



It has been another busy week at Whitmore. The leadership team have continued to watch maths lessons across the school and this has included nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6. What is clear is the real high quality teaching and learning that is taking place but additionally the strength of behaviour and attitudes of our children. Also this week, we have had a number of our children attend the Berlesduna Academy Trust Spelling-Bee. At this event, our children had the chance to compete against nine other schools to put their spelling knowledge to the test. All of the children had a fantastic time and this event provided them with an additional opportunity to use the skills they have learnt at school.

Within KS1, there have been a number of children with cases of head lice - we know that all schools suffer from this but would ask parents if they could routinely check and treat their children where needed. The link below provides more advice on head lice and nits. [Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

We are in the process of organising Bikeability training for our year 6 children. This training is provided by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership and teaches children about road positioning, turning left and right and passing junctions. This training will take place within the school day but will have limited spaces. In order to take part in the training, the children will need a fully working bike and helmet. We may be able to obtain rental bikes from Bikeability but these will be very limited in number. Registration forms will be sent out to all Year 6 parents in order to reserve a place for their child. Dates will be confirmed once we have received the completed permission slips.

Finally, a look forward to next week - we will be recognising Safer Internet Day on Tuesday as a means to support the children understand the benefits of the internet but also the potential dangers. For more information about Safer Internet Day or staying safe online more generally, please look at the CEOP website on [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) which has lots of support and information for parents.

Have a wonderful weekend and I hope that you enjoy some sunshine.

Mr Wade

Head of School

### Diary Dates:

#### February

- 5th—Year 3 Parent Reading Session @ 2:55pm
- 6th—Safer Internet Day
- 6th—Year 2 Parent Reading Session @ 2:50pm
- 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)
- 12th—Pupil Voice meeting @ St Mary's (head boy and head girl)
- 12th—Year 4 Parent Reading Sessions @ 2:55pm
- 13th—Year 1 Parent Reading Session @ 2:50pm
- 13th—Year 3/4 Football match @ St Anne Line (selected children)
- 14th—Reception Disco—3:15-4:15pm (collect from classes)
- 14th—Yr 3/4 Disco—4:30-6pm (collect from KS2 hall)
- 15th—Yr 1/2 Disco—3:15-4:15pm (collect from classes)
- 15th—Yr 5/6 Disco—4:30-6pm (collect from KS2 hall)
- 16th—Last day of half term**
- 26th—Return to school**
- 29th—Year 5/6 Football match @ Bardfield (selected children)

#### March

- 1st—St David's Day
- 5th—Parent Consultations
- 6th—Parent Consultations
- 7th—World Book Day
- 7th—Year 3/4 Football match v Eversley (selected children)
- 15th—Red Nose Day

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

### Information/ Reminders —

#### Up to date information

Please remember to update the office should you move house or change telephone numbers or email addresses, so that we can keep our system up to date.

#### Front gates

Please can we ask that you do not block the gates at the front of the school at any time, access is needed throughout the day.

#### Vacancies.

Please visit the following for vacancies within our trust.

[www.berlesduna.co.uk/Vacancy.php](http://www.berlesduna.co.uk/Vacancy.php)



#### BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – HLTA closing date 6th February  
 CRAYS HILL – EYFS CLASS TEACHER closing date 5th February  
 CRAYS HILL – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5th February  
 DOWNHAM – SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER closing date 4th February  
 FAIRHOUSE – CARETAKER closing date 11th February  
 FELMORE – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5th February  
 FELMORE – BREAKFAST CLUB SUPERVISOR closing date 5th February  
 FELMORE – BREAKFAST CLUB ASSISTANT closing date 5th February  
 FELMORE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 12th February  
 MERRYLANDS – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5th February  
 MERRYLANDS – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5th February  
 MERRYLANDS – HLTA closing date 5th February  
 MERRYLANDS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 2nd February  
 MERRYLANDS – NURSERY ASSISTANT closing date 9th February  
 MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 14th February  
 WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 6th February  
 WILLOWS – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 1st March

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)

