



16th January 2026

Diary Dates

January

- 21st - Yr 5-6 Netball match v Northlands (A) (selected children)
- 22nd - Yr 3-4 Football match v Willows (H) (selected children)
- 22nd & 23rd - Meridian Kung Fu in to see Early Years and KS1 child
- 27th - Athlete visit to whole school
- 28th - Yr3-4 Netball match v Northlands (H) (selected children)
- 30th - Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop in school
- 30th - Yr3-4 Football match v Chapel Hill (H) (selected children)

February

- 5th - Brilliant Club visit to London (selected children)
- 10th - Safer Internet Day
- 10th - Valentines Disco - Reception 3:10-4:15pm
- 10th - Yr3-4 Valentines Disco - Yr 3-4 4:30-6pm
- 12th - KS2 Cross Country Competition (selected children)
- 12th - Yr1-2 Valentines Disco 3:10-4:15pm
- 12th - Yr5-6 Valentines Disco 4:30-6pm
- 13th - Last day of half term

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

We have reached the end of another week of lots of learning and there are just four weeks left until half term now. My message within school is that 'every minute counts' and with that in mind, I would like to encourage you all to find time to listen to your child read.

I cannot emphasise enough how valuable it is for your child to have regular opportunities to read aloud to someone at home. Reading aloud helps children develop their fluency, confidence and comprehension skills in ways that silent reading alone cannot achieve. When children read to you, they're practising pronunciation, expression and pacing, whilst also building their vocabulary and understanding of language.

Even just 10-15 minutes a day can make a significant difference to your child's progress. Listen to them read, ask questions about the story, and celebrate their efforts. If you're unsure about the best ways to support your child's reading at home, or if you'd like specific strategies tailored to your child's needs, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher. They'll be happy to share practical tips and resources to help you support your child's learning journey.

Our Reception children had a wonderful experience this week when they met a police officer! The children learned all about what the police do in our community and the important ways they help keep people safe. It was a fantastic opportunity for our youngest pupils to ask questions and understand more about the role of emergency services.

During the visit, I took the opportunity to discuss parking safety and speeding at the front of the school with the police. The police will be supporting the school to monitor these areas to help us keep the children safe. Please continue to park considerately and observe the speed limits around our school – your cooperation helps protect every child in our community.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Wade
Head of School



Well done to the following children

Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Kyla-Rose S
Daffodil - Miah W
Primrose - Varman
Bluebell - Ace Y
Rose - Asher
Tulip - Skylar
Lavender - Tatiana
Orchid - Emily
Sunflower - Cruz F
Birch - Alice O
Hawthorn - Owen G
Pine - Buha A
Ash - Jeremiah B
Beech - Alexis A
Maple - Mia
Olive - Freya P
Sycamore - Imogen B
Willow - Holly H
Elder - Taylor C
Elm - Louis C
Oak - Oumie T

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Ava P
Rose - Oliva-Mae
Tulip - Marnie
Lavender - Maria
Orchid - Hosneara
Sunflower - Ida E
Birch - Sara K
Hawthorn - Viktor D
Pine - AJ Y
Ash - Tommy K
Beech - Oscar M
Maple - Jaxon
Olive - Leah C
Sycamore - Elizabeth A
Willow - Bianca T
Elder - Ruby B
Elm - Ellie C
Oak - Alice H



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.

Cross Country Club - there is no Cross Country after school club on Thursday 22nd January 2026.

Berlesduna Vacancies



BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 29th January
CHERRY TREE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 5th February
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 26th January
WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 23rd January
WILLOWS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 21st 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

Next week we will be reading....

Nursery - Animal babies in polar lands

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

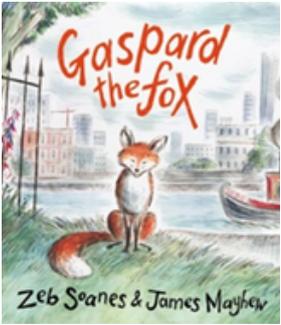
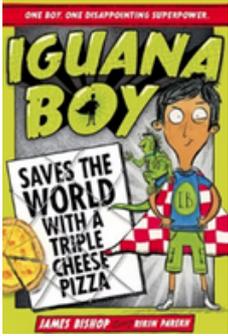
Year 3 - The Thames and Tide Club: The Secret City by Katya Balen

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). oo (moon) oo(book) ar (dark) or (horn) 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>This week Year 1 have learnt the new sounds y/ish/, ow/oa/, gj/, ph/f/ (spy, snow, giant, phone) New tricky words- who, whole, where, two</p>
Year 2	<p>This week, year 2 have been focusing on: Why do we double letters at the end of words? Why do we double letters in some longer words ending in -er? Please practise the new, weekly spellings. The children shall be tested on these on Friday 23rd January. Thank you for your continued support.</p>

KS2 Class of the week - Maple Class - 70%

Player of the week—
Lavender— Nisla
Orchid— Eliza
Sunflower— Alexander G
Birch— Poppy-Rose S
Hawthorn— Talia C
Pine— Zyva A
Ash— Lexi B
Beech— Adebhanji A
Maple— Adebambo
Sycamore— Apshara S
Olive - Olivia V
Willow— Abbie H
Elder— Owen D
Elm - Dharan R
Oak— Darius



KS1 Class of the week - Primrose - 61%



Player of the week—
Bluebell— Nathaniel O
Rose— Alessia
Tulip— Daniel



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



Reading is better than watching TV. 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— How can we help animals? This is linked to the
British Value - Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

KS1 & KS2—Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world? This
is linked to the British Value - Mutual Respect and Tolerance.



Reception Superhero Day

In reception, as part of our learning of the story 'Super Milly and the super school day' the children came to school dressed up as Superhero's. We showed lots of superhero talents such as being super kind, super brave and super funny! The children looked great in their superhero costumes and have produced some brilliant writing as a result of being immersed in the topic.

Well done Reception children 😊

