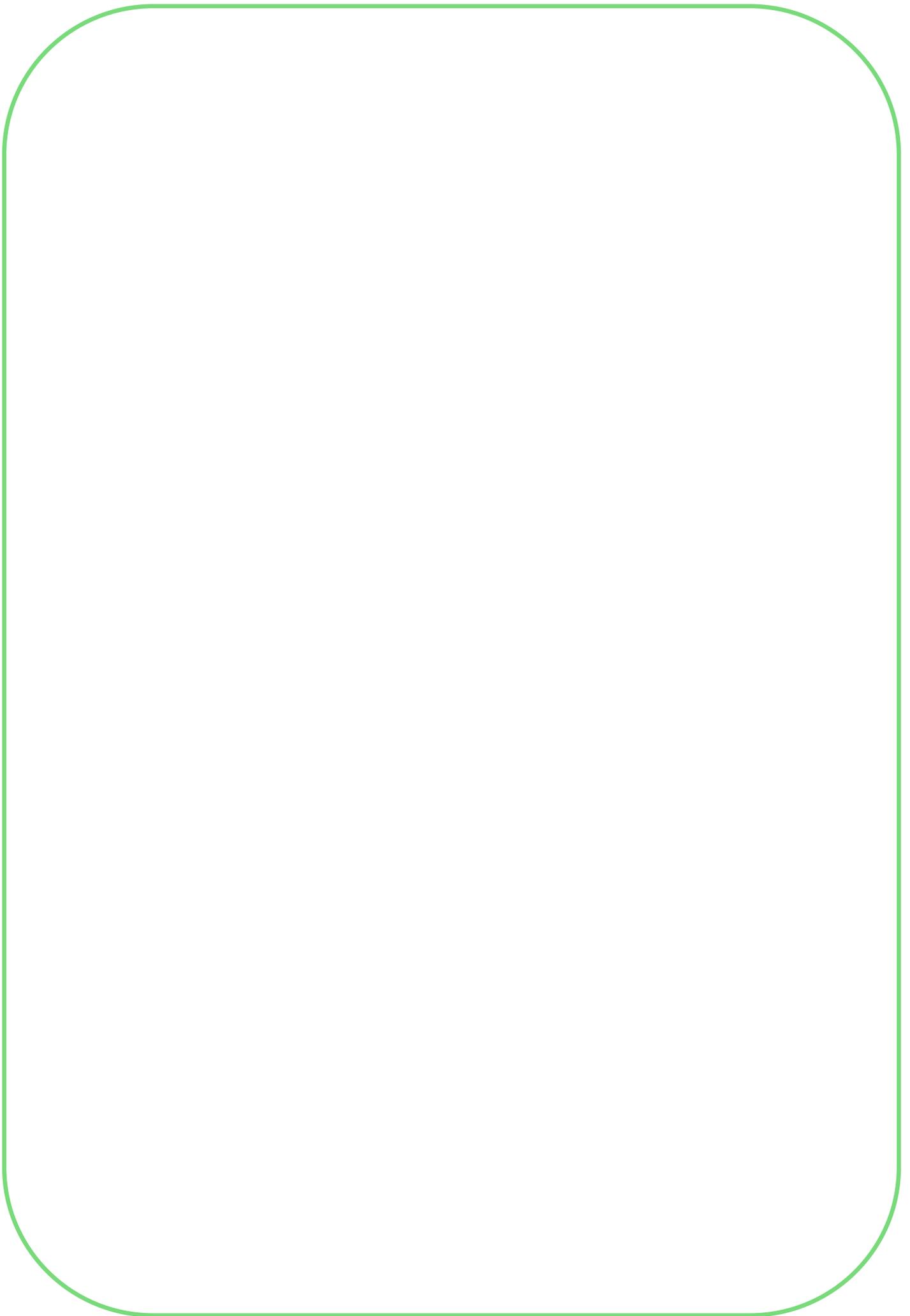




## Purple Class

Parent Information Booklet  
2023-2024





Hello,

My name is Gemma Hill and I have been teaching at Cherry Trees for 3 years now and I love it!!

