



Newsletter

18th September 2026

Diary Dates

September

- 22nd - Year 6 Meet the Teacher online meeting
- 23rd - Reception Meet the Teacher online meeting
- 23rd - Year 5 & 6 STEAM Event
- 28th - Year 3 Meet the Teacher online meeting
- 29th - Year 2 Meet the Teacher online meeting
- 30th - Year 4 Meet the Teacher online meeting
- 30th - Bikeability (selected children)

October

- 1st - Bikeability (selected children)
- 1st - Year 5 Meet the Teacher online meeting
- 2nd - Year 1 Meet the Teacher online meeting
- 2nd - Year 3 Trip to Thorndon Country Park
- 2nd - Year 2 Teddy Bears Picnic
- 8th - Poetry Slam (selected children)
- 12th - Phonics meeting for Reception parents at 9am or 3:30pm - KS1 Hall
- 14th - Reception and Year 3 Dental visit in school
- 15th - Year 5/6 Dodgeball competition (selected children)
- 16th - Year 5 Wonderdome workshop in school

Inset Dates - 2nd November 2026, 27th & 28th May 2027

What an incredible week our Year 6 pupils had at Essex Outdoors! The children threw themselves into a range of exciting challenges, developing their teamwork, problem-solving skills, water skills, and working at height. It was wonderful to see every child push themselves beyond their comfort zones and overcome personal challenges. This residential forms an important part of our personal development curriculum, where children learn so much about themselves – their resilience, their capabilities, and their ability to work with others.

Personal development isn't just about residential – it happens all the way through school. Our core provision includes school trips, immersion weeks, residential trips, and fundraising initiatives, alongside pupil leadership opportunities, clubs, and competitions. Over the coming weeks, all children will be taking part in enrichment events to support their learning, and this is an important part of our school curriculum. These experiences help our pupils explore their interests, try new activities, and develop valuable skills for their future.

A quick reminder about attendance: good school attendance is classified as attendance over 96%. Over the coming weeks, I will be getting in contact with families where children are currently under 80% attendance and their attendance was also under 90% last academic year. These meetings are designed to help us understand the impact that absence has on children's learning and to identify any support that may be required to help improve attendance. We're here to work with you to ensure every child has the best possible chance to succeed.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.
Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Wade
Headteacher



Talk it Topic

'Talk it' topics are an opportunity for children to discuss an issue or idea throughout the week which is linked to 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.

The coming week's topic is:

EYFS - What big cats live in Nepal?

KS1/KS2 - Do wild animals have as much right to the land we do?

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 - Oliver
Daffodil - Ashton
Primrose - Millie
Bluebell - Teddy L
Rose - Ilinca M
Tulip - Varman
Lavender - Essie
Orchid - Jaxon P
Sunflower - Joella A
Birch - Kyle
Hawthorn - Colby C
Pine - Parker C
Ash - Raeya H
Chestnut - Ava M
Maple - Eleanor A
Olive - Oscar
Sycamore - Temi A
Willow - Jacqueline

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Bayan J
Rose - Myla M
Tulip - Odin
Lavender - Finley
Orchid - James B
Sunflower - Ava P
Birch - Finley
Hawthorn - Eliza
Pine - Mila O'B
Ash - Blake J
Chestnut - Elsie B
Maple - Jensen J
Olive - Chidibube
Sycamore - Mariam F
Willow - Rebecca



Reading Corner

Next week, we will be reading....

Nursery -

Reception - Where the Wild Things Are

Year 1 - Supertato

Year 2 - The Bear Under the Stairs

Year 3 - The Boy who Grew Dragons

Year 4 - Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe

Year 5 - The Boy at the Back of the Class

Year 6 - Windrush Child

Berlesduna vacancies



BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 24 September

MERRYLANDS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 27 September

WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 28 September

WHITMORE – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER closing date 5 October

For more information and to apply for any of these exciting opportunities, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies - Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)



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, Reception have been learning the sounds s / a / t / p in our phonics lessons. We have been exploring different objects that start with these initial sounds and have been practising orally blending words containing these sounds e.g. c-a-t.
Year 1	This week we have been reviewing words ending in 'ing', words ending in 'ed' with the /t/ id/d, words ending in 'er' and words ending in 'est' Reviewing tricky words to, into, they, all, are, one, out, today, the, i, go, no, you, said, so, have, like.
Year 2	This week, year 2 have been continuing their phase 5 phonics focusing on the following graphemes: /zh/ su si treasure vision /j/ dge bridge /i/ y crystal /j/ ge large Tricky words: move, improve, parents, and shoe.

TTRS Class of the week - Maple Class

Player of the week—

Lavender - Varshik

Orchid - David B

Sunflower - Ace Y

Birch - Millie P

Hawthorn - Iremide

Pine - Sonia M-A

Ash - Joris S

Chestnut - AJ Y

Maple - Riley P

Olive - Amelia

Sycamore - Maddie R

Willow - Patricia



Numbots Class of the week - Bluebell Class

Player of the week—

Bluebell - Izhaan B

Rose - Hamidah

Tulip - Zeenat





Year 6 Secondary School information -

the new secondary school admission round opened recently, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2026.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

Secondary School Open Dates

De La Salle - by appointment during the day only

James Hornsby - 17th September

Harris Benfleet - 17th September

Mayflower - 17th September

Sweyne Park - 17th September

The Deanes - 22nd September

Harris Kingswood - 24th September

Anglo European School - 24th September

Harris Billericay - 24th September

Lower Academy - 1st October

Mossbourne Academy - 1st October

Harris Wickford - 8th October



SEND Support Drop-in

Basildon Library

Tuesday 22 September, 11am to 1pm

- A free service for parents and carers wanting information, support or assistance with issues surrounding parenting and advocating for children with special needs and disabilities
- Representatives attending from SNAP, SPACE, Essex Family Forum and other local SEND specific services. This drop-in is supported by Brave
- No booking or diagnosis required. Children are welcome



libraries.essex.gov.uk



MAPLE GROVE
Primary School

Halloween

Holiday Club

Join us for fun Activities including:

Arts & Crafts

Cooking

Team Games and more...

26th October - 30th October

7.30am-5.30pm

£25 per day includes snacks and evening
meal, children to bring their own packed
lunch

Call or Email Maple Grove Primary
for booking details or further info.

Tel: 01268 553547

Email: clubs@maplegroveprimary.net

High Road, Pitsea SS13 3AB