



27th February 2026

Diary Dates

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
20th - Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)
23rd - KS2 Music Festival rehearsal at Ghyllgrove (Selected children)
24th - Year 1 visits to local church
25th - Reception parent meeting - Reading, KS1 hall 3:30pm
26th - Pupil Voice meeting at Downham (Headboy/girl)
26th - Yr5/6 Dodgeball comp (selected children)
27th - Yr 4 Spring Production to parents
27th - Yr5/6 Football match v Greensted(A) (selected children)
27th - Last day of term

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

What an incredible week it has been at Whitmore! Our KS2 choir had the amazing opportunity to perform at the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena this week. Young Voices is the world's largest school choir concert, bringing together thousands of children from schools across the country to perform as one magnificent choir. Our children sang their hearts out alongside pupils from other schools, performing a fantastic repertoire of songs with professional musicians, dancers and special guest performers. We couldn't be prouder of how they represented Whitmore – their singing was absolutely amazing and their behaviour was impeccable throughout. It was a truly memorable experience that our children will treasure for years to come.

On Wednesday, our school photographers visited to capture some wonderful moments. The action shots taken in the library came out really well, and we're sure you'll love them as much as we do! Keep an eye out for information about how to view and order these special photographs.

Some of our KS2 children represented Whitmore at the Basildon Cross Country competition this week, and we're thrilled to announce that one of our super sprinters has qualified for the county competition next month! Congratulations to all our runners who took part – you've made us incredibly proud.

Don't forget that next Friday we'll be celebrating World Book Day! Please refer to the letter that has been sent out previously for full details about the exciting events we have planned for the day.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Wade
Head of School



Well done to the following children

Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Zarah O
Daffodil - Eli E
Primrose - JJ C
Bluebell - Kiara K
Rose - Ronnie L
Tulip - Abeera
Lavender - Marnie
Orchid - Nathan
Sunflower - Paula N
Birch - Sara K
Hawthorn - Joris
Pine - Florence G
Ash - Isaac O
Beech - Amelia RR
Maple - Maryam
Olive - Kyon R
Sycamore - Nellie-Jay B
Willow - Azariah J
Elder - Archie F
Elm - Noah P
Oak - Finley P

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Dominic S
Rose - Sanu T
Tulip - Elissia
Lavender - Maria
Orchid - Bethany
Sunflower - Isabelle P
Birch - Alex M
Hawthorn - Jake
Pine - Vincy T
Ash - Lily K
Beech - Ryka R
Maple - Temi A
Olive - Daisy M
Sycamore - Amelia M
Willow - Holly H
Elder - Lauren MacD
Elm - Hayden M
Oak - Darius MA



REMINDER

Book Fair - the book fair will be in school next week for you to visit with your child(ren) after school (3.30pm). It will be located in the corridor in KS2 by the main Reception. Please wait outside the main school entrance and you will be let through.

SEND Drop in

Struggling with a neurodiverse child and their sleeping?
You're not alone 💙

We're delighted to welcome back Steve Challen, ADHD specialist, for an evening of information and support at The MegaCentre Rayleigh.

📅 19th March | 7-9pm

🆓 Free to attend

📍 The MegaCentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, SS6 7UT

The session will focus on sleep and how you can better support your neurodiverse child, with practical tips and reassurance for parents and carers.



The poster features a stylized human head profile in blue and orange. Inside the head, the text reads: "FREE SEND evening with Steve Challen ADHD - Sleep". To the right of the head is a red logo for "ADHD+ SERVICES". Above the head, it says "The MegaCentre Rayleigh". To the left, a blue speech bubble contains "19th March 7-9pm". At the bottom, it lists the location: "@ The Megacentre Rayleigh 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh SS6 7UT". There are also some zzz symbols next to the word "Sleep".



Reading Corner

Next week we will be reading....
Nursery - Goldilocks and the 3 bears
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	<p>This week in Reception we have begun to review the phase 3 sounds taught in Spring 1 sounds.</p> <p>-ai, ee, igh (tail, feel, right) -oa, oo, ar (soap, food, hard) -or, ur, oo (born, curl, took) -ow, oi, ear (down, join, hear)</p> <p>We have practiced the pronunciation, the formation of these letters. We have also reviewed some of the Spring 1 tricky words (the, I, put, pull, full)</p>
Year 1	<p>In Phonics this week Year 1 have revised the following sounds and tricky words ay/ai, a-e/ai, ea/ee/, ee/e/ Eye, sure, pure, were</p>
Year 2	<p>This week, year 2 have been focusing on: Why do some words have the spellings 'kn' and 'gn' for /n/ and 'wr' for /r/? Pricky words - once/two and Homophones - knight/night. Please practise the new, weekly spellings. The children shall be tested on these on Friday 6th March. Thank you for your continued support.</p>

KS2 Class of the week - Birch Class - 48%

Player of the week—
Lavender— Khushi
Orchid — Amelia
Sunflower— Iremide O
Birch— Max B
Hawthorn— Hayden
Pine— Elsie B
Ash— Jeremiah K
Beech— Layla-Anne D
Maple— Mckayla N
Olive - Mishal A
Sycamore— Imogen B
Willow— Bogdan
Elder— Owen D
Elm - Harry M
Oak— Darius M-A



KS1 Class of the week - Bluebell - 23%



Player of the week—
Bluebell— Stefan C
Rose— Alessia C
Tulip— Camelia



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



Why is it important to listen to others?



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— What are the best clothes to wear to school? This is linked to the British Value - Mutual Respect.

KS1 & KS2—Should school uniforms be the same for everyone? This is linked to the British Value - Mutual Respect.

