Whitmore Primary School & Nursery

Newsletter

Part of the Berlesduna Academy Trust

16th October 2026

Diary Dates

October

20th - Reception Halloween Disco 15:10-16:15
20th - Year 3-4 Halloween Disco 16:30-6pm
21st - Individual Photographs
21st - Year 3 Harvest Festival performance (9:15am & 2:30pm)
22nd - Pupil Voice - Head Boy and girl
22nd - Year 5-6 Sports Hall athletics (selected children)
22nd - Year 1-2 Halloween Disco 15:10 - 16:15
22nd - Year 5-6 Halloween Disco 16:30-18:00
23rd - Wear in Pink Day
23rd - Last Day of Half Term

November

6th - Residential 2027 meeting with parents (current Year 5 pupils)
9th - Yr5/6 football match v Phoenix primary (H) (selected children)
10th - Year 5 Saxon Workshop (in school)
12th - Maths Challenge (selected children)

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

We've experienced a real mixture of weather this week, and it looks like next week will be much the same! Please remember to send your child to school with a coat and jumper each day – and make sure their name is clearly labelled inside. We have a growing collection of lost property, which will be displayed outside the KS1 building next Friday before we break for half term. Please do take a moment to check through and reclaim any items that belong to your child.

A reminder from last week that we are collecting donations for St Andrews' foodbank. All donations are welcome and very much appreciated – every contribution makes a real difference to families in our local community. Please send any items to your child's classroom.

Next Friday, we will be recognising Breast Cancer Awareness, and to mark this important cause, we invite all children (and parents) to wear something pink for the day. It's a wonderful opportunity to show our support and raise awareness together as a school community.

Next week we'll be hosting our Halloween discos – if you haven't already booked your child's place, please do so as soon as possible. Please note that as a result of the discos, there will be no after-school clubs on Tuesday or Thursday next week. Wishing you all a very nice 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 games do you enjoy?
KS1/KS2 -Should age decide what we're allowed to 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 - Achilles
Daffodil - Lucas
Primrose - Gracie-Mae
Bluebell - Izhaan B
Rose - Mason S
Tulip - Stanley
Lavender - George
Orchid - James B
Sunflower - Freya M-W
Birch - Tatiana
Hawthorn - Eliza
Pine - Anastasia G
Ash - Eden-Grace
Chestnut - Zyva A
Maple - Vinnie S
Olive - Layla-Anne D
Sycamore -Dayna M
Willow - Vanessa
Elder - Holly H
Elm - Ella
Oak - Harper

Reader of the Week

Bluebell - Theo B
Rose - Arlo D-W
Tulip - Oscar
Lavender - James
Orchid - Dennis D
Sunflower - Violet B
Birch - Gabby
Hawthorn - Henderson
Pine - Olivia O'N
Ash - Hayden
Chestnut- Shabiyah R
Maple - Alice O
Olive - Chidebube E-O
Sycamore - Marnie-Ann L
Willow - James
Elder - Joey
Elm - Thomas
Oak - Alfie

Reading Corner

Next week, we will be reading....

Nursery - Pumpkin Soup

Reception - Room on the Broom

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



Phonics

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 h / b / f / l 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. h-a-t. We have also been blending cvc words using the sounds that we have learnt so far and have been introduced to the tricky word 'the'.
Year 1	Phonics- we have been reviewing the new GPCs ay/ea/ou/oy and longer words
Year 2	This week, year 2 have been reviewing their phase 5 graphemes and tricky words to help them prepare for their end of term phonic assessment.

TTRS Class of the week - Ash Class - 97%

Player of the week—
Lavender - Caliph
Orchid - Zidan A
Sunflower - Stefan C
Birch - Harry W
Hawthorn - Bali
Pine - Bethany S
Ash - Ruby-Leigh
Chestnut - Ian M
Maple - Alice O
Olive - Lamia I-M
Sycamore - Amaya F
Willow - Teddie
Elder - Bogdan
Elm - Ella
Oak - La-Bonte

Numbots Class of the week - Tulip Class - 29%

Player of the week—
Bluebell - Jessica B
Rose - Rafe O'c
Tulip - Jaxon



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.





A reminder to all parents that we are taking part in the walk to school campaign that aims to encourage children to take at least 2 active journeys to school each week (this could be walking, scooting, cycling or park and stride). Active journeys to school help to reduce congestion and pollution and support pupils physical and mental health.

Here is our Walk to school September round-up:

Whole school achievement:

ACTIVE JOURNEYS TAKEN	NUMBER OF BADGES EARNED	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT
5896 = 83%	283	66%

Class leaderboards:

Levels of engagement

KS1 winner
Orchid 90%
KS2 winner
Maple 96%

Active journeys taken

KS1 winner
Sunflower 98%
KS2 winner
Hawthorn 96%

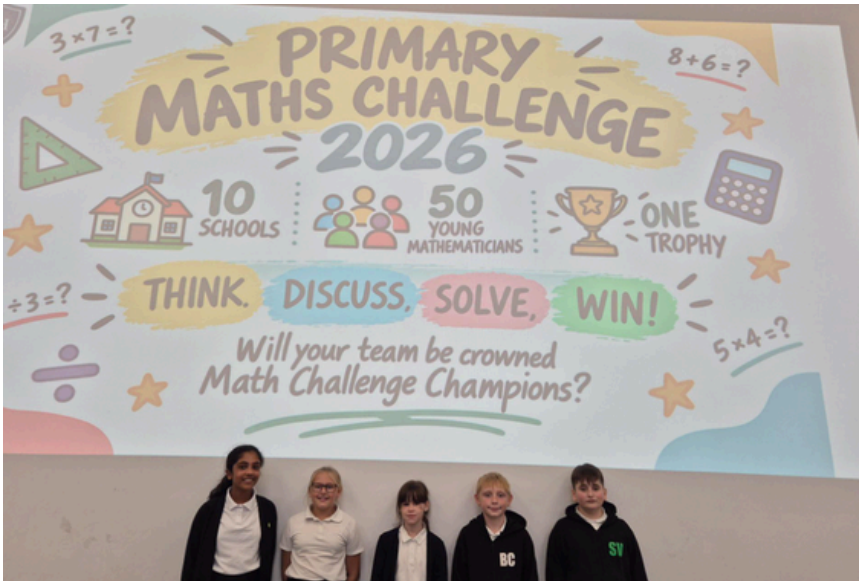
Congratulations to the winning classes and congratulations to all the pupils who earnt their September badge.

Good luck to everyone for the next month and we are hoping to give out even more badges in October! Please help your child to meet our school target and earn their badge.

If you want to find out more about the walk to school scheme then the website is:
https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school



Maths Challenge



5 of our Year 6 children had a fantastic time at the Maths Challenge at James Hornsby on Thursday! They took on a range of exciting mathematical activities, putting their problem-solving skills, teamwork and mathematical thinking to the test. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and determination, especially as they achieved an excellent 7th place! Well done to everyone involved!