



6th March 2026

## Diary Dates

March

W/C 9<sup>th</sup> - Science week  
12<sup>th</sup> - Trust Science Challenge at Felmore (selected children)  
12<sup>th</sup> - Reception health check  
13<sup>th</sup> - Yr3/4 Football match v St Teresa's (A) (selected children)  
16<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 trip to Thorndon  
17<sup>th</sup> - Parent Consultation 3:30-6:30pm  
18<sup>th</sup> - Yr3/4 football match v Greensted (A) (selected children)  
19<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 health check  
19<sup>th</sup> - Parent Consultation 3:30-5:30pm  
20<sup>th</sup> - Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)  
21<sup>st</sup> - Ghyllgrove Netball tournament (selected children)  
23<sup>rd</sup> - KS2 Music Festival rehearsal at Ghyllgrove (Selected children)  
23<sup>rd</sup> - Yr5/6 Netball match v Kingswood (H) (selected children)  
24<sup>th</sup> - Year 1 visits to local church  
25<sup>th</sup> - Nursery & Reception parent meeting - Reading. KS1 hall 3:30pm  
25<sup>th</sup> - County Cross Country Competition (selected children)  
25<sup>th</sup> - Yr5/6 Netball match v Greensted (A) (selected children)  
26<sup>th</sup> - Pupil Voice meeting at Downham (Headboy/girl)  
26<sup>th</sup> - Year 2 visits to local church  
26<sup>th</sup> - Yr3/4 Dodgeball comp (selected children)  
27<sup>th</sup> - Yr 4 Spring Production to parents 9:15am & 2:15pm  
27<sup>th</sup> - Yr5/6 Football match v Greensted(A) (selected children)  
27<sup>th</sup> - Last day of term

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

What another busy week it has been at Whitmore Primary! The weather has been teasing us with glimpses of what is to come, and the children have been making the most of every moment.

This week, we celebrated World Book Day in style! The children had a wonderful time using our school library and participating in special reading sessions with family members who joined us in school. Reading is so important for children's development, and we know that books should be for everyone and about everyone. Each class engaged in exciting activities that brought stories to life and reminded us all of the joy that reading can bring.

Reading for pleasure helps children become book-lovers, and we've seen first-hand this week how it can spark imagination, build vocabulary, develop empathy, and open doors to new worlds and possibilities. The impact of reading on children's lives cannot be overstated – it supports their learning across all subjects and helps them understand themselves and the world around them.

We were absolutely delighted by the fantastic costumes the children wore, and the brilliantly decorated potatoes for our competition were truly creative! Thank you for supporting your children with these activities.

Also this week, we have been raising awareness of online safety across the school. The children took part in workshops all about remaining safe online, which is a key part of safeguarding. These sessions covered important areas including: being exposed to inappropriate content, harmful online interactions with others, online behaviour that could cause harm, and risks such as online scams.

We believe it's important that parents and carers work together with school staff on online safety, so you can implement the same principles of online safety at home and share any issues that occur. Please do talk to your children about online safety at home to build transparent relationships with them. If you have any concerns about online safety, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Wade  
Head of School



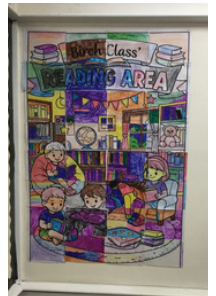
# Well done to the following children

## Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - William A  
Daffodil - Hamidah  
Primrose - Oscar  
Bluebell - Nathaniel O  
Rose - James B  
Tulip - Vinayak  
Lavender - Marcela  
Orchid - Morgan  
Sunflower - Yasmin I  
Birch - Keegan A  
Hawthorn - Raeya H  
Pine - Mantra  
Ash - Castiel G  
Beech - Elsie C  
Maple - Kevin  
Olive - Poppie M  
Sycamore - Hallie Q  
Willow - Freddie J  
Elder - Marley F  
Elm - Anni  
Oak - Tommy

## Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Oscar MC  
Rose - Finley C  
Tulip - Jack  
Lavender - Gabby  
Orchid - Amelia  
Sunflower - Maisie H  
Birch - Leona H  
Hawthorn - Joshua A  
Pine - Florence G  
Ash - Jenson A  
Beech - Layla-Anne D  
Maple - Charlie  
Olive - Ragnar L  
Sycamore - Alana H  
Willow - Bianca T  
Elder - Marley F  
Elm - Asher  
Oak - Shayaan and Isabella





For safeguarding reasons if someone different is collecting your child/children at the end of the school day or after a school club please advise the teacher or office.

