



13th February 2026

Diary Dates

February

13th - Last day of half term

23rd - Return to school.

24th - Young Voices (KS2 Choir)

25th - Individual School photos

25th - Reception parent meeting - Phonics (KS1 hall 3:30pm)

26th - Cross Country Competition (selected children)

March

W/C 2nd - Book Fair

5th - Reception health check

5th - Yr5-6 Netball match v St Anne Line (H) (selected children)

6th - World Book Day

6th - Yr5-6 Football match v Kingswood (A) (selected children)

W/C 9th - Science week

12th - Trust Science Challenge at Felmore (selected children)

12th - Reception health check

16th - Year 4 trip to Thorndon

17th - Parent Consultation 3:30-6:30pm

18th - Yr3/4 football match v Greensted (A) (selected children)

19th - Year 6 health check

19th - parent Consultation 3:30-5:30pm

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

As we approach the half-term break, it's clear that the children are ready for a well-deserved rest after all their hard work this term. They have shown tremendous dedication to their learning, and we're incredibly proud of their efforts.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to you for ensuring that your children have maintained good attendance throughout the year so far. Your support helps build a strong home-school partnership, and it makes a real difference to your child's progress and wellbeing.

Good attendance supports children's physical health and mental wellbeing, which are interlinked. When children attend school regularly, they benefit from daily exercise, social interaction with their peers, and the structured learning environment that helps them develop academically and emotionally. Regular attendance helps children build friendships, develop resilience, and feel part of our school community. It also ensures they don't miss out on key learning experiences that build upon each other day by day.

This week, we were thrilled to welcome Olympic gymnast Courtney Tulloch to our school! He led fun fitness sessions with the children, which they absolutely loved. The energy and enthusiasm in the hall was wonderful to see, and the children were inspired by his stories and encouragement.

Courtney took the time to thank our school community for the money we have raised for Team GB and for our school. We're so proud of everyone's fundraising efforts, and it was fantastic to see the impact of our collective work. We'll be sharing photos from his visit after the half-term break, so watch out for those!

We hope you all enjoy a restful and relaxing half-term break. The children have earned it, and we look forward to welcoming them back refreshed and ready for the exciting learning opportunities ahead in the second half of the term.

Mr Wade
Head of School



Well done to the following children

Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Temidire A
Daffodil - Teodor-George P
Primrose - Elsbeth
Bluebell - Heidi S
Rose - Stanley
Tulip - River
Lavender - Ziya
Orchid - Lillian
Sunflower - Alexander G
Birch - Eleanor A
Hawthorn - Albie
Pine - AJ Y
Ash - Teddie G
Beech - Skyla L
Maple - Jaxson
Olive - George B
Sycamore - Jake H
Willow - Abbie H
Elder - Taylor C
Elm - Jayden J
Oak - Sophie

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Ben F
Rose - Evie B
Tulip - James
Lavender - Nisla
Orchid - Ana
Sunflower - Fatima K
Birch - Poppy-Rose S
Hawthorn - Victor
Pine - Temitope A
Ash - Jacqueline H
Beech - Ryka R
Maple - Lillie
Olive - Leah C
Sycamore - Amelia M
Willow - Bianca T
Elder - Bella-Rose E
Elm - Noah P
Oak - Oumie



Medicine - if your child needs medicine we can give this once during the school day but we do not have a supply of Calpol or paracetamol, you will need to provide this to the office and complete a consent form. Antibiotics need to be in original packaging with the name label and dosage and we can only give 1 dose throughout the day.

Berlesduna Vacancies



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – DEPUTY HEADTEACHER closing date 24th February
MERRYLANDS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 22nd February

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

After half term we will be reading....

Nursery - The 3 little pigs

Reception - My Shadow is Pink

Year 1 - Little Red

Year 2 - The Day the Crayons Quit

Year 3 - The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Year 4 - Tamarind and the Star of Ishta

Year 5 - King Kong

Year 6 - Darwin's On The Origin of Species

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	This week in Reception we have been doing our Spring 1 phonics assessment. While doing this, we have been re-teaching the sounds and tricky words the children needed extra practice on. The children have all tried so hard doing their assessment.
Year 1	This week each class has been revising alternative graphemes based on our most recent assessment.
Year 2	This week, year 2 have been practicing their spellings and consolidating their learning on the Bridge to Spelling unit of work. Well done for all the children's hard work and your continued support at home. After half term, the children shall move on to the year 2 Spelling units. The Spelling units follow the familiar structure of Little Wandle phonics lessons, supporting children to make links to their phonics learning.

KS2 Class of the week - Maple Class - 100%

Player of the week—
Lavender— Temi
Orchid — Eliza
Sunflower— Iremide O
Birch— Milaniia S
Hawthorn— Jake K
Pine— Zyva A
Ash— Jenson A
Beech— Charlie P
Maple— Ronan
Olive - Amelia B
Sycamore— Stefan V
Willow— Bogdan C
Elder— Owen D
Elm - Harry M
Oak— Darius



KS1 Class of the week - Bluebell - 26%



Player of the week—
Bluebell— Freya MW
Rose— Spencer
Tulip— Zidan



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



What makes a good learner?



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

Berlesduna Trust Spelling Bee

Asher, Darius, Noah and Ziya took part in our Trust Spelling Bee. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience and were thrilled with the results. Year 2 got second place – Well done them! Year 2 received silver medals. Year 6 just missed out on third place therefore, came fourth – Well done to them too!

All of the children behaved impeccably and were a credit to Whitmore.



Smile Dental Practice

We at Smile Dental Centre would like to share a reminder for parents about the importance of regular dental check-ups for children. With the half-term holidays approaching, this is the perfect time for families to book their child's free NHS dental check-up without disrupting school attendance.

To make it easier for parents, we are offering:

Free NHS dental check-ups for children

A complimentary goody bag for every child who attends

Convenient booking during the school holidays to avoid missing classes

Appointments are filling up fast, so we encourage parents to book early.

To book, parents can call us at 01268 520555 and simply provide their child's school name.

Our practice details are as follows:

Smile Dental Centre

438 Whitmore Way, Basildon

SS14 2EZ

01268 520555

