

# CHERRY GARDEN SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Dear Family and Friends

As we fast approach the end of the 2023 it's time to say goodbye to another school term. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas/end of year show on 12th and 13th December, there were some real special moments and the pupils were able to showcase many of their talents!



This half term has been an exceptionally busy one with some significant achievements as a school community. At the beginning of December, we had our reassessment for our MOVE (Movement Opportunities Via Education) Centre of Excellence and I am delighted to confirm we maintained this high standard and status.

This is credit to the whole school community. Not all our pupils are on the MOVE programme as this is based on their needs, however the MOVE ethos runs throughout the school and is led by our MOVE Team (Simon, Steph and Kelly M). Pupils on the programme make significant progress in all aspects of their physical skills which are embedded into their holistic development. Parents, carers, friends and family also play a significant part in the MOVE programme and ensure skills learnt at school are transferable and vice versa. Well done all!



More good news is that last week we got our Wellbeing Award for Schools. Wellbeing is high on our agenda for the whole school community and we are very pleased to gain this award.

However, the award is just a status and we embarked on the journey to audit what was great about wellbeing at Cherry and what would make it even better. This is for pupils, staff, parents/carers and all stakeholders.

We acknowledge we will always be on a journey with wellbeing and never reach a final destination, however we certainly have come some miles! Thank you to all but especially our wellbeing champions (pupils on the school council).

Every September we set ourselves new whole school objectives to improve and build on our existing provision for all. These objectives are informed by reviewing previous objectives and feedback from staff, parents/carers, pupils and all stakeholders. Below is a summary of some of our core intentions for September '23 – July '24. Classes have been busy working on these and adapt them to meet pupils' specific individual needs. Parent/carer workshops will also focus on some of these key elements to ensure we work in partnership.....we look forward to seeing you at these soon!



### whole school objectives

- To further extend writing and typing skills to increase functional use and opportunities for lifelong learning.
- To further develop play for our explorers to maximise opportunities both indoors and outdoors plus in additional spaces.
- To plan and develop a sensory gym to further support learners with sensory needs.
- To implement curriculum champions who will support raising standards across all areas - staff and pupils.
- To embrace and embed eco schools throughout the school community.



If you would like any further details regarding our next steps please do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of the Senior Leadership Team (myself, Lesley, Simon and Kylie).

As the holiday period approaches I appreciate this can be an exciting time for some but a difficult time for others. Please do remember we are here for your child but also here for you as a family and therefore if we can support in any way do get in touch.

From all of us at Cherry we wish you a peaceful and happy festive period, and a happy and healthy new year!

*Kelly*

Headteacher



message from governors

Following this term's Full Governing Body meeting in November, we have been making individual visits to the school to see how the school and its leaders are progressing with the school development plan. We were delighted with the Wellbeing award which is part of this.

The Resources committee met to monitor budget spending and agreed the financial contribution to the new school minibus, we hope you have many happy outings on it. The curriculum, family and community committee enjoyed a tour of the school's specialist resources led by members of the school council. They showed us their favourite places and answered our questions. We were impressed with the extensive use of the facilities and how they meet individual need.

And of course, I have very much enjoyed watching the fantastic Christmas show!

Wishing you and your families a happy and peaceful winter break

Felicia  
Chair of Governors



## staffing update

We we say goodbye to Jodie, Hawa and Nicole, three of our fantastic Learning Support Assistants, and to Chris, our Turtle class teacher. We wish them all the very best for the future!

We have happily appointed some new support staff who we will be welcoming in the new year.



financial



support

As a school we are able to access occasional grants and funds to support families who are struggling financially. If this is something you would like to find out more about, please ask to speak to a member of the Leadership Team or Lianna, who will be able to explain more and discretely make referrals if needed.



fundraiser

A parent at Cherry (Chris, Harrison's Dad) is doing a fundraiser for school in June, where he plans to do some incredibly tough cycling in the Pyrenees.

Chris will be attempting to "Everest" the Col de la Core in the Pyrenees (repeatedly climbing the mountain until he's climbed 8,848m - the equivalent height of Mt Everest).

For more information about the challenge, and to find out how to donate, [please visit his just giving page!](#)





## Empowering Community



We've been on fun end of term trips to the bowling alley and some of us even went to Winter Wonderland!



## Working in Partnership

Together with our OT team we have been focusing on fine motor skills - getting our fingers busy!







## Child centred learning

During the darkest time of the year with the longest nights, we have been enjoying exploring and playing with light!





