



24th April 2026

## Diary Dates

### April

- 27<sup>th</sup> - Girls football match v Eversley (A) (selected children)
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Reception Spring Disco - 3:10-4:15pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Year 3-4 Spring Disco - 4:30-6pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Panathlon event (selected children)
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Trust Orienteering Competition (selected children)
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Year 1-2 Spring Disco - 3:10-4:15pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Yr 5-6 Spring Disco - 4:30-6pm

### May

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

### June

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Return to school

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

What a wonderful week we've had in school! The children have all been working incredibly hard this week, fully engaged in their learning and demonstrating our school values of friendship and perseverance beautifully. It's been a joy to see them supporting one another and showing such determination in their work.

Our Year 4 children have been taking part in their swimming lessons over the past few weeks, and we're delighted to report that the children are very much enjoying these sessions and are making good progress already. Swimming is an important part of our school curriculum, helping children develop essential water safety skills and physical confidence.

A huge congratulations to our KS2 Choir, who performed at the Basildon Music Festival at Towngate Theatre on Tuesday night! The children were absolutely incredible and did our school community proud with their excellent voices. We're so grateful to everyone who supported this wonderful event.

Looking ahead to next week, we'll be running our annual 'May Ball' discos after school. The discos are always a key date in our calendar, and the children absolutely love them. Please see the letters that have been sent out previously for timings and arrangements.

Now that the warmer weather is upon us, please ensure that your child comes to school wearing sun cream (applied before school), brings a hat to protect them during outdoor activities, and brings a water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day. These simple steps will help keep your child safe and comfortable during the school day.

Wishing you all an enjoyable 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 does AI help us already?

KS1 & KS2—What is the best way to support people who need extra help?

The topics are linked to one of the following British Values - Individual Liberty, Rule of Law, Democracy or Mutual Respect & Tolerance.

# Well done to the following children

## Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Jessica B  
Daffodil - Ayla-Kay L  
Primrose - Eden  
Bluebell - Gray W  
Rose - Elsie-Mai  
Tulip - Finley  
Lavender - Phoebe  
Orchid - Hosneara  
Sunflower - Bali T  
Birch - Vinnie S  
Hawthorn - Harry D  
Pine - Freya L  
Ash - Kyan R  
Beech - Max P  
Maple - Yusuf B  
Olive - Ragnar L  
Sycamore - La-Bonte K  
Willow - Ann M  
Elder - Dalina S  
Elm - Lenny C  
Oak - Taylor L

## Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Rosie-Mae B-T  
Rose - Asher  
Tulip - Kumsal  
Lavender - Roseanna  
Orchid - Roshanara  
Sunflower - Eliza S  
Birch - Vlad C  
Hawthorn - Ethan S  
Pine - Ava M  
Ash - James M  
Beech - Oscar M  
Maple - Dayna M  
Olive - Taylor M  
Sycamore - Mya-Lily G  
Willow - Ann M  
Elder - Owen D  
Elm - Amber M  
Oak - Adrian





School Discos take place next Tuesday and Thursday please ensure you have paid for your child's entrance by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
There will be no afterschool clubs held on these days.

Please be reminded that if you are giving your child grapes for their snack or lunch these need to be cut so they do not pose a choking risk.

## Berlesduna Vacancies



### BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – GOVERNOR/TRUSTEE closing date 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026  
CHERRY TREE – SEMH ASSISTANT closing date 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
MERRYLANDS – HLTA closing date 10<sup>th</sup> May  
MERRYLANDS – PART TIME EYFS TEACHER closing date 10<sup>th</sup> May  
WHITMORE – ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER closing date 27<sup>th</sup> April  
WHITMORE – FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER closing date 29<sup>th</sup> April  
WHITMORE – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 1<sup>st</sup> May

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

This week, we will be reading....

Nursery - The tiny see by Eric Carle

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, Receptions focus has been 'Phase 4 CVCC words'. We have been learning new phase 4 tricky words- some, come, love, do.
Year 1	Year 1 are continuing to revisit phase 5 graphemes and tricky words.
Year 2	Our focus this week, has continued to be how 'w' and 'qu' change the sounds that 'a', 'ar' and 'or' make in some words. We have also looked at tricky spellings - who/whole and the homophones - our/hour. Please practise the new, weekly spellings. The children shall be tested on these on Friday 1st May. Thank you for your continued support. Year 2 team.

## KS2 Class of the week - Maple Class - 97%

Player of the week—

Lavender— Temi

Orchid — Mimi

Sunflower— Iremide O

Birch— Violet R

Hawthorn— Albie

Pine— AJ Young

Ash— Jenson A

Beech— Layla-Anne D

Maple— Amaya F

Olive - Ella M

Willow— Faida

Elder— Bella-Rose E

Elm - Charlie B

Oak— Darius



## KS1 Class of the week - Rose - 25%



Player of the week—

Bluebell— Alexandra M

Rose— David

Tulip— Dennis



# Oracy Corner



## Let's Talk



Should everyone help at home?

Why or why not?



**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.





Nursery children enjoyed making apple crumble this week after learning about fruit.





On Tuesday, a group of our Key Stage 2 pupils took part in the Junior music festival. This event was not just a showcase of musical talent but a celebration of collaboration, dedication, and self-expression among pupils across Basildon primary schools. Each child played a vital role, demonstrating their commitment to the arts and the values we uphold at Whitmore Primary School. The atmosphere was electric, filled with the sounds of laughter, music, and applause, as families and friends gathered to support our talented performers. During the festival, students performed a variety of songs that highlighted their hard work and creativity. From solo performances that showcased individual talent to group collaborations that emphasised teamwork, every act was a testament to the effort put in during rehearsals.

Myself, Miss Parsons and Mrs Lomas, are super proud of all the children that took part!

