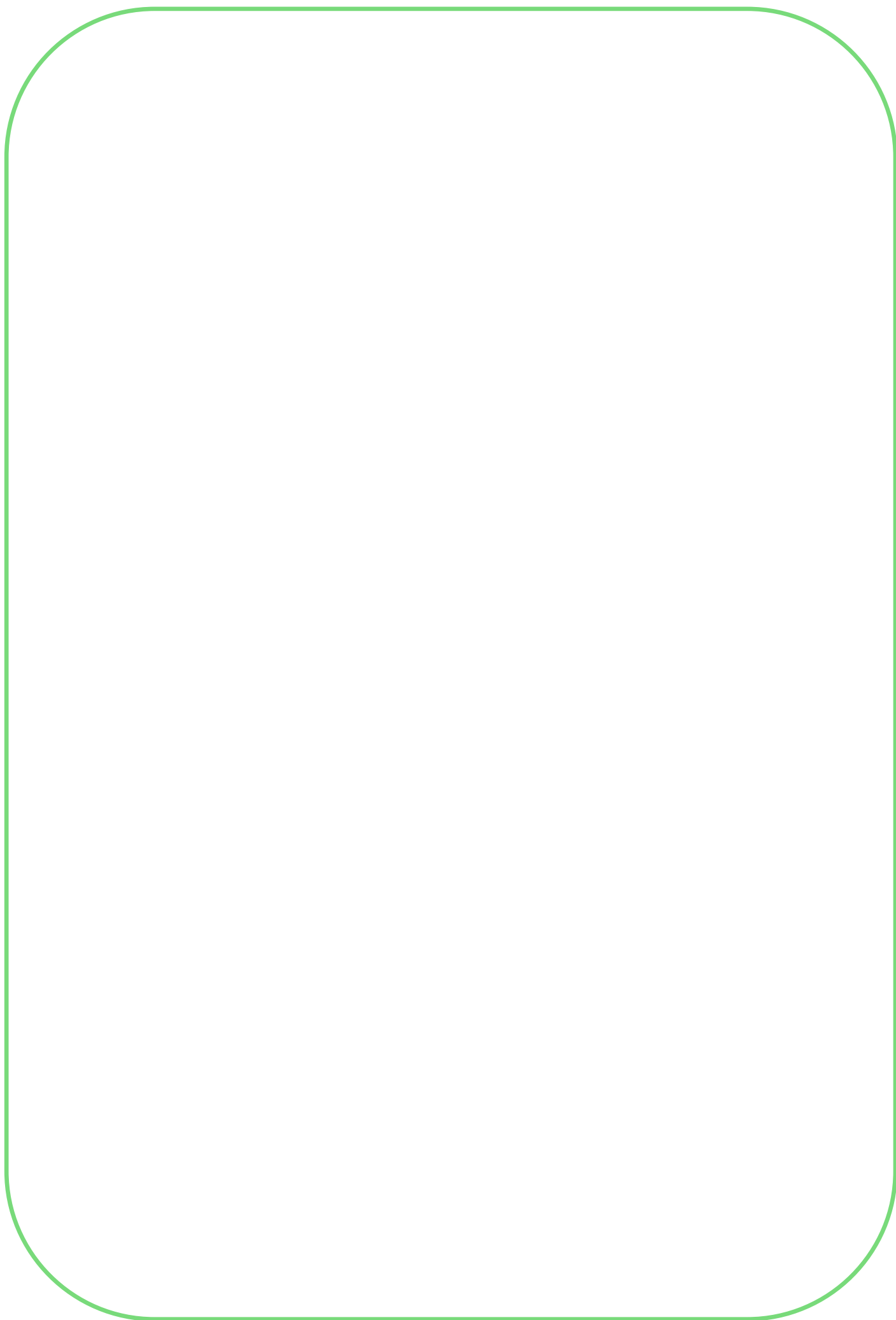




## **Blue Class**

# Parent Information Booklet 2023-2024





Hello and welcome to  
Blue Class.

My name is Jenny Parkes and I will  
be your class Teacher for the  
year.



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Blue Class.

Whether your child is new to the school or returning to Blue Class for another year, we will do everything we can to ensure that they settle happily and quickly into their new class group. We hope that you find the information included in this booklet useful in providing information and an insight into the experiences and opportunities that are offered in this class.