## Berlesduna vacancies



### BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CANEWDON – CARETAKER closing date 9<sup>th</sup> March  
CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 8<sup>th</sup> March  
DOWNHAM – CLASS TEACHER closing date 12<sup>th</sup> March  
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 8<sup>th</sup> March  
WHITMORE – ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER closing date 16<sup>th</sup> March  
WHITMORE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 22<sup>nd</sup> March

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 - Gingerbread man

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 phonics, Reception focus has been 'longer words and double letters'. We have been using the 'chunk it up' method, where the children segment the word into two or three parts and then blend altogether.</p> <p>Examples: Double letters: <b>rubber, bigger, buzzer</b> Longer words: <b>pattern, shimmer, fantastic</b> We have been reviewing phase two and three tricky words.</p>
Year 1	<p>Year 1 Phonics- We are continuing to revise the phase 5 GPCs and tricky words. New GPCs au/oor/aur/al (or) dinosaur, talk, floor, caught ch (c/sh) chef</p>
Year 2	<p>This week, year 2 have continued to focus on why some words have the spellings 'kn' and 'gn' for /n/ and 'wr' for /r/.</p> <p>We have also looked at how we double the final letter to protect the short vowel sound when we add -ing / -er / -ed.</p> <p>Please practise the new, weekly spellings. The children shall be tested on these on Friday 13th March.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p>

## KS2 Class of the week - Maple Class - 93%

Player of the week—  
Lavender— Harry M  
Orchid — Sonia  
Sunflower— Iremide O  
Birch— Leona H  
Hawthorn— Isla M  
Pine— Anna-Rose I  
Ash— Teddie G  
Beech— Lamia MA  
Maple— Kevin  
Olive - Freya F  
Sycamore— Stefan V  
Willow— Bogdan C  
Elder— Owen D  
Elm - Daniel  
Oak— Darius



## KS1 Class of the week - Bluebell - 23%



Player of the week—  
Bluebell— Ava K  
Rose— David D  
Tulip— Daniel



# Oracy Corner



## Let's Talk



How can talking help us learn?



**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 would you like robots to be able to do? This is linked to the British Value - Individual Liberty.

KS1 & KS2—How might robots change our daily lives? This is linked to the British Value - Individual Liberty.



# Young Voices

On Tuesday 24th February, Whitmore choir had the privilege of attending the Young Voice's choir at London's O2 Arena. The children had a fantastic day, filled with lots of singing and special guests such as Ruti, who competed and won the Voice UK. The children got to sing a range of songs from 'Shackles' by Mary Mary, to Disney classics by Phil Collins such as "You'll be in my heart" from Tarzan. The children were excellent role models to the school and after a busy day in London were still singing on the coach the whole way home!  
We are super proud of all that attended!

# Online Safety

## Online safety workshops

Yesterday, the children participated in engaging online safety workshops throughout the day! These sessions were designed to help them understand how to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

The workshops were interactive, allowing the children to discuss their online activities and share their experiences. They explored important topics such as recognising safe and unsafe online behaviour, and they learned what steps to take if they encounter something that doesn't feel right. Our aim was to empower them with the knowledge and confidence to make safe choices while using the internet.

We believe that fostering a safe online environment is crucial for our children's well-being, and these workshops provided them with valuable tools to protect themselves. We encourage you to continue these conversations at home, reinforcing the lessons learned and ensuring our children feel supported in their online journeys.



# Information & Resources



## Childnet International

A non-profit organisation working in partnership with others around the world to help make the internet a great and safe place for children. The Childnet website has a range of resources for young people, parents/carers and adults who work with children. [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)



A **Parents and Carers** section with key information and advice about online risks. [www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)

A template **Family Agreement** and conversation starters to help families discuss online safety. [www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation)



## UK Safer Internet Centre

Previously cofunded by the European Commission from 2011-2021, the UK Safer Internet Centre raises awareness about online safety, develops resources and organises high profile events such as Safer Internet Day. [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)



A **Parents' Guide to Technology** for managing devices and **Internet Parental Controls** videos. [www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech) [www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls)

Free **Social Network Checklists** for privacy settings on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. [www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists)



## CEOP Command

The National Crime Agency's CEOP Command tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation online. The website includes the **Click CEOP** report button that allows both adults and young people to make reports of actual or attempted abuse online. [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)



CEOP's education site contains information for children of all ages, as well as parents/carers. [www.ceopeducation.co.uk](http://www.ceopeducation.co.uk)



## NSPCC

If you have concerns about the online safety of a child then contact the **NSPCC helpline** on 0808 800 5002 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk). [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



Children can talk to someone for advice and support at any time by contacting **Childline** on 0800 1111 or chatting to a counsellor online at [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk).

## Other useful sites for parents/carers



**Internet Matters**  
[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)



**Digital Parenting**  
[vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/](http://vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/)



**Common Sense Media (US)**  
[www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)



**Family Lives**  
[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

## Where to report



**Click CEOP—Grooming**  
[ceop.police.uk](http://ceop.police.uk)



**Internet Watch Foundation—Child Abuse Content**  
[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)



**UK Safer Internet Centre—Harmful Online Content**  
[reportharmfulcontent.com](http://reportharmfulcontent.com)



**TrueVision—Report online hate crime**  
[www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)