



We have had another exciting week at Whitmore with our KS2 choir performing at Young Voices at the O2 on Wednesday night. The children came back into school full of stories the next morning following this wonderful experience and lots of them have told me about how they are looking forward to this event again next year.

As you may remember, we took part in the National Read Aloud competition over the summer and in doing so, were crowned as regional winners for the East of England. Yesterday, two of the children who contributed the most points accumulated for our school represented Whitmore at the awards ceremony at Amazon HQ in London. They both had a fantastic day at the awards and the rest of the school loved seeing the trophy in our celebration assembly today. We will take part in this National competition again this summer and I look forward to our school performing so strongly again, so please look out for information relating to Fonetti later in the year.

As we move into next week, the weather looks like it is due to warm up but this will likely bring rain with it, so please ensure that your child brings an appropriate coat into school with them.

Finally, please take the time to read through the letter that has been sent to all parents today from the CEO of the Berlesduna Academy Trust. The letter and survey attached is to seek parents views on the proposal of an additional week for half term in October.

Have a fantastic weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on the gate on Monday.

Mr Wade  
Head of School

#### Diary Dates:

##### January

22nd—5/6 Netball Match @ Ryedene

(selected children)

26th—Year 5/6 football match v Willows (selected children)

29th—Year 4 Traffic surveys

31st—Trust Spelling Bee (selected children)

##### February

1st—Yr5/6 Netball match @ Greensted (selected children)

2nd—Number Day

5th—Year 5/6 Football match @ Bardfield (selected children)

6th—Safer Internet Day

7th—Reception Animal Workshop

8th—Year 3 trip to Colchester Zoo

9th—Year 4 Greek day

9th—Multiplication check parent meetings

9th—Year 5/6 Football match v Fairhouse (selected children)

12th—Pupil Voice meeting @ St Mary's (head boy and head girl)

13th—Yr 3/4 Football match @ St Anne Line (selected children)

14th—Reception Disco—3:15-4:15pm (collect from classes)

Yr 3/4 Disco—4:30-6pm (collect from KS2 hall)

15th—Yr 1/2 Disco—3:15-4:15pm (collect from classes)

Yr 5/6 Disco—4:30-6pm (collect from KS2 hall)

Inset Days—22nd, 23rd & 24th May 2024.



#### Information/ Reminders —

##### Up to date information

Please remember to update the office should you move house or change telephone numbers or email addresses, so that we can keep our system up to date.

##### Front gates

Please can we ask that you do not block the gates at the front of the school at any time, access is needed throughout the day.

##### Vacancies.

Please visit the following for vacancies within our trust.  
[www.berlesduna.co.uk/Vacancy.php](http://www.berlesduna.co.uk/Vacancy.php)



**BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST — JOB VACANCIES**

BERLESDUNA – FINANCE MANAGER closing date 9<sup>th</sup> February  
CANEWDON – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 22<sup>nd</sup> January  
CHERRY TREE – HLTA closing date 25<sup>th</sup> January  
DOWNHAM – KS2 CLASS TEACHER closing date 7<sup>th</sup> February  
DOWNHAM – SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER closing date 4<sup>th</sup> February  
DOWNHAM – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 21<sup>st</sup> January  
DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 21<sup>st</sup> January  
MERRYLANDS – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER closing date 21<sup>st</sup> January  
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 31<sup>st</sup> January  
MERRYLANDS – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5<sup>th</sup> February  
MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 22<sup>nd</sup> January  
ST NICHOLAS – RELIEF MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 29<sup>th</sup> January  
WHITMORE – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5<sup>th</sup> February

For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies-Berlesduna-Academy-Trust](http://Vacancies-Berlesduna-Academy-Trust)

#### ‘Talk it’ topics and British Values

‘Talk it’ topics are an opportunity for children to discuss an issue or idea throughout the week which is linked to the 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. This week’s topic will be—

**Will self-driving vehicles change our lives? This links to the British Value —Rule of Law.**



## Certificate of Achievement

Week of 15th January 2024

Buttercup— Roshanara  
Daffodil— Shor T  
Primrose— Florence  
Bluebell Class— Myles T  
Rose Class— Ian M  
Tulip Class— Haadi H  
Lavender Class— Elena B  
Orchid Class— Patricia  
Sunflower Class— Freddie W  
Birch Class— Amber M  
Hawthorn Class— Jude O  
Pine Class— Elle W  
Ash Class— Jayden J  
Beech Class— Taylor C  
Maple Class— Aahil H  
Olive Class— Aisha C  
Sycamore Class— Jack G  
Willow Class— Chris  
Elder Class— Samira T  
Elm Class— Will-Francis C  
Oak Class— Jackson W



## Reading Corner

Year Group	This week we will be reading....
Nursery	Ten Little Penguins by Mike Brownlow
Reception	The three little pigs by Mara Alperin
Year 1	Beegu by Alexis Deacon
Year 2	A walk in London by Salvatore Rubbino
Year 3	Charlie and the chocolate factory by Roald Dahl
Year 4	Who let the gods out? By Maz Evans
Year 5	The wolf wilder by Katherine Rundell
Year 6	The boy and the tower by Polly Ho-Yen