### **Key information**

- \* We try our best to go outside every day. Please send in appropriate clothing for the day e.g. a warm coat for colder days and sun hat for sunny days.
- \* Please send in a full spare set of clothes for your child in September, all clearly labelled with their name. We have lots in fun in Blue Class, but accidents happen and sometimes fun things do get messy!

### **Class and Play Ground**



## Organisation of the School Day

### Mornings

9.00 - 9.10	<p><b>Arrival</b></p> <p>On arrival the children are welcomed and helped to hang their coats and bags onto their pegs. (Promoting independence)</p>
9.10 - 9.30	<p><b>Start of the Day Activities</b></p> <p>The morning begins with a 'Good Morning' session and a look at the visual timetable so everyone knows what activities they will be doing during the day ahead.</p>
9.30 - 10.00	<p><b>Good Morning and Wake up Shake up Time</b></p> <p>This is our Circle Time where we sing our Good Morning song and look at our visual timetable so everyone knows the activities for the day ahead. We then do our Wake up Shake up movement time.</p>
10.00 - 10.30	<p><b>Snack and Play time</b></p> <p>The children sit together to enjoy a mid-morning snack and drink, developing their table manners and communication skills in requesting their chosen snack. Outdoor play is then available and everyone is helped to go outside and develop their gross motor skills and explore the outdoor environment.</p>
10.30 - 12.00	<p><b>Teaching session</b></p> <p>In Blue class our teaching sessions include a combination of planned, adult-led activities and opportunities for child-initiated and independent learning through themed continuous provision/play. We finish our morning with a story and dinnertime song.</p>



## Organisation of the School Day

### Afternoons

12.00 - 1.00	<p><b>Lunch time</b></p> <p>Lunch is served for Blue class in the hall. Children are supported to eat their packed lunch or school dinner. They are then able to enjoy play and outdoor activities on the playground.</p>
1.00 - 2.30	<p><b>Teaching session</b></p> <p>As with the morning session, this will include a range of planned, adult-led activities and opportunities for child-initiated and independent learning through themed continuous provision and play—focused on specific subject teaching and learning.</p>
2.30- 3.00	<p><b>Snack and Story Time</b></p> <p>The children sit together to enjoy an afternoon snack and drink. We then finish our afternoon together reflecting on the day's activities/learning and sharing a story.</p>
3.00 - 3.15	<p><b>Home time</b></p> <p>The children are encouraged to collect their belongings ready to go home.</p>



## **Curriculum**

We take a nurturing and holistic approach to meet the needs of the children in Blue Class and have a high staff ratio to enable us to do this.

Our routine is structured to allow for a child-focused/adult-supported approach to our activities. We encourage independence and communication skills throughout the school day.

We use sensory activities to enhance and support learning and promote positive behaviours. Our sessions are practical and take part in and out of the classroom environment.

We support the children in Blue Class in their learning to follow the EYFS principles. They learn by playing and exploring in the indoor and outdoor environment following a 'free-flow' structure to their timetable. Activities are designed to encourage the children to work towards their learning targets. The children access an adapted and flexible curriculum to allow staff to meet the individual needs and interests of the children..

The curriculum covers seven key area of learning from the EYFS:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

One day every term we also celebrate cultural days to enhance their experiences.

## Blue Class Topic Overview

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year A/Year B					
All About Me	Let's Celebrate	Let's Grow It	Furry Friends and Wild Things	Let's Go on an Adventure	Fun in the Sun
Our topics are story-based. We follow the same theme over a two year rolling programme using different stories.					

### How We Learn...

**Child-initiated activities** - pupils are expected to choose from a range of structured activities, with adult support to model engagement, communication and skills and to develop language and play as appropriate.

**Teacher-directed activities** - differentiated, planned activities with learning objectives, delivered with staff working with children on a 1:1 basis or in small groups.

**Individual Education Plan targets** - there are three personalised targets set each term and shared with parents. These are linked to your child's EHCP and therefore relate to the needs of each child. Staff will then focus on these where appropriate and they are reviewed at the end of each term.





## English



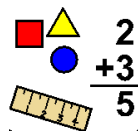
Our English lessons consist of a range of adult led and child led activities.

