Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

6 CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process; adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

7 SET LIMITS

Managing screentime and content can be difficult at the best of times, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try and at least limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screentime limits.

8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56180618> <https://www.nos.org/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/> <https://www.nos.org/parenting/how-to-talk-your-children-about-conflict-and-war>

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#WakeUpWednesday

Cherry Trees Safe & Well



Please see the information below taken from the Money Helper website

Managing your money in uncertain times

The pandemic and the rising cost of living have left lots of people with new money worries. Whether you've been caught off guard by higher bills and payments, uncertain income or the loss of a job, we can help you find your way forward and take the first step towards getting on top of things.

Where to get free debt advice

If you're worried about debt, you don't need to struggle alone. Speaking to a trained and experienced debt adviser about your situation can help you see what the best decision for you might be.

A debt adviser can:

- give you advice on better ways of managing your money
- check to see if there are any benefits or entitlements you might be able to claim
- tell you about the ways of dealing with debts that are open to you
- get you out of debt faster
- keep everything you tell them confidential.

Find a free debt adviser near you, online or on the phone:

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/dealing-with-debt/use-our-debt-advice-locator>

Help if you're struggling with bills and payments

Our quick, easy-to-use Bill prioritiser helps you understand which bills and payments to deal with first and how to avoid missing any payments:

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/way-forward/bill-prioritiser>

Help if you're struggling with debt

If you're struggling to keep up with bills and debt payments, don't worry – you're not alone. We help hundreds of thousands of people with similar worries every year. There are lots of things you can do to resolve your difficulties, including getting free debt advice.

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/dealing-with-debt>

Popular tools and calculators

These are the tools and calculators that will help you quickly work out the figures you need for some of the most common money situations you may find yourself in.

Our easy-to-use calculators can help you budget, save and cut back on costs. They can help you find impartial advisers, find out how much you might have in retirement, tell you how much extra money you need for your baby and much more.

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/tools-and-calculators>

Aiming High – Short Breaks Newsletter

April 2022

Edition 2



Welcome to the first edition of the Aiming High – Short Breaks newsletter. The new programme of Aiming High activities started on April 1st 2022, with **10 Providers** now offering activities both for children and young people independently and as family groups. This will be the first of our regular newsletters.

So what are **Aiming High Short Breaks Activities**?

Aiming High is a programme of activities and short breaks for children and young people aged 0-18 years old with a special educational need/disability (SEND) who live in Staffordshire. Activities are available to anyone with a Special Educational Need or Disability. An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is not necessarily needed.

The programme is designed to:

- Boost children and young people's confidence and independence, and help them learn new skills

Some activities are open to the whole family while other activities are suitable for children and young people to attend independently.

Activities include:

- Sensory experiences, day trips, sports, youth clubs, nature and outdoor activities and much more!

Free activities every month!

Children and young people can access a set amount of **free activities** each month (usually one per month with extra during the school holidays – e.g., two sessions in May because of half term and two sessions in July and two in August because of the summer holidays).



How do you book?

Free activities can be booked a month in advance from first – eleventh day of the month, e.g. activities for June can be booked on 1st – 11th May

Additional activities are available on top of the free ones and can be booked a month in advance from 12th onwards. A fee may be payable directly to the activity organiser for additional activities

To find a list of activities in your area, please go to the Aiming High page:

[Aiming High - Activities and short breaks | Staffordshire Connects](#)

Click on the calendar for a specific area or the grey area to see a whole week or month's activities. If your child/young person would like to take part in an activity or have any questions, **please call 0300 111 8007 (option 2, option 5)**

We want to make sure that bookings for our activities are accessible to everyone and so if you are unable to contact our booking team via the telephone, please email

sendreferrals@staffordshire.gov.uk

Please include information on your child's name, date of birth and the activity provider and date you are interested in.

Let us know your thoughts ...

We want to provide the best possible activities and support for children, young people and families.

If you have any thoughts on the Aiming High programme, please get in touch by emailing us at aiminghigh@staffordshire.gov.uk

Or call 0300 111 8007 (option 2, option 5)



For children and young people with
SEN and disabilities in Staffordshire

staffordshire.gov.uk/aiminghigh