



I cannot believe that there are only three weeks left of this half term! Having said that, the children have all made so much progress in the weeks we have been back from the Christmas break. This week I have been busy with Miss Bray and Mr Smith observing maths lessons across the school. Within these lessons it has been fantastic seeing how every single child is being challenged within their learning. We have seen the Nursery children practising counting fish to feed to penguins, whilst the Year 2 children have continued to learn about money and how to calculate change. In Year 3, the children have been learning formal written methods of division whilst the Year 5 children have been learning to multiply two-digit numbers by two-digit numbers. Finally, in Year 6, we watched the children begin to learn about algebra!

As you will know from our attendance newsletter, we are performing significantly below the 96% attendance that all schools are expected to achieve. An interesting figure that has been released recently is that *'just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 [Year 3—6] achieve the expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders'*. Persistent Absence is categorised as a child who has missed 10% or more from the expected sessions in school. At this point of the year (from September), 8 days of missed school would put a child into the PA group. In addition to the figures above, the research also pointed out that *'regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing'*. To support parents with knowing whether their child is well enough to come to school the NHS have released a useful guide about when children should attend school and when they should be kept off school. Please click on this link to view this page: www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school

Over the last week or two, we have been receiving complaints from our neighbours about cars being parked across their drives at drop off and collection times. I would be very appreciative if parents can support the school by being mindful of our neighbours at these times.

Mr Wade
Head of School

Diary Dates:

January

30th— Reception Parent Reading Session
@ 2:50pm

31st—Trust Spelling Bee (selected children)

February

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

2nd— Number Day

5th—Year 3 Parent Reading Session @ 2:55pm

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

6th—Safer Internet Day

7th—Year 2 Parent Reading Session @ 2:50pm

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)

12th—Year 4 Parent Reading Sessions @ 2:55pm

13th—Year 1 Parent Reading Session @ 2:50pm

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

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

14th—Yr 3/4 Disco—4:30-6pm (collect from KS2 hall)

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

15th—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



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – FINANCE MANAGER closing date 9th February
CHERRY TREE – HLTA closing date 6th February
DOWNHAM – KS2 CLASS TEACHER closing date 7th February
DOWNHAM – SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER closing date 4th February
FAIRHOUSE – SPEECH & LANGUAGE ASSISTANT closing date 26th January
FAIRHOUSE – CARETAKER closing date 29th January
FELMORE – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5th February
FELMORE – BREAKFAST CLUB SUPERVISOR closing date 5th February
FELMORE – BREAKFAST CLUB ASSISTANT closing date 5th February
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 31st January
MERRYLANDS – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5th February
MERRYLANDS – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5th February
MERRYLANDS – HLTA closing date 5th February
MERRYLANDS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 2nd February
ST NICHOLAS – RELIEF MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 29th January
WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 6th February

For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website
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—

Early Years—Where can we get clothes from? This links to the British Value —

Individual Liberty.

KS1 & KS2—Is fashion important? This links to the British Value —Individual Liberty.



Certificate of Achievement

Week of 22nd January 2024

Buttercup— Olivia
Daffodil— Lucy C
Primrose— Parker F
Bluebell Class— Vlad
Rose Class— Harry D
Tulip Class— Ralph C
Lavender Class— Blake H
Orchid Class— Jacqueline
Sunflower Class— Evie-Leigh C
Birch Class— Hudson L
Hawthorn Class— Charlie G
Pine Class— Amelia M
Ash Class— Sophie Vu
Beech Class— Harriet L
Maple Class— Jaci-Jay W
Olive Class— Lillie W
Sycamore Class— Jack P
Willow Class— