



14th November 2025

Diary Dates

November

- W/C 17th — Book Fair in school
- 17th — Yr5/6 football match v Willows (H) (selected children)
- 18th — Parent consultations 3:30-6:30pm
- 20th — Parent consultations 3:30-5:30pm
- 21st — EYFS Christmas Carols (KSI Hall 9:15am & 2:30pm)
- 21st — Yr5/6 Football match v Eversley (H) (selected children)
- 24th — Flu immunisations (pm)
- 27th — Yr5/6 Netball match v Great Berry (H) (selected children)
- 28th — Year 1 Christmas Production to parents (KSI Hall 9:15am & 2:15pm)

December

- 1st — Yr5/6 Football match v Phoenix (H) (selected children)
- 4th — Year 2 Christmas Production to parents (KSI Hall 9:15am & 2:15pm)
- 5th — Winter Workshop & Market – after school
- 8th — Flu immunisations (pm)
- 8th — Yr3/4 Football match v Ryedene (H) (selected children)
- 11th — Nursery Carols to parents
- 12th — Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
- 12th — Class parties (pm)
- 15th — Lower KS2 Carol Concert to parents
- 15th — Yr5/6 football match v Merrylands (A) (selected children)
- 16th — Upper KS2 Carol Concert to parents
- 17th — Pantomime in school
- 19th — Last day of term

Inset Dates — 20th, 21st & 22nd May 2026

This week at Whitmore.....

This week has been particularly special as we've been busy in school thinking about others through our anti-bullying activities, Armistice Day commemorations, and Children in Need. Our pupils have shown wonderful compassion and understanding as they've learned about the importance of kindness, respect, and supporting those in need.

We're incredibly proud of our Year 3 and 4 pupils who represented Whitmore Primary School at the Berlesduna Academy Trust mathematics competition held at Fairhouse Primary School this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to talk to children from other schools and test out their problem-solving and reasoning skills. It was wonderful to see them challenge themselves and work collaboratively with peers from across the trust.

Next week we have our parents' evenings, so please book a slot if you have not done so already. These consultations are vitally important as they provide time to discuss your child's progress and development, and any areas of support that can be provided at home. This is a valuable opportunity for you to speak directly with your child's teacher about how they're settling into the school year and their next steps in learning.

Please note that due to parents' evenings, there will be no clubs on Tuesday and Thursday next week. We have arrived at that time of year when the weather turns colder and wetter, so please ensure that your child attends school with a coat every day so they can play outside comfortably during break times. If your child has a medical appointment requiring them to be collected from school early, please ensure that the office knows in advance.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Wade
Head of School

Well done to the following children

Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Zarah O
Daffodil - Frank F
Primrose - Mason
Bluebell - Juni-Kathryn P
Rose - Alessia
Tulip - Reggie
Lavender - Jessie D
Orchid - Mason
Sunflower - Fatima K
Birch - Poppy-Rose S
Hawthorn - Hayden
Pine - Anna-Rose I
Ash - James M
Beech - Oscar M
Maple - Elsie
Olive - Leah C
Sycamore - Amelia D
Willow - Lilliana
Elder - Marley F
Elm - Ellie
Oak - Evie O

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Zach G
Rose - William
Tulip - Jacob
Lavender - Millie P
Orchid - Teddy
Sunflower - Lucia K
Birch - Ben D
Hawthorn - Bradley
Pine - Florence G
Ash - Adebanke A
Beech - Emerald K
Maple - Yusuf
Olive - Daria P
Sycamore - Hallie Q
Willow - Faida
Elder - Vivien M
Elm - Lenny
Oak - Jennifer

REMINDER

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 10 November 2025, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 15 January 2026.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2026-27 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies..

Berlesduna Vacancies



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

FELMORE – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER closing date 24th November
MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 16th November
WHITMORE – CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM) closing date 1st December
WHITMORE – HLTA (FIXED TERM) closing date 18th November
WHITMORE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT/MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 24th November
WHITMORE – EYFS/KS1 LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 15th December
WILLOWS – EYFS CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM) closing date 14th November

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



Reading Corner

This week we will be reading....

Nursery - Frog and the very special day by Max Velthijs

Reception - Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain

Year 1 - Supertato by Sue Hendra

Year 2 - The bear under the stairs by Helen Cooper

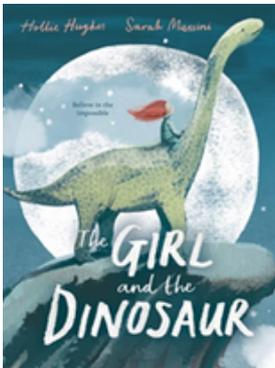
Year 3 - The boy who grew dragons by Andy Shepherd

Year 4 - The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S.Lewis

Year 5 - The boy at the back of the class by Onjali Rauf

Year 6 - Windrush Child by Benjamin Zepaniah

Recommended Reads

KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
		



Phonics

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised
A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



Please scan the QR code or click the link to take you to the Little Wandle Parents page where you will find how we teach a new sound, how we teach children to read decodable words and tricky words. You will also find how to pronounce all GPCS your children learn.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Reception	<p>This week in Reception we have been learning the sounds: v (volcano), w (wave), x (box), y (yo-yo)</p> <p>We have practiced the pronunciation, the formation of these letters and looking at words that end and begin with these sounds. The tricky words we have learnt this week are: and, has, his, and her.</p>
Year 1	<p>This week we have been learning new graphemes- o/oa/, i/igh/, a/ai/, e/ee/ New tricky words- Mr, Mrs, Ms, ask</p>
Year 2	<p>This week, year 2 have continued their learning of the Phase 5 review. They have been focusing on some common graphemes and the more unusual graphemes. Also, reviewing the tricky words - through, improve, move, prove, shoe, two, who, beautiful, their and parents.</p> <p>Please remember to practise their weekly spellings. The next test will be on Friday 21st November. Thank you for your continued support.</p>

TTR class of the week— Orchid Class — 40%.