Class	Reader of the week...
Year 1—Bluebell	Vlad
Year 1—Rose	Harriet W
Year 1 - Tulip	Rosie C
Year 2 - Orchid	Jacqueline
Year 2 - Sunflower	Ronan C
Year 2 - Lavender	Ryka R
Year 3 - Pine	Jaxon S
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Keira H
Year 3 - Birch	Joe C
Year 4 - Maple	Jason T
Year 4 - Beech	Khadija Z
Year 4 - Ash	Charlie
Year 5 - Olive	Skyla N
Year 5 - Sycamore	Jack P
Year 5 - Willow	Alicja
Year 6—Elder	Macarie P
Year— Elm	Joseph
Year 6—Oak	Alex S

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



Please see below for what has been taught in phonics this week in your child/s year group:

Reception	This week we have learnt the sounds 'oo, oo, ar and or' and the tricky words 'was, you and they'.
Year 1	In phonics this week, Year 1 have been learning the following sounds: ir - bird ie - pie ue - blue u - unicorn o - most i - tiger a - paper e - being We have also learnt the tricky words: their, people, oh, your, Mr, Mrs, Ms and ask.
Year 2	For Year 2 Phonics will resume the week of 22nd January.

### Free Reader Friday

Please remind your child that every Friday, they can bring in their own book from home, or choose one from the book corner or school library.



## Oracy Corner



# Let's Talk



**Discuss:** Would you rather have no electricity or no running water?



### Instigate

Present an idea or open up a new line of enquiry

#### Start by saying:

- I would like to start by saying...
- I think....
- We haven't yet talked about...

**Instigate**



### Probe

Dig deeper, ask for evidence or justification of ideas

#### Start by saying:

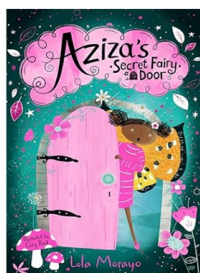
- Why do you think...?
- What evidence do you have to support X idea?
- Could you provide an example?

**Probe**

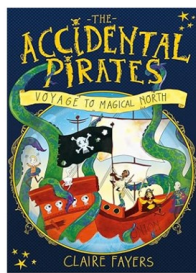
Please visit your local library and find out more about their Winter Reading Challenge.



## Recommended Reads



KS1



Lower KS2



Upper KS2



**TT Rockstars Class of the week is—Ash**

### Player of the week—

Lavender— Lamia M-A  
Orchid— Muhammad  
Sunflower— Azlan I  
Birch— Oakley W  
Hawthorn— Daria P  
Pine — Roziie F  
Ash— Hayden M  
Beech— Mia B  
Maple— David C  
Olive—Teddy P  
Sycamore— Christian D  
Willow— Harper  
Elder— William W  
Elm— David  
Oak— Timi I

**Numbots Class of the week is—Rose**

### Numbots Player of the week—

Rose— Talia C  
Tulip— Luna O  
Bluebell— Joshua

## Times Table Rockstars and Numbots

Battle Board	18.1.24
Elder class	6
Sycamore class	3
Lavender class	3
Pine class	3
Ash class	3
Maple class	3
Sunflower class	3
Willow class	
Birch class	
Beech class	
Hawthorn class	
Olive class	
Oak class	
Orchid class	
Elm class	





### Young Voices

On Wednesday 17th January, our amazing KS2 Choir took part in the annual Young Voices concert at the O2 arena.

Not only did the children sing their hearts out, they danced with torches and performed alongside dance troupe urban striders and drummer Nandi Bushall who has drummed with Lenny Kravitz, Nile Rogers and The Foo Fighters!

It was a long day of rehearsals followed by an electric performance and we didn't arrive home until 11pm! Despite all of this the children were very well behaved and sung beautifully.



Well done KS2 Choir.  
We are so proud of you.



### National Read Aloud Awards Ceremony

On Thursday, two year six children (Timi and Hermione) were invited to an awards ceremony held at the Amazon headquarters in London.

The ceremony was hosted by BBC journalist and broadcaster, Claire Balding, and saw the children win the title of regional winners for taking part in the National Read Aloud Challenge over the summer holidays.

The children had an amazing day with Timi even saying he now has aspirations to work in the Amazon building when he is older. Hermione, on the other hand, enjoyed listening to the authors on the day and this has now inspired her to write her own children's books one day.



### Year 5/6 Netball match v Ghyllgrove

On Monday our Year 5/6 Netball team took part in their first match back after Christmas. The team had been practicing hard and even took it upon themselves to practice at break and lunchtimes. The behaviour of the children was impeccable and they held a great account of themselves as well as showing great sportsmanship and determination to win the game in the best way possible, which they did with a great result of a 15-1 win! With near enough every player scoring at least once it was a superb performance from the team showing that their practice has really paid off!

Well done all, and good luck for the next game Monday against Ryedene!

Player of the match – Scarlett J

### Sports Ambassadors

At Whitmore we have brought in an exciting new opportunity called Sports Ambassadors for Year 5. These are children who have been selected to push and promote sports in the school and help us to strive to provide new opportunities for children to take part. These children will have roles such as officiating sports matches, helping to run in house competitions such as Sports Day, coming up with new ideas for clubs/teams, and helping those children who aren't too keen on sport to enjoy it and get involved. It will also help the Year 5 children to gain experience of what it feels like to have a significant role and many responsibilities so when it comes to applying for Head Boy/Girl, they have a good understanding of what is expected.

Well Done all!

### Our 9 new ambassadors are:

**Albie G**

**Teddy P**

**Kaiya K**

**Bonnie H**

**Urte S**

**Archie B**

**Olivia O-F**

**Zahira B**

**Jack G**