



27th March 2026

Diary Dates

March

27th - Last day of term

April

13th - Return to school

13th - Year 4 swimming starts

16th - Yr 5/6 Hanball Competition (selected children)

16th - Dental tam visiting Reception

21st - KS2 Music Festival (selected children)

22nd - Yr5/6 Netball v Noak Bridge (H) (selected children)

28th - Reception May Ball - 3:10-4:15pm

28th - Year3-4 May Ball - 4:30-6pm

30th - Panathlon event (selected children)

30th - Year 1-2 May Ball - 3:10-4:15pm

30th - Yr5/6 May Ball - 4:30-6pm

May

1st - Reception trip to Barleylands

4th - May Bank Holiday

W/C 11th - KS2 SATs

14th - Yr3-4 Sportshall Athletics (selected children)

15th - Class photos

18th - Year 1 phonics meeting with parents 3:30pm KSI Hall

19th - Year 5 Summer Showcase to parents

19th - Last day of half term

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

What a wonderful week we've had at Whitmore. Our Year 4 children delivered an absolutely fantastic production this week, showcasing their talents to both the school and their families. The singing was amazing, and it was wonderful to see the children developing such important performance skills. These experiences help build confidence, teamwork, and communication abilities that will serve them throughout their lives – truly skills to last a lifetime!

Our KS2 choir has been working hard, practising for their upcoming performance at the Basildon Music Festival. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been brilliant to see, and we're looking forward to them representing our school at this exciting event.

As part of their Religious Education lessons, our Year 1 and 2 children visited Holy Cross church this week. This valuable trip helped them learn about differences and similarities in places of worship, supporting their understanding of different faiths and communities. It was a wonderful hands-on learning experience that brought their classroom learning to life.

A huge congratulations to Darcey in Year 6, who competed at the County Cross Country competition after winning the Basildon competition. We are all incredibly proud of her achievement and dedication to representing our school at such a high level!

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break with your families. Enjoy the time together, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 13th April for the start of the summer term.

Happy Easter!



Mr Wade
Head of School

Well done to the following children

Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Ela A
Daffodil - Violet G
Primrose - Chloe
Bluebell - Harry M
Rose - George
Tulip - Mylo
Lavender - Sebastian
Orchid - Daisy
Sunflower - Reggie D
Birch - Jensen J
Hawthorn - Ollie N
Pine - Ashante O
Ash - Ivy-Mae L
Beech - Millie C
Maple - Leo B
Olive - Sammie R
Sycamore - Parker L
Willow - Joey F
Elder - Lauren M
Elm - Georgia L
Oak - James

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Violet B
Rose - Olivia-Mae
Tulip - David
Lavender - Leo
Orchid - Stefan
Sunflower - Aliya S
Birch - Max B
Hawthorn - Jake K
Pine - Matty L
Ash - James M
Beech - Emerald K
Maple - Adebambo A
Olive - Tudor M
Sycamore - Daisy D
Willow - Gabriel N
Elder - Matthew B
Elm - Darcey G
Oak - Bobby

REMINDER

School Crossing Patrol Service

Could parents please encourage pupils who bring bikes and scooters to school, to dismount and walk the bikes and scooters across the road at the patrolled school crossing. This is for the safety of other pedestrians, the patrol, and the pupils themselves. One of the benefits of this practise is that when children get older and make unaccompanied journeys, they will dismount when crossing roads and be able to give their full attention to approaching traffic. Thank you.



With the upcoming half-term, Smile Dental Centre is encouraging families to book their child's free NHS dental check-up without impacting school attendance.

We are offering:

- Free NHS dental check-ups for children
- A complimentary goody bag for each child
- Flexible holiday appointments

Appointments are filling quickly, so early booking is encouraged. Parents can call 01268 520555 and mention their child's school name.

Our programme supports early oral health education and has received excellent feedback from local schools, helping children build healthy habits for life.

Berlesduna Vacancies



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 14th April
FAIRHOUSE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 14th April
MERRYLANDS – LEAD TEACHER for AUTISM SPECTRUM CONDITIONS closing date 19th April
MERRYLANDS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 17th April
WHITMORE – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 14th April
WILLOWS – CLASS TEACHER closing date 24th April

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 the Easter break, we will be reading....

