



Newsletter

17th April 2026

Diary Dates

April

- 21st - KS2 Music Festival (selected children)
- 22nd - Yr5/6 Netball v Noak Bridge (H) (selected children)
- 28th - Reception Spring Disco - 3:10-4:15pm
- 28th - Year3-4 Spring Disco - 4:30-6pm
- 30th - Panathlon event (selected children)
- 30th - Trust Orienteering Competition (selected children)
- 30th - Year 1-2 Spring Disco - 3:10-4:15pm
- 30th - Yr5-6 Spring Disco - 4:30-6pm

May

- 1st - Reception trip to Barleylands
- 4th - May Bank Holiday
- W/C 11th - KS2 SATS
- 15th - Class photos
- 18th - Year 1 phonics meeting with parents 3:30pm KS1 Hall
- 19th - Year 5 Summer Showcase to parents
- 19th - Last day of half term

June

- 1st - Return to school

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

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break spending quality time with your families. It's wonderful to see the children back in school, ready for an exciting summer term ahead.

As we move into the summer term and temperatures begin to rise, please help us keep your child safe and comfortable. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school every day so they can stay hydrated throughout the day, especially during outdoor activities and playtime. We also ask that you apply sun cream to your child before school each morning and send your child with a hat to wear when they're outside.

Next week we'll be celebrating St George's Day across the school. All classes will be taking part in special activities to learn more about St George, the patron saint of England, and the traditions associated with this day. The children will enjoy exploring the history and stories through age-appropriate lessons and creative activities.

School attendance remains a key focus for the Government and Department for Education. Regular attendance is vital for your child's learning, progress, and wellbeing. We understand it can sometimes be difficult to know whether your child is well enough to attend school. Please refer to the NHS guidance we have previously shared with you about when children should and should not come to school. As an important reminder about sickness bugs: if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, they must stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode before returning to school. This helps prevent the spread of infection to other children and staff. If you're ever unsure whether your child should attend, please don't hesitate to contact the school office for advice.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you and your families a wonderful weekend.

Mr Wade
Head of School

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—How do people become good runners? This is linked to the British Value - Individual Liberty.

KS1 & KS2—Is it ever too late to try something new? This is linked to the British Value - Individual Liberty.



Well done to the following children

Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Zeynep K
Daffodil - Rafe O'C
Primrose - Kenza
Bluebell - Dominic S
Rose - Josie
Tulip - Camelia
Lavender - Jojo
Orchid - David
Sunflower - Sophia H
Birch - Vlad C
Hawthorn - Finnley P
Pine - Thierry-Jane G
Ash - Muhammad R
Beech - Maisy D
Maple - Reggie F
Olive - Lacey M
Sycamore - Ziyad B
Willow - Sabrina L
Elder - Sarah I
Elm - Andrei C
Oak - Darius

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Teddy F
Rose - Noel
Tulip - Eva
Lavender - Maxim B
Orchid - Stefan
Sunflower - Lottie A
Birch - Re'Nell C
Hawthorn - Albie
Pine - Haadi H
Ash - Kyan R
Beech - Poppy C
Maple - Raphael U
Olive - Daisy M
Sycamore - Nellie-Jay B
Willow - Ann M
Elder - Bella-Rose E
Elm - Charlie B
Oak - Tommy



School Discos take place in a couple of weeks time, please ensure you have paid for your child's entrance by Monday 27th April 2026.
There will be no afterschool clubs held on these days.

Berlesduna Vacancies



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

MERRYLANDS – LEAD TEACHER for AUTISM SPECTRUM CONDITIONS closing date 19th April
MERRYLANDS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 17th April
WHITMORE – ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER closing date 27th April
WHITMORE – FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER closing date 29th 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 - Oliver's fruit salad

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	This week in phonics, Reception focus has been 'Phase 4 CVCC words with short vowels'. We have been learning new phase 4 tricky words- said, so, have, like.
Year 1	Year 1 have been revising gaps in our learning from phases 4 and 5
Year 2	Our focus this week, was looking at how 'w' and 'qu' change the sounds that 'a', 'ar' and 'or' make in some words. Please practise the new, weekly spellings. The children shall be tested on these on Friday 24th April. Thank you for your continued support. Year 2 team.

KS2 Class of the week - Maple Class - 97%

- Player of the week—
- Lavender— Tatiana
- Orchid — Ana
- Sunflower— Iremide O
- Birch— Vinnie S
- Hawthorn— Alex
- Pine— Kaleb G
- Ash— Teddie G
- Beech— Lamia M-A
- Maple— Temi
- Olive - Ella M
- Sycamore— Apshara S
- Willow— Faida E
- Elder— Vivien M
- Elm - Daniel P
- Oak— Darius



KS1 Class of the week - Bluebell - 23%



- Player of the week—
- Bluebell— Ace Y
- Rose— Varshik
- Tulip— Camelia



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



Learning outside is better than learning in the classroom.

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.



TTRS Competition for Year 4

Starting Monday 20th April, we will have a very exciting competition for our year 4 pupils to design the best TTRS avatar. The competition will run from Monday the 20th April until the 30th June. The winners will be chosen by our head boy and head girl. The winner will win a very exciting prize. The more they play TTRS, the more coins they will earn to customise their avatar. Let's get playing!

