



9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Diary Dates

### January

- 14<sup>th</sup> - County Dodgeball Competition (Selected children)
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Police visit to Reception children
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Dental visit for Reception & Year 3 pupils
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Yr 5-6 football match v St Anne Line (H) (selected children)
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Yr 5-6 Netball match v Northlands (A) (selected children)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Yr 3-4 Football match v Willows (H) (selected children)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> - Meridian Kung Fu in to see Early Years and KS1 child
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Athlete visit to whole school
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop in school

### February

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Brilliant Club visit to London (selected children)
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Safer Internet Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Valentines Disco - Reception 3:10-4:15pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Yr 3-4 Valentines Disco - Yr 3-4 4:30-6pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> - KS2 Cross Country Competition (selected children)
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Last day of half term

Inset Dates— 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and wish you all a very happy 2026. It has been fantastic to see the children return to school this week with such enthusiasm and positive attitudes. Despite the cold weather we've been experiencing, the children have settled incredibly well and have been working hard in their classrooms. Their resilience and commitment to their learning has been wonderful to see.

As we begin this new term, I want to remind you that we are here to support both you and your children. The senior leadership team operates an open-door policy, and we welcome conversations with parents and carers. If you have any concerns, questions, or simply want to discuss your child's progress, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Strong partnerships between home and school are essential for your child's success and wellbeing.

We are aware of some unsafe parking practices, particularly in the area between the crossing patrol and the zebra crossing. This poses a significant danger to our children, especially during the busy drop-off and collection times. The safety of our pupils is our absolute priority, and I cannot stress enough how important it is that we all work together to keep them safe. To address this issue, I have requested that the police and traffic wardens visit the school over the coming weeks to use their enforcement powers. Please understand that this action is being taken solely to keep our children safe. I urge all parents and carers to park responsibly and considerately, following the Highway Code and respecting the designated crossing areas.

With the cold weather continuing, please ensure your children come to school in suitable clothing for the conditions. Warm coats, hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear are essential to keep them comfortable throughout the day, particularly during outdoor play and learning activities.

I'm delighted to share some exciting news with you. The school has recently obtained new land to the rear of the school, which we will be developing as a forest school area. Outdoor learning provides wonderful opportunities for children to build on their classroom learning in different ways and on a larger scale. The outdoor environment allows children to explore and develop skills across all areas of learning, not just physical development. It helps children develop confidence, resilience, and a connection with nature, whilst supporting their emotional wellbeing and providing rich learning experiences. Later in the year, we will be looking for parent volunteers to help us set up this area for the children. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our school community to come together and create something special for our pupils. More details will follow in due course.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you a relaxing weekend.

Mr Wade  
Head of School



# Well done to the following children

## Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Jessica B  
Daffodil - Bailey R-S  
Primrose - Zeenat  
Bluebell - Ben F  
Rose - Harley  
Tulip - Charlie  
Lavender - Maria  
Orchid - Sultan  
Sunflower - Isabelle P  
Birch - Jaskirat K  
Hawthorn - Jessica K  
Pine - Matty L  
Ash - Toby C  
Beech - Oliver P  
Maple - Caleb  
Olive - Jude  
Sycamore - Charlie Q  
Willow - Augustas  
Elder - Pippa G  
Elm - Scarlett F  
Oak - Jennifer R-C

## Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Harry M  
Rose - Gracie  
Tulip - Elissia  
Lavender - Desidia  
Orchid - Lenny  
Sunflower - Jamie C  
Birch - Keegan A  
Hawthorn - Joris S  
Pine - Ochuwa Y  
Ash - Jacqueline H  
Beech - Elena B  
Maple - Mariam  
Olive - Taylor M  
Sycamore - Alec B  
Willow - Ruth B  
Elder - Bella-Rose E  
Elm - Louis C  
Oak - Alice



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.



# Reading Corner

Next week we will be reading....

Nursery - Snowflakes by Cerrie Burnell

Reception - Super Milly and the super school day to Stephanie Clarkson

Year 1 - Beegu by Alexis Dolan

Year 2 - A walk in London by Salvatore Rubbino

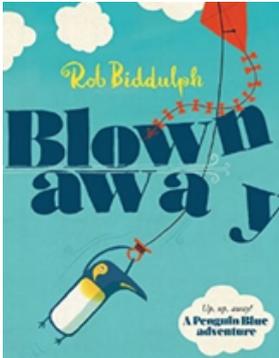
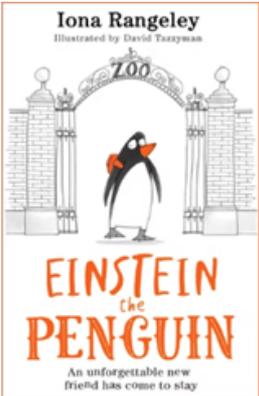
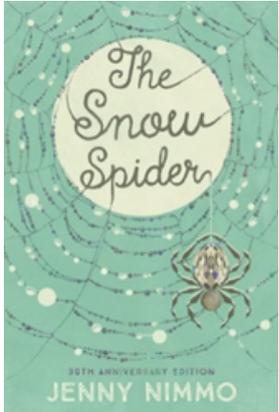
Year 3 - The Thames and Tide Club: The Scret City by Katya Balen