I am looking forward to being Purple Class teacher and seeing what exciting things we can learn and do together.

I have been teaching for 21 years and I feel I have the best job.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Purple Class.

Whether your child is new to the school, moving from another class or returning to Purple 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 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 of fun in Purple Class, but accidents happen and sometimes fun things do get messy!

### **Class and Play Ground**



# Organisation of the School Day

## Mornings

9.00 - 9.30	<p><b>Arrival</b></p> <p>Pupils arrive at school then come to class to get ready for the day. We spend some time reading, practising spellings and completing morning registration.</p>
9.30- 9.50	<p><b>Daily Mile</b></p> <p>We go to the school field to complete our "Daily Mile" - this is a great chance to chat with friends and get some exercise, ready for the day ahead.</p>
9.50 - 10.30	<p><b>Teaching Session (English)</b></p> <p>Working one-to-one with an adult or in small groups, pupils develop their reading, writing, communication and grammar/spelling/punctuation skills.</p>
10.30- 11.00	<p><b>Snack and Playtime</b></p> <p>Pupils tidy and clean their desks, wash their hands and have a snack and drink whilst we watch something on the screen. We then go out to the playground to play (weather permitting).</p>
11.00- 12.00	<p><b>Teaching Session (maths)</b></p> <p>Pupils work on their maths skills in small groups or individually with adult support.</p>



## Organisation of the School Day

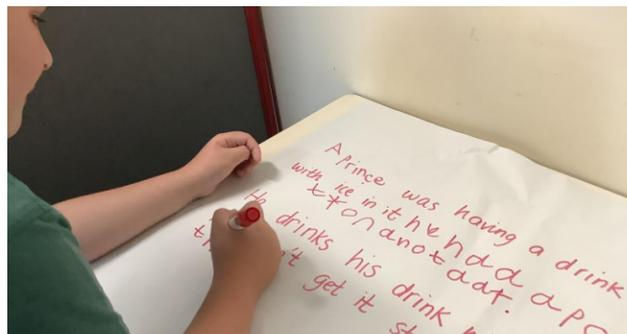
### Afternoons

12.00 - 1.00	<p><b>Lunchtime</b></p> <p>Children spend 30 minutes eating together in class and watching something on the screen. Every child has a turn at choosing and they enjoy showing their friends their favourite films and TV shows.</p> <p>We then go outside (weather permitting) to the playground to play games such as badminton, football, dodgeball and tag or to just have a chat. This is vital time to build social skills and develop friendships.</p> <p>In the summer term, we use the school playing fields and access the range of equipment there.</p>
1.00 - 1.10	<p><b>Registration and Relaxation</b></p> <p>Some time to relax after playing outside, take the afternoon register, have a drink, use the toilet and do some quiet colouring, drawing or sensory play.</p>
1.10- 2.30	<p><b>Teaching Session</b></p> <p>Subjects covered here include history, geography, computing, science, art and DT, PE, RE and PSHE.</p>
2.30—2.45	<p><b>Choice Time</b></p> <p>Children are rewarded for their work during the day with some time to play. We have a range of toys and computers and also encourage children to play outside if they wish.</p>

## Curriculum

Half terms are organised around a topic, which we use to make links between subjects. Wherever possible, learning relates to these topics so that children can develop their understanding fully.

Children in Purple Class access an adapted National Curriculum, covering all of the main subjects. We have weekly sessions with a music specialist and weekly swimming sessions in the school pool. Weekly football training is offered for those that are interested.



## Purple Class Topic Overview

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year A					
Roald Dahl	World War 2	Vikings and Anglo Saxons Space	Scientists and Inventors	Superheroes	What Do You Sea?
Year B					
Egyptians	Lights, Camera,	Space	Righteous Royals	Magic	Groovy Greeks

### How We Learn...

**Independent Learning** - Children will be taught in a way that enables them to rehearse activity and develop independent skills, we have an expectation that the children have a go, we will support learning with a view to develop independence.

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

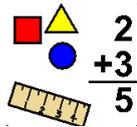
**Individual Education Plan targets** - there are three personalised targets set each term and shared with parents. These are linked to your child's EHCP and therefore relate to the needs of each child. Staff will then focus on these where appropriate and they are reviewed at the end of each term.



