



# Newsletter

9th October 2026

## Diary Dates

### October

- 12<sup>th</sup> - Phonics meeting for Reception parents at 9am or 3:30pm - KS1 Hall
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Reception and Year 3 Dental visit in school
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 parent meeting - KS2 Hall @ 15:30
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Year 5/6 Dodgeball competition (selected children)
- 16<sup>th</sup> - School Council training (selected children)
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Year 5 Wonderdome workshop in school
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Reception Halloween Disco 15:10-16:15
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Year 3-4 Halloween Disco 16:30-6pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Year 3 Harvest Festival performance (9:15am & 2:30pm)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Pupil Voice - Head Boy and girl
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Year 5-6 Sports Hall athletics (selected children)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Year 1-2 Halloween Disco 15:10 - 16:15
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Year 5-6 Halloween Disco 16:30-18:00
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Last Day of Half Term

Inset Dates - 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027

It's been another busy week here at Whitmore! Our Year 2 children have been making wonderful use of our forest school area this week, engaging in outdoor learning activities. Getting outdoors provides children with opportunities for messy and tactile activities, helps them explore gross motor skills, and allows them to carry out learning on a larger scale using different mediums. Beyond physical development, outdoor learning supports children across all areas of their development, encouraging creativity, problem-solving and a deeper connection with nature. We're excited to share that children from across all year groups will have the opportunity to use our forest school area as the year progresses.

This week, a group of our Year 6 children took part in the launch of the Brilliant Club programme. This exciting initiative brings university-style learning into primary schools, giving children the chance to experience what university is all about and to develop their academic skills through challenging, research-based projects. It's a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to broaden their horizons and aspire to higher education.

We're also incredibly proud of the children who represented Whitmore at the Berlesduna Academy Trust Poetry Competition this week. They learned and performed poetry in front of children and staff from other schools across the Trust, and as always, our children were amazing and made us all very proud. Well done to all of those children who took part – your confidence and talent truly shone through!

As part of our Year 3 Harvest assembly, we are asking for donations of items that will be passed on to the St Andrews and Holy Cross church food bank. Any generous donations, big or small, can be sent to classrooms, each of which will have a collection box. Thank you in advance for supporting our local community – your kindness makes a real difference to families in need.

Finally, we were pleased to host an audit from Essex County Council this week on the school's implementation of Benedict's Law, which relates to allergy management. The visit was very positive and highlighted lots of areas of strength that we have in place, going over and above the minimum recommended standards. This reflects our ongoing commitment to keeping all our children safe.

Wishing you all a very 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 - How can we find out information?
- KS1/KS2 - Do we need AI wherever we go?

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 - Carson  
Daffodil - Frankie  
Primrose - Eren  
Bluebell - Nelly M  
Rose - Myla M  
Tulip - Mason  
Lavender - Alessia  
Orchid - Daniel B  
Sunflower - Oscar M-C  
Birch - Avie  
Hawthorn - Erica  
Pine - Bethany S  
Ash - Joshua  
Chestnut - Thierry-Jane G  
Maple - Leona H  
Olive - Jaxson B  
Sycamore - Louie M  
Willow - Jeremiah K  
Elder - Nathan O  
Elm - Ragnar  
Oak - Jake

## Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Aria R  
Rose - River S  
Tulip - Eden  
Lavender - Ronnie  
Orchid - Elissia O  
Sunflower - Teddy F  
Birch - Temi  
Hawthorn - Iremide  
Pine - Mirabelle O  
Ash - Ethan S  
Chestnut - Buddy Mc  
Maple - Sara K  
Olive - Poppy C  
Sycamore - Freddie J  
Willow - Lily  
Elder - Emily W  
Elm - Vanessa  
Oak - Amelia



# Reading Corner

Next week, we will be reading....