Player of the week—

Lavender— Avie R

Orchid — Eliza

Sunflower— Iremide O

Birch— Sara K

Hawthorn— Ugne

Pine— Matty L

Ash— Teddie G

Beech— Jonathan B

Maple— Azlan

Sycamore— Ziyad B

Olive - Olivia V

Willow— Alianna

Elder— Oscar M

Elm— Charlie

Oak— Darius



Player of the week—

Bluebell— Stefan C

Rose— David

Tulip— Nova





Talk it Topic

'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 is the best footwear. This is linked to the British Value -
Democracy.

KS1 & KS2—Can technology ever help us too much? This is linked to the British Value -
Democracy.

Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



"It is our responsibility to look after endangered animals. "Discuss"



Build

Develop, add to or elaborate on an idea.

Start by saying:

- Building on X's idea...
- I agree and would like to add...
- X's idea made me think...

Build



Challenge

Disagree or present an alternative argument

Start by saying:

- I disagree because...
- To challenge you X, I think...
- I understand your point of view, but have you thought...?

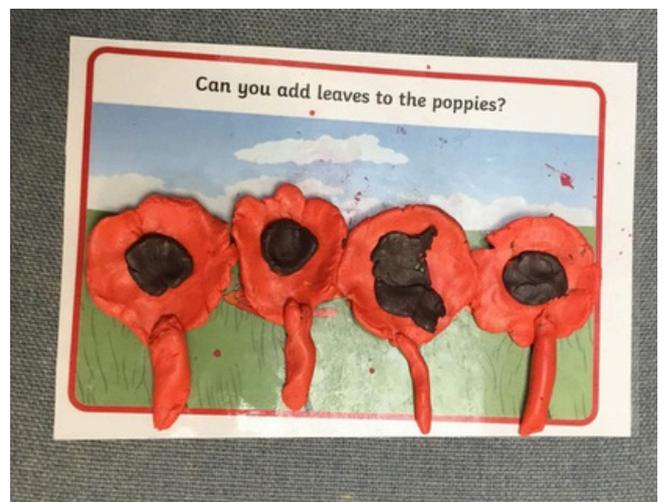
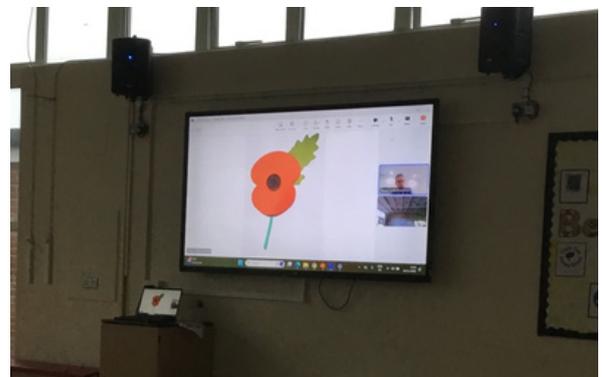
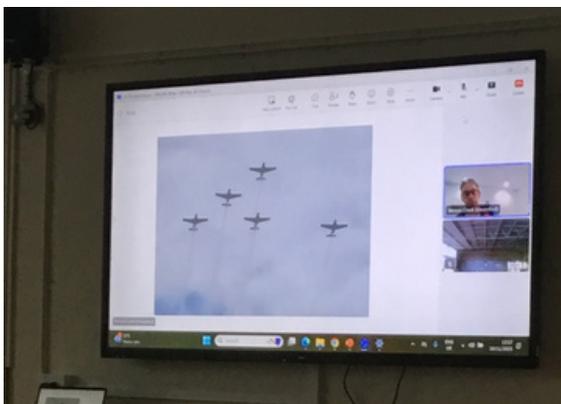
Challenge



Armistice Day



To mark Armistice Day, Year 1 and 2 joined an RAF workshop. They learned about the meaning of Remembrance, heard powerful stories from history, and discussed different ways to remember. Other classes took part in Remembrance art, including poppy-themed pieces.



Anti-bullying Week



As part of our PSHE curriculum, our pupils took part in Anti-Bullying Week. With the theme Power for Good, they learned to value differences and treat others with respect. We loved seeing so many odd socks to kick off the week! Pupils designed their own, joined in kind, positive class discussions, and enjoyed friendship and team-building activities. Key Stage 1 also created a large art display to share the message that everyone is unique.

Well done, Team Whitmore!



Trust Maths competition – A group of four pupils from Whitmore represented the school at the Berlesduna Maths competition this week. They represented the school magnificently: they showed great resilience during all the activities and they worked extremely well as a team. Although we didn't win, everyone noted how polite and well-behaved the representing pupils of Whitmore were. Well done to Jeremiah K, Tommy K, Adebajji A and Wiktor B.