



Newsletter

17th July 2026

Diary Dates

July

- 17th - Year 6 Party (4:30-6pm)
- 20th - Year 6 Clap out (3:15pm)
- 20th - Last day of term

September

- 3rd - Return to school

Inset days - 1st & 2nd September 2026, 2nd
November 2026, 27th & 28th May 2027

Did you know?

Our Music Coach, Miss Parsons, is also a writer and performer outside of Whitmore!

Together with her writing partner, she has created an original musical, DARE YOU TO MOVE, which is being brought to life by the talented students of Youth Creation Performing Arts School at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon. Not only did Miss Parsons co-write the show, but she also stars in it! As a special offer, all Whitmore students, families, and staff can enjoy discounted tickets. Simply visit the Towngate Theatre website, search for DARE YOU TO MOVE, and use the discount code DAREYOU26 to reduce ticket prices from £20 to just £12.50.

Saturday August 1st performance is almost sold out, but there are still tickets available for Friday 31st July, with both a matinee and evening performance. They'd love to see some familiar Whitmore faces in the audience!

Click on the link below to buy your tickets!

<https://towngatetheatre.co.uk/youth-creation-dare-move/>

As we very nearly reach the end of the academic year, with just Monday left, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been another remarkable year at Whitmore Primary School and Nursery. The children and staff have worked incredibly hard throughout the year, and this dedication has resulted in strong progress for all our pupils. It has been a privilege to witness the growth, learning, and achievements of every child in our school community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to you, our parents and carers, for the unwavering support you give to me and the rest of the team here at Whitmore. Your partnership with us is invaluable and allows us to work so successfully with your children. Together, we create the positive, nurturing environment that enables every child to thrive.

At this time of year, we bid a fond farewell to our Year 6 children. They have grown so much during their time here in all ways, and today they performed their adaptation of Toy Story to families, doing the staff incredibly proud. As they prepare to embark on the next stage of their educational journey, we wish them every success and happiness. The endless opportunities that lie ahead are theirs to seize, and we know they will make us proud.

We also say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Kemp, who is retiring after ten years of dedicated service as Headteacher at Whitmore. Mrs Kemp's leadership and commitment to our school community has been exceptional. I am sure that you will all join me in sending our sincere thanks and very best wishes to her as she begins this new chapter.

We are still in school on Monday, but there will not be a newsletter, so I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year.

Mr Wade
Head of School

As I prepare to retire, I would like to take a moment to thank you all for helping to make the last ten years such an enjoyable, rewarding and memorable chapter of my life.

It has been a privilege to work alongside our wonderful pupils, dedicated staff and supportive families, and I am incredibly grateful for the kindness, encouragement and trust you have shown me throughout my time at the school.

Looking back, I feel very proud to have played a part in the school's journey and development.

It has been a pleasure to contribute to its growth and to see it evolve into the thriving, successful school it is today. Watching generations of children learn, grow and flourish has been both inspiring and humbling.

The relationships I have built, the memories I have made and the achievements we have celebrated together will stay with me long after I leave. I will always cherish my time here and feel fortunate to have been part of such a special community.

Thank you for your support, friendship and for making my years at the school so meaningful. I leave with many happy memories and with every confidence that the school will continue to go from strength to strength.

With warmest wishes and heartfelt thanks,

Mrs Nina Kemp

Well done to the following children

Certificate of Achievement

Buttercup - Whole Class
Daffodil - Noah-James T
Primrose - Arshiyan
Bluebell - MD Yasin K
Rose - Finley
Tulip - Reggie
Lavender - Whole Class
Orchid - Noah
Sunflower - Colby C
Birch - Whole Class
Hawthorn - Harry D
Pine - Mantra R
Ash - Paige B
Beech - Oscar M
Maple - Ronan C
Olive - Amelia B
Sycamore - Tyler C
Willow - Gabriel N

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Joella A
Rose - Harvey
Tulip - Finley
Lavender - Harper
Orchid - Lily
Sunflower - Lucy L
Birch - Alex M
Hawthorn - Ella
Pine - Ochuwa Y
Ash - Patricia G
Beech - Chidiebube E
Maple - Mia B
Olive - Thomas
Sycamore - Alec B
Willow - Ann M



READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading
Challenge 2026

Join **FREE** at your
local library!



Saturday 18 July to Saturday 5 September
At your local Essex library or mobile library -
see libraries.essex.gov.uk for library opening times



National
Year of
Reading
2026



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Delivered in partnership with libraries
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026. Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026, registered charity number 1085443 England and Wales.

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	Our focus in phonics this week has been reviewing longer and compound words. We have been reviewing phase 4 tricky words.
Year 1	Phonics- review all previously taught phase 5 sounds and tricky words
Year 2	The children have been reviewing their summer spellings. Thank you for all your continued support throughout the year. We wish the children the very best for year 3. Enjoy your summer holidays! The Year 2 team.

T

Player of the week—

Lavender - Delsina

Orchid - Sonia

Sunflower - Iremide O

Birch - Vlad C

Hawthorn - Victor

Pine - Elizabeth L

Ash - Jenson A

Beech - Elsie C

Maple - Kevin

Olive - Freya F

Sycamore - Ziyad B

Willow - Bogdan C



Player of the week—

Bluebell - Stefan C

Rose - Essie

Tulip - David





Spanish Day



On Wednesday, Laura from Kidslingo came in to lead an assembly for years 2 to 5, promoting her Spanish after-school club. The children were thoroughly engaged throughout and had a lovely introduction to language learning beyond the classroom.

As part of the assembly, they learned a Spanish song, giving them a fun and accessible way to hear and enjoy the language. The children also had the chance to see Spanish brought to life in a really memorable way, when two lucky people were able to go to the front and have a conversation in Spanish. This kind of real-life speaking and listening experience helps make language learning feel exciting, visible and approachable for pupils.

The children then spent the day enjoying colouring in the style of a Spanish artist, learning about Spanish festivals, Spanish dances and even Spanish playground games. They managed to solve the clues to the escape room and enjoyed a delicious Spanish lunch.

If you are interested in your child joining the Spanish club, please sign up via the email you previously had, or ask the office for more information.