



19th December 2025

Diary Dates



This week at Whitmore.....

January

- 5th - Return to School
- 9th - Reception Superhero Day
- 14th - County Dodgeball Competition (Selected children)
- 14th - Police visit to Reception children
- 16th - Dental visit for Reception & Year 3 pupils
- 16th - UKS2 football match v St Anne Line (H) (selected children)
- 30th - Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop in school

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

Merry Christmas



I cannot believe how quickly this term has gone! As we approach the Christmas break, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderful term at Whitmore Primary School and Nursery.

The children have worked extremely hard this term and have made lots of progress in their learning. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, dedication and growth across all areas of the curriculum. Their efforts, both in the classroom and beyond, have been truly impressive.

This week, the whole school has been involved in watching the pantomime, and what a treat it was! The travelling pantomime presented Aladdin, and the children were full of laughter throughout the performance. They thoroughly enjoyed every moment – from the songs and jokes to the interactive elements. It was a perfect way to bring some festive joy into school.

On the subject of performing, Miss Parsons has been busy working alongside many of our staff members to create this year's Whitmore Christmas video. We're delighted to share it with you – you can watch it by clicking on this link: https://youtu.be/9cevt_jO_AU We hope you enjoy watching it as much as we enjoyed making it!

I would like to thank parents for their kind and thoughtful gifts that have been given to staff. We want to make it clear that we never expect gifts, but we are very grateful for your generosity and the thought behind them. Your support and appreciation mean a great deal to our team.

Thank you to those parents who have already set their permissions regarding photographs of their children within school. However, we are still awaiting this information for a number of children. Please could you take a moment to click on this link to opt in or out for your child being photographed within school: <https://tinyurl.com/2w374vua> This helps us ensure we respect your wishes and keep accurate records for all our pupils.

As we close this term, I would like to wish all our families a very happy Christmas and a relaxed New Year. We hope you have a wonderful time together, making special memories with your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming the children back in January, refreshed and ready for the spring term ahead.

With warm wishes,

Mr Wade
Head of School

Well done to the following children



Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - James E
Daffodil - Thomas D
Primrose - Arshiyam
Bluebell - Beau O
Rose - Olivia-Mae V
Tulip - Kumsal
Lavender - Harper C
Orchid - Lenny
Sunflower - Michaela E
Birch - Charlie P
Hawthorn - Joshua
Pine - Elsie B
Ash - Alice M
Beech - Roman S
Maple - Amelia
Olive - Daisy M
Sycamore - Tyler
Willow - Ruth
Elder - Archie F
Elm - Rosie
Oak - Nova W

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Alexandra M
Rose - Ronnie L
Tulip - Daniel
Lavender - Marcela
Orchid - Lillian
Sunflower - George H
Birch - Wiktor
Hawthorn - Ella P
Pine - Ralph C
Ash - Jacqueline H
Beech - Elena B
Maple - Reggie L
Olive - Sammie
Sycamore - Amelia D
Willow - Holly
Elder - Owen D
Elm - Ada
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..



Berlesduna Vacancies

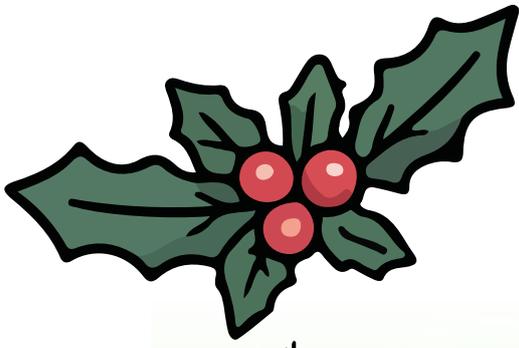


BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CANEWDON – CLEANER closing date 6th January
CANEWDON – CARETAKER closing date 6th January
CANEWDON – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 6th January
FELMORE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT/MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 4th January
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 6th January
ST NICHOLAS – CARETAKER closing date 8th January

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

When we return to school 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



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 phonics, we have been revisiting sounds that were previously taught but that some children were not yet fully secure in. Our focus has been on strengthening and consolidating Phase 2 sounds, ensuring the children feel confident and ready. After Christmas, we will be moving on to Phase 3, so this review work is an important step in preparing them for the next stage of their phonics learning.</p>
Year 1	<p>Phonics- Continuing to revise Phase 5, focusing on our gaps following the last assessment.</p>

KS2 Class of the week - Pine - 93%

- Player of the week—
- Lavender— Nisla G
- Orchid — Noah
- Sunflower— Iremide O
- Birch— Matthew Z
- Hawthorn— Alex C
- Pine— Thierry-Jane G
- Ash— Jeremiah B
- Beech— Adebajji A
- Maple— Marnie
- Sycamore— La-Bonte K
- Olive - Freya F
- Willow— Bogdan
- Elder— Owen D
- Oak— James



KS1 Class of the week - Tulip - 19%

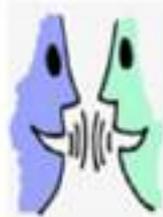


- Player of the week—
- Bluebell— Stefan C
- Rose— Caliph O
- Tulip— Dennis





Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



"Christmas is the most exciting time of the year." 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



Essex County Council
Libraries

10 January to 22 February 2026



Winter Reading Challenge

Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: libraries.essex.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's Winter Reading Challenge at your local library!

What is the Winter Reading Challenge?

The Winter Reading Challenge is a fun activity put together by Essex Library Service for children aged 0-12. It encourages children and families to keep reading over the winter and to visit their local library.

Children are invited to complete 6 challenges from a list of 12 reading and creative activities, and it's FREE to take part. Their mission is to help some friendly animals that work in different professions across Essex!

How can my child take part?

Visit your local library to sign up. Your child will:

- Receive their Challenge sheet
- Choose 6 challenges to complete (from a list of 12)
- Earn a sticker for each challenge they complete
- When they've complete 6 challenges they will receive a certificate and they will be able to enter our prize draw – with the chance to win bigger prizes such as Kindles, book tokens and toys

When?

The challenge starts on Saturday 10 January and runs through to the end of the February half term on 22 February. Unsure where your closest library is? Use the Essex Library Service website to check.

Head to your local library this winter and sign up! You can find out more about the challenge on the library website and if you have any questions, please ask staff in the library.

We look forward to seeing you!

Best wishes

Essex Library Service





Christmas Card Art Competition

This week, the children had the exciting opportunity to meet Richard Holden as part of the Christmas card competition, which also included entries from other local schools. He congratulated the children on taking part and praised the high standard of artwork.

Well done to Thalia (Year 6, Elm), Jonathon (Year 4, Beech), Eva (Reception, Primrose), Sophia (Year 3, Birch), Maria (Year 2, Orchid)

A special well done to Thalia, who came runner-up - her design will feature on the back of his Christmas card.