## English

Using fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our topic, the children in Purple Class have the opportunity to develop an interest in stories, poems, newspaper articles, postcards, lists, recipes and recounts, amongst others.

Utilising a mixture of traditional and technology-based methods (such as Microsoft Office software), we prepare children for adult life by giving them meaningful experiences and helping them develop a love of literature.



## Mathematics

We teach relevant skills that help children realise the importance of maths in everyday life. Using a range of practical equipment such as Numicon, scales, counters, real money, dice, Cuisenaire rods, protractors and much more, we teach children the concrete foundations of each skill, before they apply this using written methods.

## Science



We have a strong focus on investigation and practical skills in science to maximise engagement and involvement. Our aim is for pupils to discover things for themselves and learn the importance of fair testing, making predictions and drawing conclusions based on what they observed.

## SMSC: PSHE, RSE and RE



Providing core foundations for their time at Cherry Trees, we support the children in Purple Class to help them develop a positive sense of themselves, form appropriate social relationships and learn how to manage their feelings and behaviours in a variety of different situations. We focus on working together as a team, building self esteem and seeing the importance of others. We also explore the practices and traditions of different religions and cultures to develop their understanding and respect for different beliefs and values.



## Humanities: History, Geography and Computing

Using technology, artefacts, maps, atlases and experiential visits outside of school, the children in Purple Class develop an awareness of the world around them. Together, we learn about different people, places and periods of time and learn to use technology in an ever-developing world.

## Creative: Art, D&T and Music



We give the children regular opportunities to express themselves through painting, sculpting, drawing, model making and more. Pupils use a variety of tools and materials, learn about famous artists and develop the ability to appraise their own work and that of others.



## Physical: PE

We swim every week – something the children really look forward to.

We play a selection of team sports and develop skills in sport techniques, following rules, working with others and movement. There is a large selection of exercise equipment on the school field and we provide regular opportunities and equipment for informal activities at playtime, lunchtime and during choice.

## **Communication and Language Development**



Developing communication and language skills is a vitally important part of our work with the children in Purple Class and is embedded into all areas of the curriculum. We aim to give all of 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 Speech Therapists. We use specialist software (InPrint) to enhance visual support. We practise turn taking and working with peers in exciting settings to improve social skills and we use visual timetables to enhance awareness of the daily routine and reduce anxieties.

### **Assessment**

We use SOLAR 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 independent skills. The children are encouraged to practise different life skills each term to ensure they can be as independent as their abilities allow.

In Purple Class, children do this through cookery lessons, being responsible for trimming and gluing their own work into their books, making their own drinks, cleaning their own tables with antibacterial spray and fetching their own equipment in lessons.

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 Purple 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



**ClassDojo**

We use Dojo Points throughout the day as a reward for working hard and in recognition of doing the right thing. These will show up on the Class Dojo App to inform you of when your child has been rewarded. We also offer verbal praise and choice time every afternoon as a reward for doing good work.

Dojo is used to share the learning and activities that have happened during the day. It is a way to contact myself if you need me and for me to share news, pictures, messages and the letters that never seem to make it home.

Purple Class have a celebration every half term as a reward for all of their hard work. They work together to achieve a set amount of Dojo Points, building togetherness and team spirit.

## 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 light 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, Carlence. 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 trained play therapists 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

Home-school communication is very important to us and we value opportunities to work together to support the children in Purple 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.



**ClassDojo**

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)

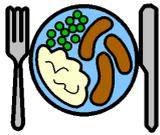
## Food and Drink

### Snack time

Pupils bring their own snacks and drinks—we can keep a bottle of squash for your child and make this up as needed. A drinks bottle is also a good idea but we do have cups. Fruit is provided free of charge.

**Allergen advice: please make sure that you make us aware if your child has any allergies.**

### 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.

In Purple class, the children remain in the classroom for their dinner and are supervised and supported by staff.

