



5th December 2025

Diary Dates



December

- 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 (Years 3&4) Carol Concert to parents
- 15th – Yr5/6 football match v Merrylands (A) (selected children)
- 16th – Upper KS2 (Year 5&6) Carol Concert to parents
- 16th – Yr5/6 football match v Phoenix (H) (selected children)
- 17th – Pantomime in school
- 19th – Last day of term

January

- 5th – Return to School

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



This week at Whitmore.....

I hope everyone is beginning to get into the Christmas spirit as it gets closer. The children are definitely getting more and more excited, and it's wonderful to see their enthusiasm building as we approach the festive season.

This week, our Year 2 children put on a fantastic performance for their families. They all knew their lines, the words to the songs and were so very clear and confident. It was a joy to watch them shine on stage, and I know their families were incredibly proud.

Next week, we have our Key Stage 2 and nursery carols, so please check the dates to ensure that you do not miss the correct day. We're looking forward to welcoming you to these special performances and sharing in the celebration of the season with our school community.

Today, children across KS1 and EYFS have been visiting Santa and were very excited to meet him. There were some very funny conversations! The magic and wonder on their faces was truly heart-warming.

This afternoon is our Winter Workshop event which the children have been busy getting ready for. This provides them with the opportunity to develop their understanding of money and profit. The profits they make will be invested in the summer Enterprise event where each class will again attempt to grow the money they have been given at the start of the year. These hands-on learning experiences help our children develop important life skills in a fun and engaging way so thank you for your support.

I would like to remind all parents and carers about safe and considerate parking around our school. The safety of our children is our absolute priority, and we need your help to keep them safe. To do this, please ensure that you:

- Do not park across the yellow zig-zag lines at the school entrance – these are there for a reason and parking on them creates serious visibility issues for children crossing the road
- Do not block residents' driveways – this causes considerable inconvenience to our neighbours and damages our relationship with the local community
- Park considerately and safely at all times, thinking about the safety of all children, not just your own

Thank you continued support. I wish you a wonderful weekend.

Mr Wade
Head of School

Well done to the following children



Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Ela A
Daffodil - Evelyn M
Primrose - Tyler
Bluebell - Violet F
Rose - Jack C
Tulip - Harley
Lavender - Whole Class
Orchid - Eliza
Sunflower - Whole Class
Birch - Frankie W
Hawthorn - Ethan S
Pine - Elizabeth L
Ash - Lily K
Beech - Sia P
Maple - Marnie
Olive - Lacey M
Sycamore - Alana H
Willow - Grace
Elder - Harriet L
Elm - Toheeba
Oak - Oumie

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Rosie-Mae B-T
Rose - Harvey G
Tulip - Lucy
Lavender - Gabriella O
Orchid - Nathan
Sunflower - Olivia B
Birch - Riley R
Hawthorn - Blake J
Pine - Thierry-Jane G
Ash - Muhammad R
Beech - Elena B
Maple - Mckayla
Olive - Poppie M
Sycamore - Stefan
Willow - Bogdan
Elder - Owen D
Elm - Andrei
Oak - Darius



REMINDER

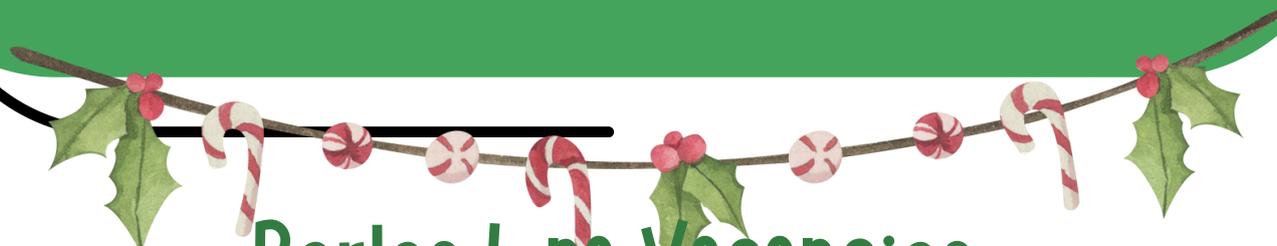
The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 10 November 2025, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026.

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..

Reminder that next week is the last week of after school clubs. New clubs will be sent out shortly that will commence in January.



Berlesduna Vacancies



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EYFS CLASS TEACHER closing date 10th December
FAIRHOUSE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 9th December
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 10th December
WILLOWS – MEDICAL OFFICER closing date 12th 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

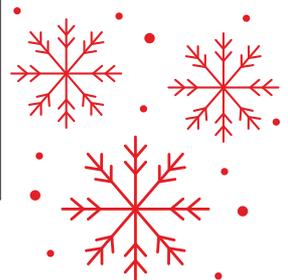
Year 4 - The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S.Lewis

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 reviewing sounds we have learnt over Autumn 1 and Autumn 2. We have also been learning:</p> <p>Words with 's' at the end (plurals and verb forms)- 'ducks'</p> <p>Words with 's' /z/ at the end(plurals and verb forms)- 'dogs'</p> <p>The tricky words we have learnt this week are: 'me, we, be'</p>
Year 1	<p>Phonics- Grow the code week igh/i/ie/i-e, ai/a-e/a/ay, oa/o/o-e, e/ ie/ e-e/ ea, oo/yoo/ew/ u-e/ u /ue</p> <p>Tricky words- house mouse water want they pure sure could would should our some come love your people their oh Mr Mrs Ms ask* were there little here today one their when what want</p>
Year 2	<p>This week year 2 have been reviewing the tricky word - friend and focusing on some of the following graphemes and their alternative sounds -</p> <p>ie /ee/ /igh/ y /ee/ /igh/ /i/ ea /ee/ /e/ /ai/ a /a/ /ai/ /or</p> <p>Please remember to practise the new, weekly spellings. The children shall be tested on these on Friday 12th December. Thank you for your continued support.</p>

Player of the week—

Lavender— Harry M

Orchid — Amelia

Sunflower— Iremide O

Birch— Re'Nell

Hawthorn— Hayden W

Pine— Ava M

Ash— Hunter H

Beech— Amelia R-R

Maple— Freddie W

Sycamore— Elizabeth

Olive - Gracie B

Willow— Gabi

Elder— Vivien M

Elm— Keira

Oak— Darius



Player of the week—

Bluebell— Kiara K

Rose— Joshua A

Tulip— Zidan



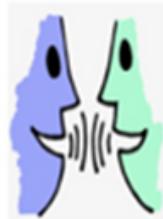


Talk it Topic



'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 happens when it snows? This is linked to the British Value - Individual Liberty.
 KS1 & KS2—How might challenges help us grow? This is linked to the British Value - Individual Liberty.

Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



"Is it better to have a pet dinosaur or a pet dragon?"
 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



Bookvent

Children across the school have enjoyed the book vent this week. There has been a buzz around new books to read and an excitement about unwrapping a book each day. Children have ranked the books, read pages, displayed them and put some on their bookshelves in their classrooms. Thank you to all families who have donated or let us borrow a book. There is still time to donate a book if you would like to contribute.

