



21st November 2025

Diary Dates

November

- 24th — Flu immunisations (pm)
- 27th — Yr5/6 Netball match v Great Berry (H) (selected children)
- 28th — Year 1 Christmas Production to parents (KS1 Hall 9:15am & 2:15pm.)

December

- 1st — Yr5/6 Football match v Phoenix (H) (selected children)
- 4th — Year 2 Christmas Production to parents (KS1 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 2:15pm
- 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.....

The school is gearing up for Christmas now, with our Reception children having provided a fantastic performance at their carol concert this morning and this afternoon. They have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of themselves. Next week, it's Year 1's chance to wow their audience with their performance, which I know they are all looking forward to.

You should have received a letter this week sharing all of the important dates over the coming weeks, and we hope to see as many of you as possible at our Christmas events!

Thank you to so many parents for booking and attending our parent consultations this week. These meetings are a vital part of us working in partnership to support children in achieving their best. If you did not get the chance to meet with your child's class teacher, please speak to them to organise a mutually agreeable time for you to do so before we break for Christmas.

With the lowering temperatures, please ensure that children are attending school in jumpers/cardigans as well as with a coat, hat and gloves. Please ensure all items are clearly named so that we can return any lost property to the right child.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Wade
Head of School

Well done to the following children

Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Alfie P
Daffodil - Violet G
Primrose - Stanley
Bluebell - Hadassah C
Rose - Finley C
Tulip - Lexi-Rose
Lavender - Leo
Orchid - Teddy
Sunflower - Colby C
Birch - Riley P
Hawthorn - Ella P
Pine - Joseph M
Ash - Muhammad R
Beech - Layla-Anne D
Maple - Ronan
Olive - Thomas W
Sycamore - Harper S
Willow - Nora
Elder - Owen D
Elm - Thalia P
Oak - Adrian D

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Patrick M
Rose - Asher O
Tulip - James
Lavender - Khushi
Orchid - Stefan
Sunflower - Erica M
Birch - Ibrahim
Hawthorn - Hayden W
Pine - Anna-Rose I
Ash - Lainey-Rae L
Beech - Lamia M-A
Maple - Kevin
Olive - Olivia V
Sycamore - Tiffany L-H
Willow - Bianca
Elder - Owen D
Elm - Rosie D
Oak - Evie

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..

Polite reminder - please ensure if you provide your child with grapes for snack or lunch that they are cut into at least half due to them being a choking hazard.

After school clubs - for Safeguarding reasons please do not let your child leave a club until the teacher has seen you and told the child to leave.

Berlesduna Vacancies



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EYFS CLASS TEACHER closing date 10th December
FAIRHOUSE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 9th December
FELMORE – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER closing date 24th November
WHITMORE – CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM) closing date 1st December
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 - Giraffes can't dance by Giles Andreae

Reception - Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain

Year 1 - Supertato by Sue Hendra

Year 2 - The bear under the stairs by Helen Cooper

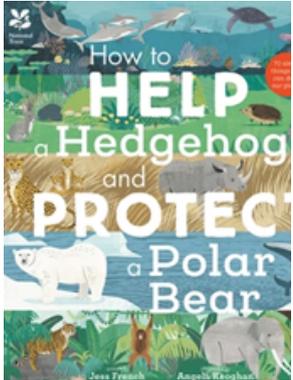
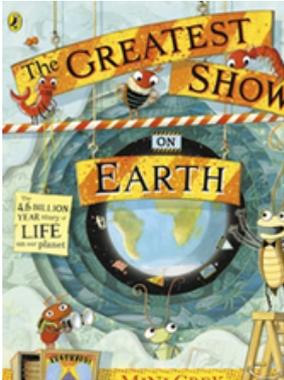
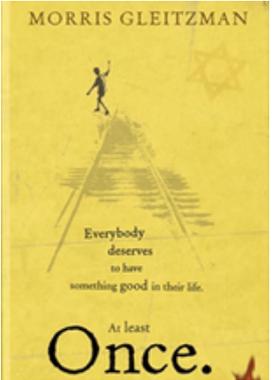
Year 3 - The boy who grew dragons by Andy Shepherd

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:</p> <p>z/zz (zebra, buzz) qu (queen) ch (cherries)</p> <p>Words with 's' at the end (plurals and verb) (cats, naps)</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: go, no, to, into.</p>
Year 1	<p>New graphemes- a-e/ai/, i-e/igh/, o-e/oa/, u-e/oo/yoo/</p> <p>Tricky words- could, would, should, our</p>
Year 2	<p>This week year 2 have been reviewing the tricky words - thought / sure and focusing on the following graphemes -</p> <p>/or/ or a aw au ore oor al oar our augh aur /zh/ si su /ch/ ch tch ture /sh/ sh ti ch ssi ci si</p> <p>Please remember to practise the new, weekly spellings. They will be tested on these on Friday 28th November. Thank you for your continued support.</p>

TTR class of the week— Maple Class — 97%.

Player of the week—

Lavender— Ziya

Orchid — Noah

Sunflower— Iremide O

Birch— Charlie P

Hawthorn— Owen G

Pine— Zyva A

Ash— Jeremiah B

Beech— Jonathan KB

Maple— Mark

Sycamore— La-Bonte K

Olive - Poppie M

Willow— Alianna

Elder— Vivien M

Elm— Amber M

Oak— Darius



Numbots class of the week - Bluebell Class - 81%



Player of the week—

Bluebell— Nathaniel O

Rose— Josie W

Tulip— Tiffany





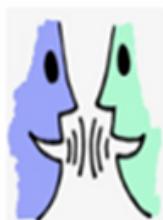
Talk it Topic

'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— Can drawing help us share how we feel? This is linked to the
British Value - Individual Liberty.

KS1 & KS2—What are some of the different ways we can express ourselves? This is
linked to the British Value - Individual Liberty.

Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



How can you be safe online? 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 about...?

Challenge