### Personal Care

Staff are available throughout the school day to support the children with personal care. If your child wears nappies, we ask that you send in a supply of nappies and wipes for us to use at school. We can store one pack of nappies 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

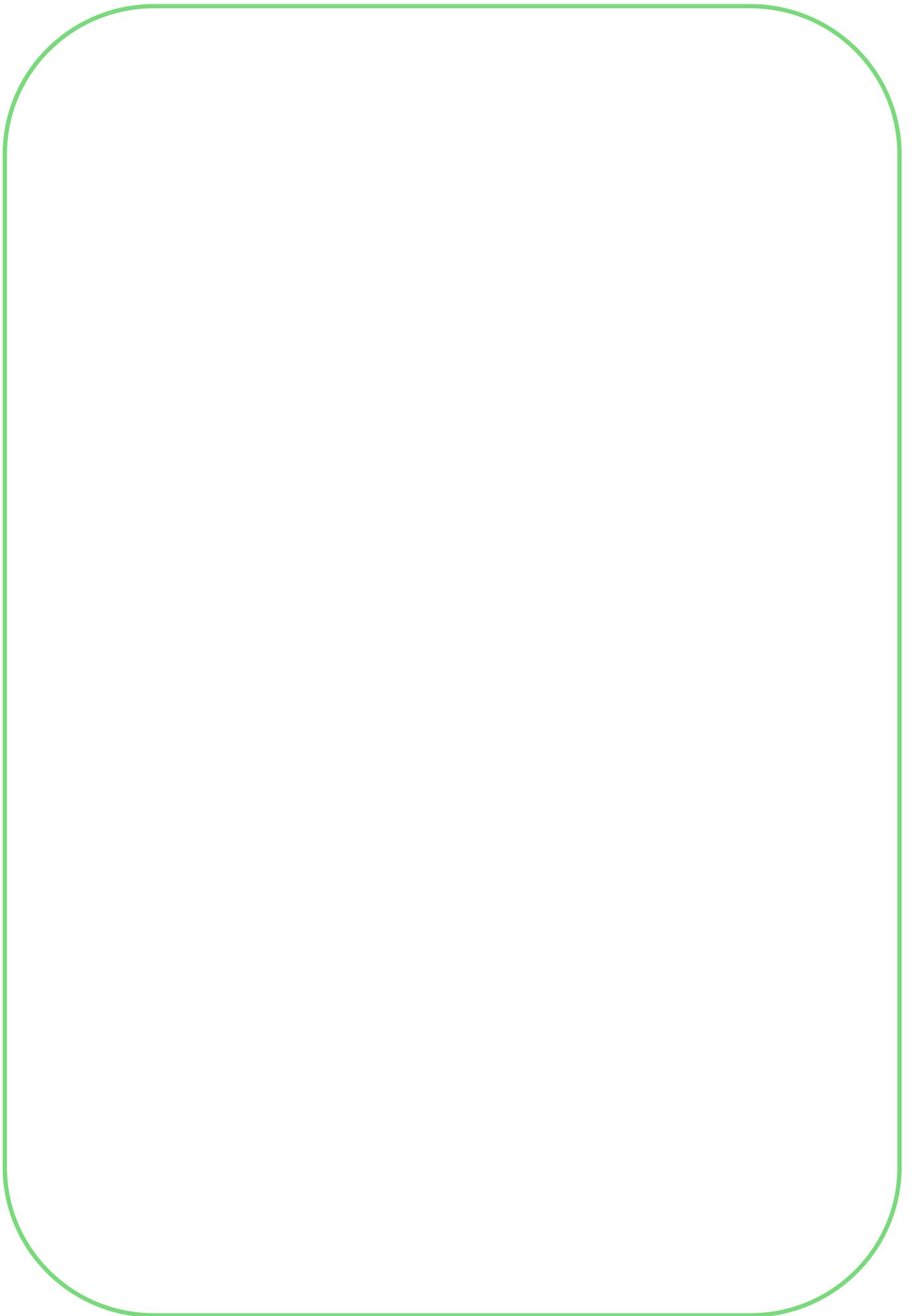


A form for general medicines is included in the school welcome pack for plasters, nappy creams etc for you to sign if you wish.

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)

[g.hill@cherrytrees.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:g.hill@cherrytrees.staffs.sch.uk)