



28th November 2025

## Diary Dates

### December

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Year 2 Christmas Production to parents (KSI Hall 9:15am & 2:15pm)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Winter Workshop & Market – after school
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Flu immunisations (pm)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Yr3/4 Football match v Ayedene (H) (selected children)
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Nursery Carols to parents 2:15pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Class parties (pm)
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Lower KS2 (Years 3&4) Carol Concert to parents
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Yr5/6 football match v Merrylands (A) (selected children)
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Upper KS2 (Year 5&6) Carol Concert to parents
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Yr5/6 football match v Phoenix (H) (selected children)
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Pantomime in school
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Last day of term

### January

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Return to School

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



## This week at Whitmore.....

I cannot believe that Monday marks the start of December – the school year is certainly moving fast!

Over the last three weeks, I have been completing lesson observations across the school, and I am delighted to report that the children are making lots of progress. This is a clear testament to the strong teaching taking place across the school. It's wonderful to see the children thriving and developing their knowledge and skills across the curriculum.

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of reading at home with your children. Regular reading at home makes a significant difference to children's attainment not just in English, but across the entire curriculum. When children read regularly, they develop stronger vocabulary and language skills, improve their comprehension and understanding, build confidence in all subjects, and develop a love of learning that lasts a lifetime. Even just 10-15 minutes of reading together each day can have a transformative impact on your child's progress. Please continue to support your child's reading journey at home – it really does make all the difference.

Today's Year 1 shows were absolutely amazing! The children performed brilliantly and demonstrated such confidence, enthusiasm and talent. They would not be out of place in the Nativity films – they were truly that good! Thank you to all the families who came to support them, and a huge well done to our Year 1 pupils and staff for putting on such a wonderful show.

Next week it's Year 2's turn to shine with their Christmas performance. The children have been working incredibly hard to prepare and are excited to share their performance with their families. I can't wait to see what they have in store for us!

Next Friday, 5th December, we're hosting our Winter Workshop – a fantastic opportunity for families to spend a few hours together enjoying festive activities. The children will be demonstrating their understanding of making money through products and games they've created. The afternoon will include hot drinks, cake, games, gifts and crafts. It promises to be a wonderful few hours of family fun, and we would love to see as many people as possible there to support our children.

Please note that there will be no after-school clubs on Friday 5th December due to the Winter Workshop. Also, Christmas Dinner bookings close on Monday 1st December – please book via School Gateway by this date. Even if your child receives free school meals, you still need to book on School Gateway.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Wade

# Well done to the following children

## Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Delilah-Mai B  
Daffodil - Myla M  
Primrose - Odin  
Bluebell - Dominic S &  
Hunter H  
Rose - Sanu T  
Tulip - Tiffany  
Lavender - Isa M  
Orchid - Elvin  
Sunflower - Isobel B  
Birch - Alex M  
Hawthorn - Hayden W  
Pine - Jake C  
Ash - Harlie-Rose G  
Beech - Oliver S  
Maple - Bambo  
Olive - Zoe M  
Sycamore - Charlie H  
Willow - Alfie  
Elder - Dalina S  
Elm - William G  
Oak - Bobby N

## Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Ace Y  
Rose - Leonard  
Tulip - Jaxon  
Lavender - Logan M  
Orchid - Mila  
Sunflower - Alex G  
Birch - Joshua L  
Hawthorn - Blake  
Pine - Elizabeth L  
Ash - Kyan R  
Beech - Emerald K  
Maple - Louie  
Olive - Mishal A  
Sycamore - Elizabeth A  
Willow - Halo  
Elder - Bella-Rose E  
Elm - Andrei C  
Oak - Kurtis P

# 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](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year

The website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://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

CHERRY TREE – EYFS CLASS TEACHER closing date 10<sup>th</sup> December  
FAIRHOUSE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 9<sup>th</sup> December  
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 10<sup>th</sup> December  
WHITMORE – CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM) closing date 1<sup>st</sup> December  
WHITMORE – FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER closing date 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
WILLOWS – MEDICAL OFFICER closing date 12<sup>th</sup> December

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

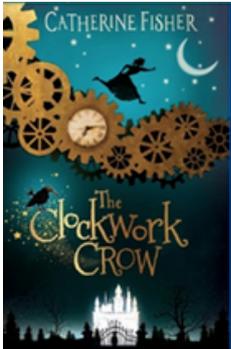
Year 3 - The boy who grew dragons by Andy Shepherd

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>sh (<b>shell</b>)<br/>th (<b>thumb</b>)<br/>ng (<b>ring</b>)<br/>nk (<b>pink</b>)</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: she, push, he, and of.</p>  |
| Year 1    | <p>Phonics this week in Year 1 - new graphemes- e-e/ee/, ew/yoo/oo/, ie/ee/, aw/or/<br/>Tricky words- House, mouse, water, want</p>   |
| Year 2    | <p>This week year 2 have been reviewing the tricky words - <b>once, again, any, many, friend, busy, pretty, because and laugh</b> and focusing on some of the following graphemes -<br/>/i/ j g ge dge /s/ s ss c ce se st sc /oo/ u oul</p> <p><b>Please remember to practise the new, weekly spellings. The children shall be tested on these on Friday 5th December. Thank you for your continued support.</b></p> |

TTR class of the week— Beech Class — 100%.

Player of the week—  
Lavender— Sebastian  
Orchid — Sonia  
Sunflower— Iremide O  
Birch— Leona H  
Hawthorn— Albie  
Pine— Buha A  
Ash— Jeremiah K  
Beech— Lamia M-A  
Maple— Marnie  
Sycamore— La-Bonte K  
Olive - Dilara T  
Willow— Freddie  
Elder— Vivien M  
Elm— Keira M  
Oak— Darius M-A



Numbots class of the week - Tulip Class - 32%



Player of the week—  
Bluebell— Nathaniel O  
Rose— Essie  
Tulip— Zidan





## 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 activities can we do together? This is linked to the British Value - Mutual Respect & Tolerance.

KS1 & KS2—How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness? This is linked to the British Value - Mutual Respect & Tolerance.

# Oracy Corner



## Let's Talk



"Art is the best way of expressing ourselves." Do you agree? 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



Lenny enjoyed taking part in a remembrance parade with his Beavers group. Well done Lenny!