# Inspiring Life-long Development



Taking care of our teeth is something we need to do our whole lives, so it's good to get as much practise in as possible!



## Respect and Compassion

Learning and playing together is the best way to make friends!

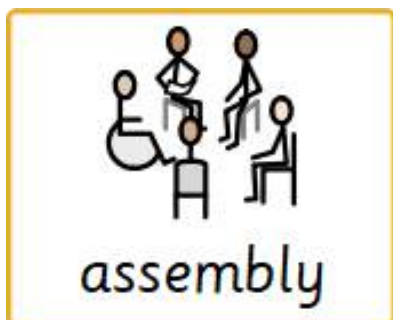






There are a few options for play schemes and SENSational stay and play sessions this holiday period.

To find out more click here!  
and check out the SENSational timetable at the end of the newsletter.



Assembly Plan for next half term:

12th Jan - Meditation

19th Jan - Eco-friendly Cherry

26th Jan - Inspirational

person focus

2nd Feb - Children's Mental

Health Week

9th Feb - Lunar New Year



Swap shop is closed to new donations as we are VERY full at the moment! However, if you need any uniform or winter coats and shoes, please come in and have a look - we have lots to choose from!



Don't forget! We break up for the Christmas holidays at 1.30pm on Wednesday 20th December.

Monday 8th Jan and Tuesday 9th Jan - INSET days

Back to school on Wednesday 10th January!



# NOTICE BOARD

*Click the links for more info...*



“Wonder” into your local library this winter, join in with the activities, read some wonderful books and win great prizes.

All Southwark Libraries throughout December and January.



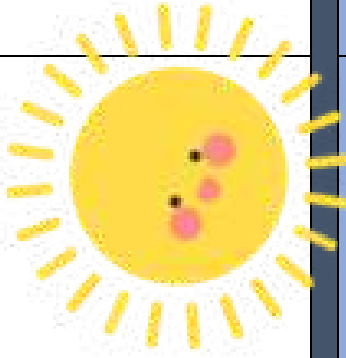
Tate Britain Play Studio  
Open Fridays and weekends during term time, and every day in school holidays.  
Fun, multi-sensory and creative free play space.



**TATE**  
PLAY STUDIO



# SENsational Stay & Plays and Short Breaks – Christmas 2023

25 December						
Monday 25th December	Tuesday 26th December	Wednesday 27th December	Thursday 28th December	Friday 29th December	Saturday 30th December	
NO SESSIONS	NO SESSIONS	Location: *Ivydale Children & Family Centre, Bellwood Road, SE15 3DE Time: 10am – 3pm Ages: 5-11 years	Location: *Ann Bernadt Children & Family Centre, Chandler Way SE15 6DT Time: 10am – 3pm Ages: 0-5 years	Location: Dulwich Wood Children & Family Centre, Lyall Avenue, SE21 8QS Time: 10am – 3pm Ages: 5-11 years	Location: *Ivydale Children & Family Centre, Bellwood Road, Nunhead SE15 3DE Time: 10am - 12noon Ages: 0-8 years	
						Location: *Ann Bernadt Children & Family Centre, 29 Chandler Way, Peckham, SE15 6DT Time: 10am - 12noon Ages: 0-8 years
w/c 1st January						
Monday 1st January	Tuesday 2nd January	Wednesday 3rd January	Thursday 4th January	Friday 5th January	Saturday 6th January	
NO SESSIONS	NO SESSIONS	Location: Crawford Children & Family Centre, Crawford Road SE5 9NF Time: 10am – 3pm Ages: 0-5 years	Location: *Ann Bernadt Children & Family Centre, Chandler Way SE15 6DT Time: 10am – 3pm Ages: 0-5 years	Location: *Ivydale Children & Family Centre, Bellwood Road, SE15 3DE Time: 10am – 3pm Ages: 5-11 years	Location: *Ivydale Children & Family Centre, Bellwood Road, Nunhead SE15 3DE Time: 10am - 12noon Ages: 0-8 years	
		<div>*At Ann Bernadt and Ivydale there are a few spaces for parents that wish to leave their child to take a break (subject to assessment of need, pre-booking and availability). Please contact <a href="mailto:childrencentre@ivydale.southwark.sch.uk">childrencentre@ivydale.southwark.sch.uk</a></div>				Location: *Ann Bernadt Children & Family Centre, 29 Chandler Way, Peckham, SE15 6DT Time: 10am - 12noon Ages: 0-8 years