We work on developing communication skills through Intensive Interaction, SPRINT targets and PECs.

We work on pre writing / early writing skills through a sensory hands on approach.

We follow a range of reading pathways to meet the needs of all children. This includes, 'Jolly Phonics' 'Words First' and 'Letters and Sounds'.

Blue Class enjoy a range of circle time activities to develop listening skills, including songs, rhymes and stories.



## Mathematics

In Blue class, we aim to provide the children with the foundations that they will need for later numeracy skills, by developing counting skills and their understanding of numbers and quantity. Blue Class also enjoy a range of practical activities and equipment to explore concepts and language relating to shapes, spaces and measures.

## Topic



Our half-termly topics are delivered through engaging story-based experiences. We also link activities to visits out into the community.

## SMSC: PSED



Providing core foundations for their time at Cherry Trees, we support the children in Blue class to help them develop a positive sense of themselves, form positive social relationships and learn how to manage their feelings and behaviours in a variety of different situations. We also explore the practices and traditions of different religions and cultures to develop their understanding and respect for different beliefs and values.



### Expressive Art and Design

We give the children the opportunity to use tools and equipment to express themselves through a wide range of media and materials. Creative lessons in Blue class are fun and open to the children's own ideas and imaginations.

### Physical / Outdoor Learning.



In addition to our weekly PE lessons , we aim to give the children time everyday to develop physical skills both inside and outside the classroom, using small and large equipment. For children with particular needs, we also incorporate physiotherapy and occupational therapy programmes to develop specific fine and gross motor skills.

Part of our school day is giving the children the opportunity to experience child led activities in the outdoor area of Blue class making links with the lessons taught inside the classroom.

## **Communication and Language Development**



Developing communication and language skills is a really important part of our work with the children in Blue class and is embedded into all areas of the curriculum. We aim to give all the children opportunities to experience a rich language environment to develop their confidence and skills in communication and listening. This may include working towards targets set by the Speech Therapists.

### **Assessment**

In Blue class, we use SOLAR and the EYFS as an assessment tool to record information about your child's learning. This gives us an insight into how they are progressing against a series of statements in each area of the curriculum. This record will follow them through school, so that we have a clear record of their learning journey all the way through school.

Please note, we take photographs as part of our observations and it may be possible that your child is included in a photograph of an observation of another child. However, these photos will not be released outside of school unless you have given permission for this.



## **Independence Curriculum**



We maximise opportunities throughout the day for the children to develop their independence skills. The children are encouraged to practise different life skills each term to ensure they can be as independent as their abilities allow. In Blue class children will do this through mainly their daily routines in school: this will include skills such as finding their own belongings, dressing and feeding. Life skills provide the foundation to ensuring our children can access a full and independent adult life, ensuring they can stay safe and happy. You can find a copy of our Independence Curriculum on the school website. This has a list of the key skills and achievement steps we work towards in Blue Class, so that you can support with these at home too.

## **Community visits**

Each class is provided with a weekly session to use one of our school minibuses to access the community. These visits provide opportunities to enhance and extend the learning that takes place in the classroom. They also give us the chance to help the children experience and learn what is expected in places such as supermarkets, cafes, shops and local parks. This is an ideal time to develop independent life skills in a real-world context.

## Rewards and Recognition



In Blue Class we share lots of special moments that happen in class and at home. Parents are encouraged to inform us of special moments for their child. This can be through Class Dojo.

Children get stickers and stars when they have achieved special moments / work achievements.

Children can also earn special certificates in Blue class throughout the school week.

## Shared Spaces

At Cherry Trees our classes enjoy access to a number of shared spaces which provide opportunities for both learning and therapeutic experiences. These include: the school library, the swimming pool, the forest school, the therapy room, the Sensory Room, the kitchen and nurture room and the soft play room.





## Nurture and Therapies



At Cherry Trees we believe in helping your child to develop emotionally, socially, independently and academically.

**Music therapy** - each class at school will have the opportunity to have group sessions with our Music Therapist, Carlense. He provides the children with opportunities to experience and engage in the opportunities that music provides, such as communication, socialisation, expression and happiness.

