



23rd January 2026

Diary Dates

January

- 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)
- 6th - Yr5-6 Football match v Kingswood (A) (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
- 11th - Yr5-6 Netball match v Lee Chapel (H) (selected children)
- 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
- 23rd - Return to school.

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

It has been another busy week at Whitmore, filled with lots of learning and the continued building of independence across all year groups. Our children have shown tremendous enthusiasm and dedication in their learning this week and it is always a pleasure to see them grow in confidence and capability each day.

Our Year 6 children have had an assessment week this week. These assessments allow them to prepare for their statutory end of Key Stage 2 assessments (SATs) in the summer term and this week has given them valuable practise with the logistics of formal testing. This experience helps familiarise them with the format and timing of the tests, building their confidence and reducing any anxiety they may feel when the actual SATs take place. The children have approached these assessments with maturity and determination, and we're proud of their positive attitudes.

Some exciting news about our physical education provision. Last academic year, we were fortunate to have Meridian Kung Fu work with our Key Stage 2 children, and the sessions were incredibly well-received. This week, Meridian Kung Fu has been back to hold workshops for our Reception and Key Stage 1 children. The children absolutely loved the sessions and showed great enthusiasm for learning new skills. The workshops focused on building coordination, discipline, and confidence through age-appropriate martial arts activities. Meridian Kung Fu currently has spaces available for children to sign up for regular classes. Please see the poster attached to this newsletter for more information about joining their programme if your child is interested in continuing their kung fu journey.

I need to remind you about parking at the front of the school. Traffic wardens have visited this week and have issued tickets to vehicles parked inappropriately. We understand that drop-off and pick-up times can be busy, but thoughtful parking is essential to protect our children's safety. Please ensure you park considerately, avoid blocking driveways or yellow lines, and allow enough space for children and families to move safely around parked vehicles. Parking enforcement will continue over the coming weeks, so please take extra care when parking near the school.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Mr Wade
Head of School



Well done to the following children

Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Ronnie
Daffodil - River S
Primrose - Eva
Bluebell - Teddy F/Mason W
Rose - Elsa
Tulip - Marnie
Lavender - Millie
Orchid - Oakley
Sunflower - Louie J
Birch - Ahyaan C
Hawthorn - Alex C
Pine - Adnan H
Ash - Tommy K
Beech - Emerald K
Maple - Dayna
Olive - Freya F
Sycamore - Jaxon S
Willow - Amelia B
Elder - Lily McD
Elm - Ada S
Oak - Alice

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Iustina R
Rose - George
Tulip - David
Lavender - Finley
Orchid - Daisy
Sunflower - Paula N
Birch - Jensen J
Hawthorn - Hayden
Pine - Thierry-Jane G
Ash - Jacqueline H
Beech - Emerald K
Maple - Mark
Olive - Jude O
Sycamore - Nellie-Jay B
Willow - Jacob E
Elder - Lily McD
Elm - Lola Q
Oak - James



Year 6 (current Year 5 pupils) residential to Danbury - deposits are needed by 31st January 2026.

Dinner money and trips, please ensure monies are paid on time, if you are experiencing any financial difficulties please come and speak to someone in the school office to see how we maybe able to help.

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
CHERRY TREE – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 5th February
ST MARYS – CLASS TEACHER closing date 4th February
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 26th January
WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 23rd 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 - Dinosaur roar by Paul and Henrietta Stickland

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 continued to learn phase 3 sounds which consists of diagraphs (two letters making one sound) and trigraphs (three letters making one sound).</p> <p>ur(fur) ow(owl) oi(boing) ear(hear)</p> <p>We have practiced the pronunciation, the formation of these letters. We have also learnt some new tricky words (my, by, all)</p> |
| Year 1 | <p>This week, year 1 have been learning the following -</p> <p>New tricky words, School, call, different, New graphemes- le//, al//, c/s/, ve/v (apple, metal, face, give)</p> |
| Year 2 | <p>This week, year 2 have been focusing on:</p> <p>Why do some words end in 'k' or 'ck'? Why do some words end in 'ch' or 'tch'?</p> <p>Please practise the new, weekly spellings. The children shall be tested on these on Friday 30th January. Thank you for your continued support.</p> |

KS2 Class of the week - Ash Class - 73%

Player of the week—
Lavender— Jessie
Orchid — Mirabelle
Sunflower— Iremide O
Birch— Alice O
Hawthorn— Looie N
Pine— Temitope A
Ash— Jeremiah K
Beech— Aman G
Maple— Kevin
Sycamore— Alfie F
Olive - Olivia V
Willow— Bogdan C
Elder— Owen
Elm - Daniel P
Oak— Darius



KS1 Class of the week - Daffodil - 44%



Player of the week—
Bluebell— Rokas S
Rose— Alessia
Tulip— Reggie



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



What does being brave mean?



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— Does how we behave matter as much as how well we play? This is linked to the British Value - Rules of Law.

KS1 & KS2—How should we behave when watching and playing football? This is linked to the British Value - Rules of Law.



WE TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO...

BUILD CONFIDENCE & HIGH SELF ESTEEM & NEVER BE A VICTIM OF BULLYING

Join the 1000's of children throughout Essex that have skyrocketed their confidence with MKF (UK) (5-7yrs, 8-11yrs, 12-15yrs)

CLASSES ACROSS BASILDON & LANGDON HILLS!

VENUES:
MONDAY: LANGDON HILLS METHODIST CHURCH
TUESDAY: FRYERNS COMMUNITY CENTRE
WEDNESDAY: FRYERNS BAPTIST CHURCH
FRIDAY: FRYERNS BAPTIST CHURCH
SATURDAY: BASILDON SPORTING VILLAGE

CONTACT SIFU CRAIG ON: 07986486543 OR EMAIL info@meridianbasildon.com



LEARN KUNG FU

BOOK YOUR FREE 2 WEEK TRIAL NOW!