



It has been a cold start to December and we have already experienced, snow, rain and sunshine - all in the one day! On that note, a little reminder to ensure that the children are sent into school wearing appropriate cold weather clothing to include a coat, gloves and a hat. Miss Doig, our Site Manager, has been busy getting the paths around school gritted in the mornings to ensure that they are not too slippery. We have reminded the children that they should take care when moving around the playgrounds and pathways when the temperature is so low. We would appreciate it if you are able to reinforce this message with your child on their way in and out of school.

This week, Year 1 have performed their Christmas production to the whole school and their families across multiple days - they have done this with confidence, excitement and positivity. I have been left extremely proud of the progress that each of the Year 1 children have made since September and how much they have all grown in confidence already. Well done Year 1.

Last weekend we were very successful in planting the trees provided to the school by Essex County Council. We had a number of volunteers who braved the cold to support with the planting and I would like to say thank you to everyone who was able to come and support.

Message from governors

On behalf of the governing body. We would like to thank everyone who had helped with the tree planting on Saturday and Sunday. Many of you will see them grow and flourish, wildlife will increase as well helping climate change. Well done.

Thanks to the choir at the church bazaar on Saturday. Special thanks to Mrs Nicklin and Mrs Maguire-Parsons for all the hard work they put in with the children and for giving up their time so the choir could perform in the community. We are delighted that the bazaar raised just over £1,200, which will be split between the Holy Cross Restoration fund (we are currently trying to raise around 30k for essential work to this 800 year old listed building) and for improvement works at St Andrews (to help us continue things like the community cafe and Restore food project)

Have a great weekend

Mr Wade



Diary Dates:

December

- 5th—Year 2 Christmas production to parents@9:15am
- 6th—Year 2 Christmas production to parents@9:15am
- 6th—Year 3-4 Football match @ Greensted (selected children)
- 7th—Pantomime in school
- 8th—Year 5/6 Football match v Willows (H) (selected children)
- 12th— Reception Christmas production to parents @9:15am
- 12th—Year 5 trip (Olive & Sycamore) to Chelmsford Museum
- 13th—Reception Christmas production to parents @9:15am
- 13th—Year 5 trip (Willow) to Chelmsford Museum
- 14th—Christmas Dinner & jumper day
- 14th—Nursery songs to parents 11 (AM) & 14:30 (PM)
- 14th—Class parties (pm)
- 15th—Year 3 Carol Concert to parents @9:15am
- 15th— Winter Workshop 15:30
- 18th—Year 4 Carol Concert to parents @9:15am
- 19th—Year 5 Carol Concert to parents @9:15am
- 20th—Year 6 Carol Concert to parents @9:15am
- 20th—Last day of term.

Inset Days—22nd, 23rd & 24th May 2024.



Information/ Reminders —

Reception September 2024 Applications

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 6 November 2023**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2024.

From 6 November 2023, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2024**.

Holiday Activity Codes

Essex ActivAte vouchers have been ordered, these are for parents who are in receipt of Free School meals and are benefit based. The vouchers will be issued the week commencing 27th November 2023.

'Talk it' topics and British Values

'Talk it' topics are an opportunity for children to discuss an issue or idea throughout the week which is linked to the British Values. It encourages children's communication skills as well as debating skills and is fun. We cover a different topic in school each week. It would be fantastic if you could talk about it at home too. This week's topic will be—

What is it like to live through an uncertain time?- This links to the British Value —Rule of Law.

Vacancies.

Please visit the following for vacancies within our trust.

www.berlesduna.co.uk/Vacancy.php



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – HLTA closing date 6th December
 CHERRY TREE – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 6th December
 DOWNHAM – WIDYAD ASSISTANT closing date 14th December
 DOWNHAM – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 14th December
 MERRYLANDS – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 4th December
 MERRYLANDS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 10th December
 MERRYLANDS – MEDICAL OFFICER closing date 10th December
 MERRYLANDS – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 10th December
 MERRYLANDS – PART TIME TEACHER closing date 10th December

For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies - Berlesduna Academy Trust](http://www.berlesduna.co.uk/Vacancies)



Certificate of Achievement

Week of 27th November 2023

Buttercup— Daisy
Daffodil— Isobel B
Primrose— Daria
Bluebell Class— Poppy-Rose
Rose Class— Victor D
Tulip Class— Elizabeth L
Lavender Class— Aman G
Orchid Class— Karina
Sunflower Class— Adebambo A
Birch Class— Ruth B
Hawthorn Class— Poppie M
Pine Class— Ziyad B
Ash Class— Liam B
Beech Class— Ellie C
Maple Class— Evie O
Olive Class— Vizdhan R
Sycamore Class— Reggie F
Willow Class— Urte S
Elder Class— Harry W
Elm Class— John-Robert B
Oak Class— Stanley F



Reading Corner

Year Group	This week we will be reading...
Nursery	Father Christmas needs a wee! by Nicholas Allan
Reception	Winter
Year 1	Traction Man Mini Grey
Year 2	There's a Rang Tan in my bedroom by James Sellick
Year 3	The boy who grew dragons by Andy Shepherd
Year 4	The firework maker's daughter by Philip Pullman
Year 5	The sleeper and the spindle by Neil Gaiman
Year 6	The unforgettable coat by Frank Cottrell Boyce