Year 4 - The accidental Prime Minister by Tom McLaughlin

Year 5 - Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

Year 6 - The boy in the tower by Polly Ho-Yen

## 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 started to learn phase 3 sounds which consists of digraphs (two letters making one sound) and trigraphs (three letters making one sound). ai (tail) ee(sheep) igh (light) oa (goat) We have practiced the pronunciation, the formation of these letters. We have been reviewing the tricky words 'the, I, put, pull and full'.</p>
Year 1	<p>We have learnt the graphemes /ee/, /ea/, /wh/, /ou,oe/oa/. (happy, feather, whisper, toe, shoulder) We have learnt the tricky words any, many and again</p>
Year 2	<p>This week, year 2 have started 'The Bridge to spelling' units. This teaches the children how to 'think about spelling'. Over five weeks, the children will complete the alphabetic code and learn the underpinning concepts of spelling. <b>Please practise the new, weekly spellings. The children shall be tested on these on Friday 16th January. Thank you for your continued support.</b></p>

## KS2 Class of the week - Ash Class - 66%

- Player of the week—  
Lavender— Tatiana  
Orchid — Sonia  
Sunflower— Iremide O  
Birch— Ben D  
Hawthorn— Joris S  
Pine— Zyva A  
Ash— Jeremiah B  
Beech— Jonathon B  
Maple— Leo  
Sycamore— Teddy S  
Olive - Freya F  
Willow— Nathan O  
Elder— Owen D  
Elm - Dharan R  
Oak— Darius



## KS1 Class of the week - Tulip - 16%



- Player of the week—  
Bluebell— Alexandra M  
Rose— Joseph  
Tulip— Zidan



# Oracy Corner



## Let's Talk



**Playtime is the most important part of the school day.**

**Do you agree?**



### 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**



## 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— Why do people watch videos? This is linked to the British Value - Individual Liberty.

KS1 & KS2—Can famous people help others make good choices? This is linked to the British Value - Individual Liberty.





Happy Days  
Creative  
Photo Video Studio

## **Happy Days School Photo Subscription Information**

We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to sign up to our amazing value monthly subscription service for all your school photos for just £4.00 per month. Just to clarify how simple it is, you sign up one time only, you will add all your children's information into the form, set up a simple direct debit payment for just £4.00 per month (to be taken on the last day of every month) and we do the rest.

## **How often do we visit?**

We aim to visit your school 3 times throughout the school year to shoot the following:  
Traditional school portraits and sibling photos  
Desktop portraits  
Class groups

*(The actual number of visits will be determined by your school)*

## **What do you get and how does it work?**

When we photograph your children, you will automatically receive one 5x7 inch print of every portrait photo we take and any sibling shots. We aim to capture 3 shots per child and 3 sibling shots (if applicable). You do not need to do anything to order these prints, they will automatically be sent to your school with our bulk orders, generally 2-3 weeks after the photo day.

*Please note your subscription will not include historical photos, only photos taken during the term after first payment will be included.*



You will also receive one 8x6 printed class photo when we do these in the summer term.

On top of the physical prints, you can also download all your portrait and sibling images free of charge by visiting [www.hdporders.com](http://www.hdporders.com) and entering your unique access code which your child will bring home on photo day. Unfortunately, class group photos will not be available in digital format, on these visits you will receive prints only.

Finally, as a subscription customer you will also receive 50% OFF four great value packages and extra prints online, should you wish to order additional prints/sizes for family members.

## Subscription Cost

### Term 1

Download all Images p/child @ £24.00  
3 - 7x5 Portrait photos @ £11.00  
(Sibling downloads & prints included)

### Term 2

Download all Images p/child @ £24.00  
3 - 7x5 Portrait photos @ £11.00

### Term 3

1 - 8x6 Class Group Photo Printed p/child  
@ £12.00 each.

### Savings

Regardless if a family has just the 1 child  
in school or 10! The total cost is still just  
£4 p/month. The savings are massive.

### Per Family

**£4**  
p/month

### Total Cost

**£48.00**

### 1 Child

**61%**  
**£78.00**

### 2 Children

**83%**  
**£237.00**

### 3 Children

**88%**  
**£363.00**

## How do you sign up?

If this is something that you would be interested in joining

**PLEASE REGISTER HERE:**

[www.happydays.photos](http://www.happydays.photos)

**No later than Tuesday 20th January 2026**

When registering please use your school code of:

**WHISS14**

**If you have previously signed up for this service, you do not need to do this again. Your current subscription and payments will simply continue.**

## Do you already have a subscription but need to add another child?

If you have an existing subscription and want to add a new sibling to your account, please email

[support@happydaysphoto.co.uk](mailto:support@happydaysphoto.co.uk)

Please include the school name, children's names, dates of birth and class name/year group

# *Basildon Library SEND Support Drop in hosted by Essex County Council*

*We host a multiagency drop-in session at a different library each month and this month, January 2026, we will be in Basildon Library. At this session parents/carers get access to a range of support services that they can speak with without an appointment, whether they have a diagnosis or not yet, at a location close to them. All the services are Essex based.*

*The services they can speak with are:*

*SNAP- A charity that supports children with SEND and their parents. They provide advice, information, play sessions, after school activities, counselling, parent education sessions, helpline and have a resource library.*

*SPACE- a peer support and education service that is run by parents of children with special needs and disabilities.*

*Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service- they run family hubs in Essex that provide health care, support and specialist therapies.*

*NHS Children's bladder and bowel service- can offer advice to parents of children with special needs on toilet training, bladder and bowel issues, toileting aversions, nighttime bedwetting, constipation and range of other children's continence issues.*

*Essex Family Forum- a parent carer forum run by parent carers to help improve service provision and access to it for families of children with special needs and disabilities in Essex*

*Brave- the parent carer charity that provide opportunities for selfcare for parents and carers of children with special needs, disabilities and long-term health conditions. Brave will be providing selfcare gift bags to families that attend.*