### '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—

**Early Years—What are you interested in? This links to the British Value —Democracy.**

**KS1 & KS2—What makes someone inspirational? This links to the British Value — Democracy.**



## Certificate of Achievement

Week of 29th January 2024

Buttercup— Nathan  
Daffodil— Colby  
Primrose— Nisla G  
Bluebell Class— Riley R  
Rose Class— Matthew Y  
Tulip Class— AJ Y  
Lavender Class— Skyla L  
Orchid Class— Noah  
Sunflower Class— Marnie L  
Birch Class— Lilliana G  
Hawthorn Class— James B  
Pine Class— Charlie Q  
Ash Class— Keira M  
Beech Class— Freddie M  
Maple Class— Ollie W  
Olive Class— Skyla N  
Sycamore Class— Ava H  
Willow Class— Nicoleta  
Elder Class— Kelsey H  
Elm Class— Thomas  
Oak Class— Fathia A



## Reading Corner

Year Group	This week we will be reading....
Nursery	Aliens Love Dinopants by Claire Freedman
Reception	Chinese New Year
Year 1	Beegu by Alexis Deacon
Year 2	A walk in London by Salvatore Rubbino
Year 3	Charlie and the chocolate factory by Roald Dahl
Year 4	Who let the gods out? By Maz Evans
Year 5	The wolf wilder by Katherine Rundell
Year 6	The boy and the tower by Polly Ho-Yen

Class	Reader of the week...
Year 1—Bluebell	Frankie
Year 1—Rose	Lenny C
Year 1 - Tulip	Kaleb G
Year 2 - Orchid	Kyan
Year 2 - Sunflower	Raphael U
Year 2 - Lavender	Oscar M
Year 3 - Pine	Alfie F
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Zoe
Year 3 - Birch	Ruth B
Year 4 - Maple	Nova W
Year 4 - Beech	Bella E
Year 4 - Ash	Hayden M
Year 5 - Olive	Luca N
Year 5 - Sycamore	Leo J
Year 5 - Willow	Damari
Year 6—Elder	Aiden Y
Year— Elm	Nathaniel
Year 6—Oak	Reggie K

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 this week, reception have been learning the sounds 'air' and 'er' and the tricky words 'are, sure and pure'. We have also been looking at longer words with double letters such as 'bigger' and 'rabbit'.
Year 1	In phonics this week Year 1 have been growing the code. We have reviewed all the different graphemes we have learnt for each of the following phonemes: /igh/ ie, i, i-e /ai/ ay, a, a-e /oa/ oa, o, o-e /ee/ e, ie, e-e, ea /oo/ /yoo/ ew, u-e, u, ue
Year 2	Year 2 has revised all the following graphemes this week: oo, u, u-e, ew, ue, ou, ui, air, are, ear, ere, e,r ur, ir, or, ear, ou and ow.

### 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:** Which are the best ways to care for our environment?

### Instigate

Present an idea or open up a new line of enquiry

**Start by saying:**

- I would like to start by saying...
- I think....
- We haven't yet talked about...

**Instigate**

### Probe

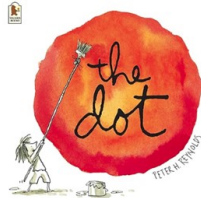
Dig deeper, ask for evidence or justification of ideas

**Start by saying:**

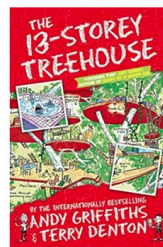
- Why do you think...?
- What evidence do you have to support X idea?
- Could you provide an example?

**Probe**

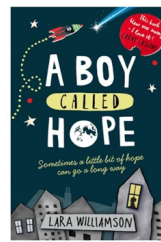
## Recommended Reads



KS1



Lower KS2



Upper KS2

## Times Table Rockstars and Numbots



**TT Rockstars Class of the week is Pine—**

**Player of the week—**

Lavender— Sia P  
 Orchid— Iasmina  
 Sunflower— Adebambo A  
 Birch— Holly H  
 Hawthorn— Daria  
 Pine — Tyler C  
 Ash— Ebrima T  
 Beech— Dalina S  
 Maple— Darius M  
 Olive— Thomas M  
 Sycamore— Abdul M  
 Willow— Miley  
 Elder— William W  
 Elm— David  
 Oak— Ioan S-T

**Numbots Class of the week is Blubell —**

**Numbots Player of the week—**

Rose— Joshua A-N  
 Tulip— Temitope A  
 Bluebell— Ahyaan

Battle Board	2.2.24
Sycamore class	12
Pine class	9
Maple class	6
Lavender class	6
Elder class	6
Sunflower class	6
Olive class	6
Hawthorn class	6
Ash class	6
Willow class	3
Beech class	3
Orchid class	3
Birch class	3
Oak class	0
Elm class	0

