



Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of a new term. I hope you have had a restful Christmas break despite the dreadful weather and the nasty bugs that seem to have been doing the rounds. The children have returned to school with lots of smiles and plenty of energy!

We have started the term this week with lots of immersion into the content of our curriculum; Year 6 did this with a visit to the RAF museum in Hendon, whilst Year 5 took part in a workshop to learn all about the Benin Kingdom. In addition to the real world context that the children gain from museums and in workshops, we work hard to ensure that this is evident throughout the whole of our school curriculum. I very much enjoyed dropping into Year 2 lessons this week where the children have been learning about money and making up specific amounts in different ways. This provided them with a challenge based on real life problems and it was very pleasing to see them all so engaged with their learning.

Next week, we are looking forward to lots of our children representing Whitmore Primary School at the Young Voices concert at the O2. The children have been working extremely hard since September to get ready for the performance and I am certain that they will have an amazing time singing with so many other children from across the country. Good luck everyone within the choir!

As a school we are looking forward to working with you all in 2024 - do please remember that we are always here if you need to come and talk to us about your child. If there are any changes to your contact details or family circumstances that you feel we need to be aware of, please let us know.

Finally, a couple of gentle reminders: when collecting children, please note that dogs are not permitted on site (with the exception of registered assistance dogs). In instances when the school is notified that your child is being collected by someone other than yourself, please phone school before 2:30pm so that the message can be passed to class teachers.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and looking forward to seeing you next week

Mr Wade
Head of School

Diary Dates:

January

- 15th—Yr 5/6 Netball match @ Ghyllgrove (selected children)
- 17th—KS2 Choir at Young Voices (Selected Children)
- 18th—National Read Aloud Ceremony (selected children)
- 22nd—5/6 Netball Match @ Ryedene (selected children)
- 26th—Year 5/6 football match v Willows (selected children)
- 29th—Year 4 Traffic surveys
- 31st—Trust Spelling Bee 9 selected children)

February

- 2nd—Number Day
- 5th—Year 5/6 Football match @ Bardfield (selected children)
- 6th—Safer Internet Day
- 7th—Reception—Animal Workshop
- 8th—Year 3 trip to Colchester Zoo
- 9th—Year 4 Greek day
- 9th—Multiplication check parent meetings
- 9th—Year 5/6 Football match v Fairhouse (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.

www.berlesduna.co.uk/

Vacancy.php



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – FINANCE MANAGER closing date 12th January
CANEWDON – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 22nd January
CHERRY TREE – HLTA closing date 25th January
CRAYS HILL – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 17th January
CRAYS HILL – EYF5 CLASS TEACHER closing date 17th January
DOWNHAM – KS2 CLASS TEACHER closing date 7th February
DOWNHAM – SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER closing date 4th February
DOWNHAM – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 21st January
DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 21st January
MERRYLANDS – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER closing date 21st January
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 31st January
WILLOWS – HLTA closing date 14th January

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/)

'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—

Is an e-reader better than a book? This links to the British Value —Individual Liberty.



Certificate of Achievement

Week of 8th January 2024

Buttercup— Lily
Daffodil— Cheyenne
Primrose— Avie
Bluebell Class— Riley P
Rose Class— Phoebe V
Tulip Class— Temitope A
Lavender Class— Oliver P
Orchid Class— Paige B
Sunflower Class— Maddie R
Birch Class— Emily W
Hawthorn Class— Sammie R
Pine Class— Amelia D
Ash Class— Noah P
Beech Class— Khadija Z
Maple Class— Harry B
Olive Class— Jessie R
Sycamore Class— Robert M
Willow Class— Isabella
Elder Class— Macarie P
Elm Class— Layla M
Oak Class— Scarlett J



Reading Corner

Year Group	This week we will be reading....
Nursery	Snowflakes by Cerrie Burnell
Reception	A Chair for Baby Bear.
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	Keegan A
Year 1—Rose	Harry D
Year 1 - Tulip	Mantra
Year 2 - Orchid	Jenson
Year 2 - Sunflower	Louie M
Year 2 - Lavender	Oliver P
Year 3 - Pine	Alec C
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Mishal A
Year 3 - Birch	Isabella S
Year 4 - Maple	Nova W
Year 4 - Beech	Albie C
Year 4 - Ash	Asher O
Year 5 - Olive	Jayden B
Year 5 - Sycamore	Teddy P
Year 5 - Willow	Damari
Year 6—Elder	Faith S
Year— Elm	John-Robert B
Year 6—Oak	Isabelle C

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	In phonics reception have been learning the sounds - ai, ee, igh and oa this week.
Year 1	In phonics this week, Year 1 have been re-viewing reading longer words. We have also reviewed words with the sounds: ay, ou, oy and ea for example: play, cloud, toy and treat. The tricky words we reviewed this week are: all, are, I, of, one, here, today.
Year 2	For Year 2 Phonics will resume the week of 22nd January.

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: Everyone should own a pet.

Sentence stems

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

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— Ryka R
Orchid— Jeremiah
Sunflower— Adebambo A
Birch— Grace E
Hawthorn— Daria P
Pine — Hallie Q
Ash— Keira M
Beech— Archie F
Maple— Darius M
Sycamore— Jack P
Willow— Jack
Elder— William W
Elm— Bebe M
Oak— Olivia-Mae H

Numbots Player of the week—

Rose— Remy W
Tulip— Anna-Rose I
Bluebell— Isaiah H

