



Newsletter

25th September

Diary Dates

September

- 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 - KSI 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

We've reached the halfway point of this half term, and I'm delighted to report that the children have all settled back into school wonderfully. It's been fantastic to see them engaging with their learning and reconnecting with their friends and teachers.

To ensure your child continues to make good progress, it's essential that school and home work together. There are two key ways you can support your child's learning at home. Firstly, please encourage your child to read out loud to an adult at least three times a week. This regular practice makes a significant difference to their reading fluency, comprehension and confidence. Secondly, we use NumBots and TT Rockstars to support children's foundational knowledge of number and times tables. These engaging games are designed to build mathematical fluency through short, regular practice sessions. Please encourage your child to use these apps regularly – even just 10 minutes a few times a week can make a real impact on their progress.

This week, our Year 5 and Year 6 children had a brilliant opportunity to visit a careers function focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). The children were able to explore a wide range of careers and get hands-on experience with activities such as bricklaying, painting, learning how newborn babies are cared for, and discovering how gears work. They also had the chance to speak directly to professionals about their jobs and career paths. The children returned to school full of enthusiasm and excitement about the possibilities that lie ahead – it was wonderful to see them so inspired!

Next week, our Year 3 children will be taking part in an educational visit to Thorndon Park. I cannot wait to hear all about their adventures and what they discover during their visit.

A quick reminder that the school day begins at 08:40 and the gates close at 08:55. Please ensure that your child arrives at school in good time, as learning begins promptly at 08:40. Arriving on time helps your child settle into the day and ensures they don't miss important learning.

Wishing you all a lovely 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 - How can we share our stories?

KS1/KS2 - How can we share our stories?

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 - Carter
Daffodil - Lia R
Primrose - Maya
Bluebell - Bayan J
Rose - Bailey R-S
Tulip - Jaxon
Lavender - Caliph
Orchid - Reggie M
Sunflower - Mason W
Birch - Maria
Hawthorn - Olivia B
Pine - Eliza P
Ash - Rosie B
Chestnut - Shabiyah R
Maple - Frankie W
Olive - Adebanje
Sycamore - Marnie-Ann
Willow - Lexi
Elder - Hudson L
Elm - Charlie G
Oak - Alana

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Clara B
Rose - Esha S
Tulip - Clara
Lavender - Harley
Orchid - Tiffany S
Sunflower - Romet H
Birch - Ziya
Hawthorn - Lucy
Pine - Lily H
Ash - Alberto H
Chestnut - Ochuwa Y
Maple - Alex M
Olive - Max P
Sycamore - Lillie-Mae
Willow - James
Elder - Bianca T
Elm - Zoe
Oak - Apshara



Reading Corner

Next week, we will be reading....

Nursery -

Reception - Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain

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 – VACANCIES

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 i / n / m / d 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. p-i-n. We have also been blending cvc words using the sounds that we have learnt so far.
Year 1	We have been reviewing all the phase 3 GPCs, looking particularly at ai/ee/igh/oa/oo/ar/or/ur/ow/ear Reviewing tricky words- no, go, so, my, by, to, into, out, the
Year 2	This week, year 2 have been continuing their phase 5 phonics focusing on the following graphemes and words: /sh/ ti ssi si ci - potion mission mansion delicious

TTRS Class of the week - Chestnut Class

Player of the week—

Lavender - Asher

Orchid - Dennis D

Sunflower - Nathaniel O

Birch - Maxim

Hawthorn - Iremide O

Pine - Noah L

Ash - Joris S

Chestnut - Temitope A

Maple - Re'Nell C

Olive - Oscar M

Sycamore - Azlan

Willow - Rebecca

Elder - Ruth B

Elm - Amelia B

Oak - Stefan



Numbots Class of the week - Tulip Class



Player of the week—

Bluebell - Temi A

Rose - Hamidah

Tulip - Odin





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

Lower Academy - 1st October

Mossbourne Academy - 1st October

Harris Wickford - 8th October



Reminders

Please can we ask that bikes are secured in the bike shed and that scooters are put in the scooter pods at the front of the school. Thank you