Nursery - Giraffes Can't Dance

Reception - Binny's Diwali

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

DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 14 October

FAIRHOUSE – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 9 October

MERRYLANDS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 11 October

WILLOWS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 9 October

WILLOWS – CLEANER closing date 16 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 e / u / r and the diagraph ck 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. d-o-g. We have also been blending cvc words using the sounds that we have learnt so far and have been introduced to the tricky words 'is' and 'I'. |
| Year 1    | We have learnt the new graphemes ay/ai/, oy/oi, ou/ow and ea/ee<br>Revised the tricky words little, like, pull push put full, said, says                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Year 2    | This week, year 2 have been reviewing their phase 5 graphemes and words. Also looking at the suffixes -ed/-ing and all the tricky words we have been focusing on this term.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## TTRS Class of the week - Chestnut Class

### Player of the week—

Lavender - Asher  
Orchid - Jacob M  
Sunflower - Gray W  
Birch - Mckenzie  
Hawthorn - Brianna  
Pine - Emily-Jane B  
Ash - Alexandra  
Chestnut - Ashante O  
Maple - Eleanor A  
Olive - Lamia M-A  
Sycamore - Azlan I  
Willow - Lexi  
Elder - Bogdan C  
Elm - Olivia V  
Oak - Alfie



## Numbots Class of the week - Tulip Class



### Player of the week—

Bluebell - Temidire A  
Rose - Evelyn M  
Tulip - Mikayla





## 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](http://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.



Reminder

We require access to our site at all times of the day/evening, please do not park in the school driveway or in front of the gates.

A reminder that we have our Pre Loved Uniform Bank open next Tuesday morning from 8:45am. Please feel free to pop along and see what we have available.

**DON'T FORGET**



# Year 3 trip to Thorndon Country Park

Birch, Hawthorn and Pine Classes had a fantastic time on their Stone Age trip to Thorndon Park. The day gave the children a brilliant opportunity to bring their history learning to life and experience some of the skills people would have needed to survive during the Stone Age.

Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of exciting, hands-on activities. They worked together to build dens using natural materials, learned about how fires would have been made and even had the chance to safely practise fire lighting. The children also created their own Stone Age-inspired cave art on fabric.

It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic and engaged the children were throughout the day. They asked thoughtful questions, worked brilliantly as teams and were able to make lots of connections between the activities and what they had already been learning in class.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came away with a much deeper understanding of what everyday life may have been like during the Stone Age. It was a memorable day full of learning, teamwork and fun!





## Year 2 Bug Hotels

This week, Year 2 have really enjoyed building their bug hotels in our outdoor learning area! 🐞🐜🕷️ The children had lots of fun creating homes for a variety of mini beasts and were excited to think about which creatures might come and visit!

We can't wait until next week, when we can explore our bug hotels and discover which mini beasts have made them their new homes! 🔍🌿



# FUTSAL

## PLAYER FESTIVAL

### OCTOBER HALF TERM

**Bring a Team, Bring a Friend,  
or Come as an Individual!**

 **DATE:**  
27th October

 **VENUE:**  
James Hornsby School,  
Basildon

 **AGE GROUPS & TIMES:**  
U9 & U10: 9:00am - 12:00pm  
U11 & U12: 12:30pm - 3:30pm

 **COST:**  
£19.99 per player



**PLACES ARE LIMITED  
SO BOOK QUICKLY.**

**NON PARENT  
EVENT!**



## PRIZES TO BE WON

AND WINNING MEDALS FOR THE TEAM!





## Football Camps

# October 2026



All players welcome (incl. non Intersports/Aspire/CPC players)

FOOTBALL CAMP



Ages: Reception – Year 7  
(current school year)  
Split by age

Focus: Fun, games & enjoyment 🎮

Times: 10am – 3pm  
(half day until 12pm)

Cost: £25 per day  
Multi-day discounts applied automatically

A fun, welcoming camp for all abilities.

Play games, build teamwork and enjoy friendly matches, all while growing a love for the game.

Highly experienced, UEFA qualified coaches incl. Cat. 1 academy coach

Use code  
SIBLING to get  
10% off when  
booking  
2+ children

Use code  
FSCH to get  
5% off for those  
who receive  
free school  
meals

DATES

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> &  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October

THEMES

**Day 1** - Technical /  
Challenge Day  
Develop • Improve •  
Master

**Day 2** - Games Day  
Play • Compete •  
Teamwork

PRIZES

Trophies, medals, mini  
skills ball, sweets & more

To book head to [intersports-fc-soccer-school.square.site](https://intersports-fc-soccer-school.square.site)  
Contact Us on 07779423726 or email [info@intersportsfc.com](mailto:info@intersportsfc.com)