**Play Therapy** - Claire is a trainee play therapist and we utilise this skill so that the children have the opportunity to visit The Therapy Room to take time away from the classroom to relax. These may be regular, timetabled sessions or ad-hoc visits to support pupils at times when we feel it may be beneficial to their wellbeing.

**Lego therapy** - Staff at school are trained in Lego therapy and use this as a vehicle to provide opportunity to support the children's mental health and well being. This can take place in class or in our special therapeutic space.

**Nurture** - We have a dedicated space in school to offer nurture support to the children. This is a timetabled programme delivered by our classroom staff. This helps the children to develop their self esteem and engagement. Activities in these sessions also include cooking and are very well received by the children who take part. All parents will be informed if this is taking place.

**Animal Therapy** - All pupil have the opportunity to access weekly animal therapy sessions. We utilise a local stables for horse riding and have our own resident guinea pigs, Anna and Elsa, that are very popular.

## Home-School Communication



**ClassDojo**

Home-school communication is very important to us and we value opportunities to work together to support the children in Blue class. Every parent will have the chance to communicate with their child's class teacher on a daily basis via Class Dojo. We also use Class Dojo to send home photos and information about learning and events that have taken place at school, so you can share these at home too. This happens during school hours.

At Cherry Trees School we hold two formal Parents Evenings each year in the Autumn and Spring Terms. We also offer an informal Coffee Morning in the Summer Term. These meetings provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child's IEP targets and look at the work in their books. In addition to these, you will be invited to an annual EHCP Review meeting and will receive a written report detailing your child's progress and attitude to school at the end of the year.

### **Our aim is for school and home to work as a partnership.**

If there are any problems that need to be discussed, please discuss these initially with your child's Class Teacher. If the issue is still not resolved, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be happy to help. Should you wish to arrange a meeting with the class teacher, please do not hesitate to contact the office or send a message on Class Dojo and your child's class teacher will contact you at their earliest opportunity.

## **Topic Overviews**

At the beginning of each half term, you will receive an overview of the topics being covered across the curriculum in your child's class. This will provide you with an insight into what your child is learning and enable you to share this at home.

## **School Newsletter**



We send home a copy of The Cherry Trees Newsletter once a month which will share news and photos about the classes and whole-school events. This will also provide reminders for important dates and up and coming events.

## **School Website**

Our school website has lots of information which you might find useful. Please do visit the website regularly, as we frequently add and update information.

[www.cherrytreesschool.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreesschool.co.uk)

## **School Office**

Please contact the school office if you have any questions or queries.

Telephone: [01902 894484](tel:01902894484)

Email: [office1@cherrytrees.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office1@cherrytrees.staffs.sch.uk)

## Food and Drink

### Snack time

From September we will be using snack time as a communication opportunity. Each day we will operate a snack shop where children will request their choice of snack and drinks. Snack choices will include a range of fruit, biscuits, crisps and cereal. Drinks will include milk, water and sugar free squash. We will send a letter to request £5 that will cover the cost of snack for the term.



### Dinner time

School dinners are available to all children and individual dietary needs can be catered for by the school kitchen. Alternatively, children can bring their own packed lunch. Please label lunch boxes clearly with your child's name. The children eat with their class group in the school hall and are supervised and supported by staff. All KS1 children are entitled to a free school meal, so encourage your child to try dinners if they want to!

## Personal Care

Staff are available throughout the school day to support the children with personal care. If your child wears pads, we ask that you send in a supply of nappies and wipes for us to use at school. We can store one pack of pads per child in class and will let you know when your child is running low via Class Dojo.

## Health



If your child is ill and has an infection you are asked to keep them at home and inform school.

Children who have had infectious diseases will be allowed to return to school once the infection period has expired.

Parents are asked not to bring their child to school if they have had sickness or diarrhoea **until 48hrs after the last episode**

If a child becomes ill at school, we will speak to the school nurse for advice and then contact you if it is necessary to collect your child.