Class	Reader of the week...
Year 1—Bluebell	Ahyaan
Year 1—Rose	Jake K
Year 1 - Tulip	Matty L
Year 2 - Orchid	Jacqueline
Year 2 - Sunflower	Elsie H
Year 2 - Lavender	Ryka R
Year 3 - Pine	Parker L
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Tudor M
Year 3 - Birch	Blake C
Year 4 - Maple	Albie H
Year 4 - Beech	Kai M
Year 4 - Ash	Lillie-Ann M
Year 5 - Olive	Joseph P
Year 5 - Sycamore	Riley K
Year 5 - Willow	Idris O
Year 6—Elder	Sophie J
Year— Elm	Bobby H
Year 6—Oak	Ava-Rose R

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



Please see below for what has been taught in phonics this week in your child/s year group:

Reception	This week we have been reviewing the phonics we have been learning
Year 1	This week in phonics, Year 1 have been learning to read words ending in -s, -es, -ing and - ed for example: sports, trains, dresses, sleeping, splashed and painted.
Year 2	Year 2 have been revising all GPC's this week, as we are at the revisit and review stage of the Little Wandle Programme. This will continue into next week.

Free Reader Friday

Please remind your child that every Friday, they can bring in their own book from home, or choose one from the book corner or school library.



Library Visits

Please see the dates below for upcoming library visits—

7th Dec—Willow
8th Dec—Sycamore & Olive

Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



Discuss: What makes you happy?

Sentence stems

I think ... because...
I agree and would like to add...
I understand your point of view, but ...

Challenger

Gives reasons to disagree or presents an alternative argument

Will say:

I disagree with you because...
You mentioned X but what about...
To challenge you X, I think...
I understand your point of view, but have you thought about...?

Builder

Develops, adds to or runs with an idea

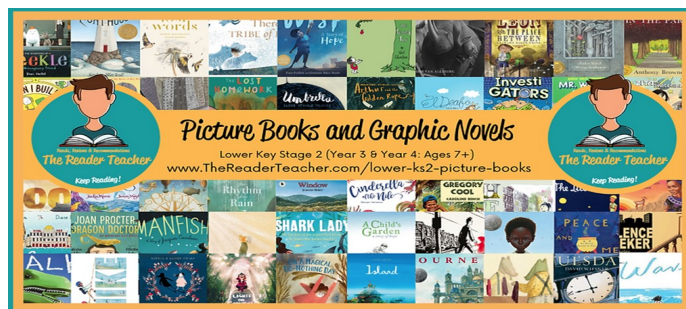
Will say:

I agree, and would like to add...
Building on that idea, I think...
Linking to what X said, I think...

Please visit your local library and find out more about their Winter Reading Challenge.



Recommended Reads



Times Table Rockstars and Numbots



TT Rockstars

Player of the week—

Lavender— Sia P
Orchid— Kyan
Sunflower— Azlan I
Birch— Sarah B
Hawthorn— Ella M
Pine — Roziie F
Ash— Lola Q
Beech— Owen D
Maple— Simon B
Olive— Bonnie H
Sycamore— Jayden B
Willow— Harper W
Elder— Tegan D
Elm— Isla C
Oak— Ioan S-T

TT Rockstars Class of the week is Ash.

Player of the week—

Rose— Phoebe V
Tulip— Ellis G
Bluebell— Violet & Phoebe

Numbots class of the week is Tulip.

TTRS Battle table for this week is below—

Battle Board	Week 5
Sycamore class	33
Lavender class	24
Pine class	24
Willow class	21
Ash class	18
Birch class	18
Olive class	15
Hawthorn class	15
Beech class	15
Elder class	12
Maple class	12
Oak class	9
Orchid class	6
Sunflower class	3
Elm class	0



This week, year 6 visited Fryerns Library.

The children thoroughly enjoyed browsing the different genres and sitting and enjoying a good book.

They were also told about the Winter Reading Challenge and were eager to take part in this amazing event run by Essex libraries.



We are delighted that this amazing piece of artwork has been chosen for a display at Parliament! The artwork is on its way to Westminster for the Oxfam #GetCreative4ClimateJustice campaign as part of the COP28 climate conference. The talented artists of Maple and Beech and Ash classes worked with Matt the Artist to create a collage that represents climate justice and highlights the dangers of plastic pollution in our oceans. Well done Year 4, what an exciting achievement!



Year 3/4 Football match v Lee Chapel

On Monday Whitmore took part in their first ever year 3/4 football match against Lee Chapel. This year we wanted to really push sport in the school and opportunities for more people so we entered the 3/4 football league! After a few weeks of training we finally played our first match against Lee Chapel. Knowing it would be a tough game, the children all played their hearts out and held a great account of themselves in which we are all very proud of them. The way they represented the school was impeccable. Unfortunately, the result didn't go our way on this occasion with a 7-3 loss. But not a single child on the team let their head drop and played with full commitment to the final whistle.

Goal scorers:

Louis C x1

Bobby N x2

Player of the match:

Darcey G

