

We're on the final stretch of December with just three school days left. The children have been extremely excited all week especially for the Winter Workshop this afternoon. We have seen the Reception children perform beautifully to their parents and family on Tuesday and Wednesday with such clear singing that it could be incredibly easy to forget that these children only joined us four months ago.

Today, our Year 3 children performed their Christmas carols in front of parents and family and again did the school proud with the level of performance they gave. I explained after the performance today how truly fortunate we are at Whitmore for singing and performing being such a strength in our school. This is in no small part down to the dedication of Mrs Maguire-Parsons and the rest of the amazing team of staff we have. I would like to thank the staff for organising such great performances over this Christmas period.

Our new school website is now up and running and can be accessed at the same web address as the old site. We have been adding lots of information onto the site this week and we will continue to do so over the next couple of weeks. In addition to the dates for your diaries being shared in our weekly newsletter, you will be able to subscribe to the school calendar on the website. This means that dates can be imported into your phone calendar so you never miss an event in school. Please speak to the school office if you need any help with subscribing to the calendar.

You will recall from a previous newsletter where I shared that Mr Smith will be taking on the role of Acting Deputy Headteacher, that a vacancy was left for Acting Assistant Headteacher. This week, Mrs Kemp and I successfully interviewed Mrs Eley for the role and we are delighted to share with you that she will be taking on the role from January until the end of the school year to coincide with Mrs Hunt's secondment to Felmore Primary School. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Eley on this very deserved new position.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents and families in our school community for the support that you have given to me and the school over the last twelve months. We know that when there are strong partnerships between school and home that children are able to flourish and your support allows this to happen.

Have a great weekend
Mr Wade



Diary Dates:

December

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.

January

4th—Return to school

8th—Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon
9th—Year 5 Benin Kingdom workshop
10th—Swimming commences for Sycamore & Olive classes
15th—Yr 5/6 Netball match @ Ghyllgrove (selected children)
17th—KS2 Choir at Young Voices (Selected Children)

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**.

Vacancies.

Please visit the following for vacancies within our trust.



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – FINANCE MANAGER closing date 12th January 2024
CRAYS HILL – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 17th January 2024
CRAYS HILL – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 17th January 2024
MERRYLANDS – ASSISTANT COOK closing date 3rd January 2024
MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 3rd January 2024
WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 8th January 2024
WILLOWS – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 3rd January 2024

For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies – Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)



Certificate of Achievement

Week of 11th December 2023

Buttercup— Teddy
Daffodil— Alex
Primrose— Rosanna
Bluebell Class— Keegan
Rose Class— Hayden W-W
Tulip Class— Lexi H-S
Lavender Class— Compton E
Orchid Class— Lily
Sunflower Class— Mia B
Birch Class— Jayme W
Hawthorn Class— Kyon
Pine Class— Stefan V
Ash Class— Rosie D
Beech Class— Daisy C
Maple Class— Jason T
Olive Class— Whole Class
Sycamore Class— Whole Class
Willow Class— Whole Class
Elder Class— Belle C
Elm Class— Tommy
Oak Class— Michael G



Reading Corner

Year Group	This week we will be reading....
Nursery	What Can You See in Winter? by Sian Smith
Reception	Dear Santa
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	Vlad
Year 1—Rose	Phoebe V
Year 1 - Tulip	Ava M
Year 2 - Orchid	Jacqueline
Year 2 - Sunflower	Jay-J W
Year 2 - Lavender	Maisy D
Year 3 - Pine	Kirby W
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Zoe
Year 3 - Birch	Jayme W
Year 4 - Maple	Kurtis P
Year 4 - Beech	Annabelle B
Year 4 - Ash	Liam B
Year 5 - Olive	Bonnie H
Year 5 - Sycamore	Christian D
Year 5 - Willow	Libby
Year 6—Elder	Cody H
Year— Elm	Shaun
Year 6—Oak	Joshua H-S

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	Year 2 have been completing their phonic assessments this week.
Year 1	In Phonics this week, Year 1 have been reading words with 2 or more digraphs in for example: shower and march.
Year 2	Year 2 have been completing their phonic assessments this 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.



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



Discuss: Would you rather meet an astronaut or

Sentence stems

I would ... 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



TT Rockstars

Player of the week—

Lavender— Lamia M-A
Orchid— Banke
Sunflower— Azlan I
Birch— Bogdan C
Hawthorn— Daria
Pine — Roziie F
Ash— William G
Beech— Sarah I
Maple— Aahil H
Olive— Albie G
Sycamore— Tobo O
Willow— Sadie
Elder— Samira T
Elm— Bebe
Oak— Oliva-Mae H

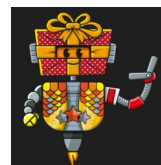
Numbots Player of the week—

Rose— Isla M-C
Tulip— Ashante O
Bluebell— Riley R

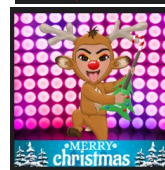
Times Table Rockstars and Numbots

Class winners for this term are—

KS1—Leona H—Bluebell



LKS2—Asda-Grace S—Ash



UKS2—Aiden Y—Elder



Well done!



Year 5 trip to Chelmsford Museum

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Year 5 visited the Chelmsford Museum. First, we learned about some of the jobs the Anglo-Saxons had and got to try them out! We made brooches while imagining that we were blacksmiths. Then we became archeologists and uncovered an Anglo-Saxon burial site. We got to look at all the artefacts and find out who the mystery person could be! Finally, we spent some time exploring the museum and looking at all the artefacts linked to the Romans and Anglo-Saxons. It was a fantastic day out and the children were a real credit to the school - the museum staff were very complimentary of their behaviour!



Athlete of the term

At Whitmore, we are running a new programme called Athlete Of The Term, this is an award given to one person in each year group that is selected as the best athlete. This is selected judged off of their commitment to PE, their attitude towards learning, the progression they make across the term, behaviour as well as many other factors that make them stand out as a good role model to their peers and their teachers. It has been a great term of PE with so many children working really hard to develop their skills in different sports. It was a really tough choice to make.

Our Athletes Of The Term for Autumn were:

Reception – Parker C

Year 1 – Florence G

Year 2 – Reggie L

Year 3 – Taylor M

Year 4 – Darcey G

Year 5 – Albie G

Year 6 – Remi R

WELL DONE ALL!!