## Administration of Medicines



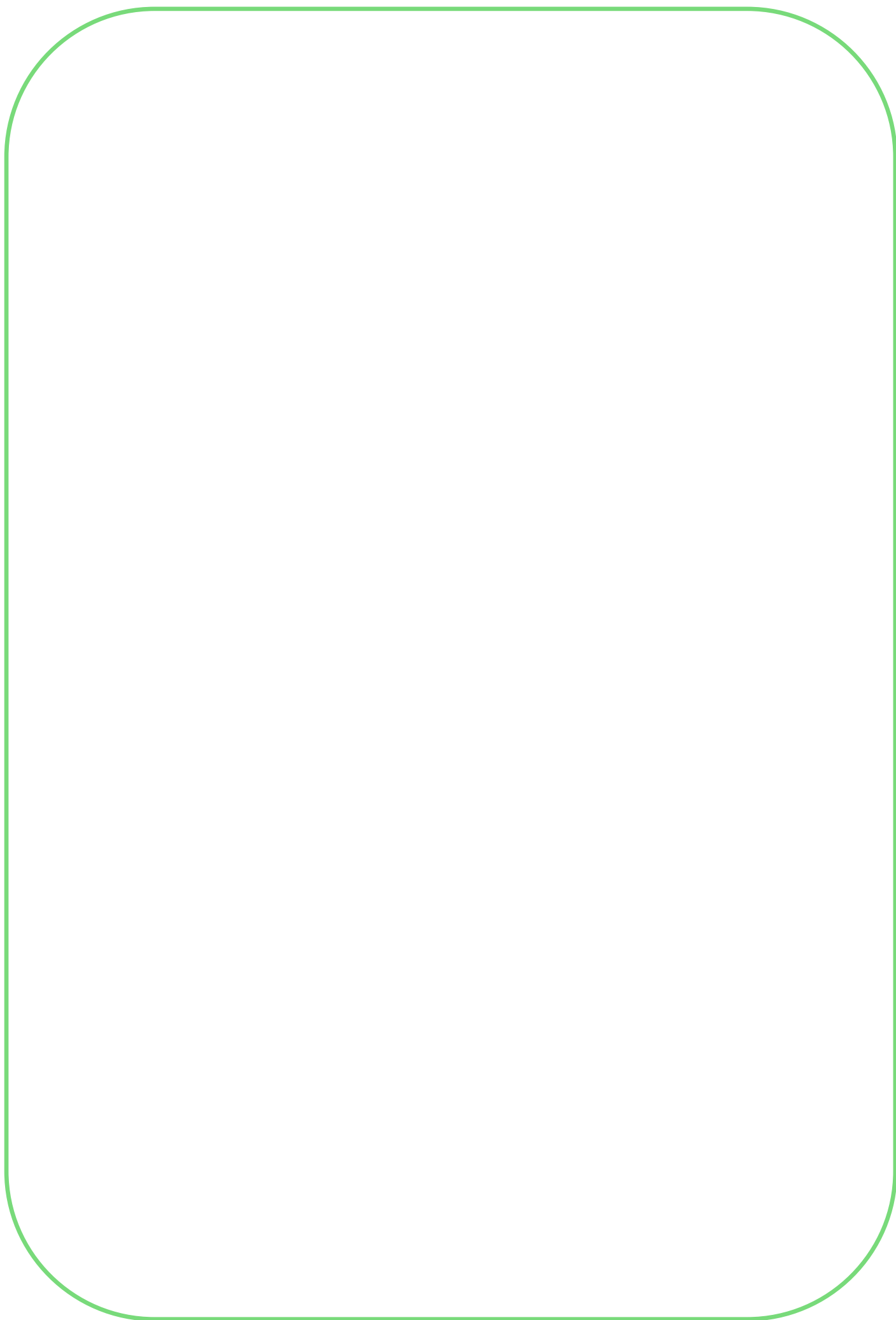
A form for general medicines is included in the school welcome pack for plasters, nappy creams etc for you to sign if you wish.

A permission slip must be completed in order for the school nurse to administer medicines including asthma inhalers.

All medicines must have a pharmacy prescription label on if they are to be administered during the school day.

All children with a known medical condition will have a Care Plan produced by the school nurse.





For further information contact:

Cherry Trees School  
Giggetty Lane  
Wombourne  
Near Wolverhampton  
West Midlands  
WV5 0AX

**Working, Learning, Achieving Together**

e-mail: [office1@cherrytrees.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office1@cherrytrees.staffs.sch.uk)

Adapted by: Jenny Parkes