Nursery - Jack and the bean stalk

Reception - The Tiny Seed

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, 'z' making the 's' sound, and 'es' making the 'iz' sound.</p> <p>Examples: Longer words- marching, farmyard, lightning /z/ -s -queens, chairs, chains /iz/- es - torches, fishes, fizzes</p> <p>We have been reviewing phase two and three tricky words.</p>
Year 1	<p>Year one this week have been continuing to revisit and revise the phase 5 graphemes we have learnt so far.</p>
Year 2	<p>This week, we have been reviewing this terms spelling units. Please practise the new, weekly spellings.</p> <p>The children shall be tested on these after the Easter break on Friday 17th April.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely Easter!</p> <p>Year 2 team.</p>

KS2 Class of the week - Maple Class - 97%

- Player of the week—
 Lavender— Maxim
 Orchid— Sonia
 Sunflower— Iremide O
 Birch— Max B
 Hawthorn— Jessica L
 Pine— Airah L
 Ash— Jenson A
 Beech— Max P
 Maple— Freddie W
 Olive - Lacey M
 Sycamore— Teddy S
 Willow— Gabriel N
 Elder— Freddie M
 Elm - Hayden M
 Oak— Darius



KS1 Class of the week - Bluebell - 35%



- Player of the week—
 Bluebell— Ace Y
 Rose— Spencer
 Tulip— Tiffany



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



Summer is better than winter. 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

Essex Library Service

To encourage your child's reading please see the joining link for Whitmore School's families-

[Essex Libraries joining Form- Whitmore Primary School & Nursery – Fill in form](#)

The form will close for responses at 8pm on Sunday 26/04/2026 and cards will be delivered to the school office on Tuesday 28/04/2026.



Year 4 trip to Thorndon Country Park

On Monday 16th March, the Year 4s went to Thorndon Country Park to look at creatures in their habitats, which is the topic in science this half term. The children had a great time wondering in the forest, looking at the trees and exposed roots, learning how the trees communicate and support each other. The children had the opportunity to use charts and tree diagrams to help identify their creatures. Moving logs, they were able to find creatures such as frogs, devil's coach-horse and harvestman. Pond dipping, was a highlight, where they were able to see frog-spawn, newts and newt larvae.

The children had a fantastic time and really enjoyed the trip.



Year 1 and 2 trips to Holy Cross Church

The children in year 1 began Easter nice and early with a visit to Holy Cross church to learn about how and why Christians celebrate Easter. All the children were very well behaved and respectful throughout and came away with a wealth of knowledge.

Year 2 had a wonderful visit to Holy Cross Church on Thursday this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Easter story and discovering interesting facts about the church. They were especially excited to explore the building, taking time to walk around and admire its incredible features. It was a memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved.



Pupil Voice

On Thursday, Bobby and Darcy attended pupil voice at Downham school. They confidently asked questions and presented their ideas based on British values. They also got to present how they show respect when holding baby chicks. They now have a task to do in school based on British values and they have decided to look at the value respect and create a compliment circle. They are going to trial this with their classes before broadening it out to the wider school.





Happy Days
Creative
Photo Video Studio

Happy Days School Photo Subscription Information

We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to sign up to our amazing value monthly subscription service for all your school photos for just £4.00 per month. Just to clarify how simple it is, you sign up one time only, you will add all your children's information into the form, set up a simple direct debit payment for just £4.00 per month (to be taken on the last day of every month) and we do the rest.

How often do we visit?

We aim to visit your school 3 times throughout the school year to shoot the following:
Traditional school portraits and sibling photos
Desktop portraits
Class groups

(The actual number of visits will be determined by your school)

What do you get and how does it work?

When we photograph your children, you will automatically receive one 5x7 inch print of every portrait photo we take and any sibling shots. We aim to capture 3 shots per child and 3 sibling shots (if applicable). You do not need to do anything to order these prints, they will automatically be sent to your school with our bulk orders, generally 2-3 weeks after the photo day.

Please note your subscription will not include historical photos, only photos taken during the term after first payment will be included.



You will also receive one 8x6 printed class photo when we do these in the summer term.

On top of the physical prints, you can also download all your portrait and sibling images free of charge by visiting www.hdporders.com and entering your unique access code which your child will bring home on photo day. Unfortunately, class group photos will not be available in digital format, on these visits you will receive prints only.

Finally, as a subscription customer you will also receive 50% OFF our great value packages and extra prints online, should you wish to order additional prints/sizes for family members.

Subscription Cost

Term 1

Download all Images p/child @ £24.00
3 - 7x5 Portrait photos @ £11.00
(Sibling downloads & prints included)

Term 2

Download all Images p/child @ £24.00
3 - 7x5 Portrait photos @ £11.00

Term 3

1 - 8x6 Class Group Photo Printed p/child
@ £12.00 each.

Savings

Regardless if a family has just the 1 child
in school or 10! The total cost is still just
£4 p/month. The savings are massive.

Per Family

£4
p/month

Total Cost

£48.00

1 Child

61%
£78.00

2 Children

83%
£237.00

3 Children

88%
£363.00

How do you sign up?

If this is something that you would be interested in joining

PLEASE REGISTER HERE:

www.happydays.photos

No later than Sunday 19th April 2026

When registering please use your school code of:

WHISS14

If you have previously signed up for this service, you do not need to do this again. Your current subscription and payments will simply continue.

Do you already have a subscription but need to add another child?

If you have an existing subscription and want to add a new sibling to your account, please email

support@happydaysphoto.co.uk

Please include the school name, children's names, dates of birth and class name/year group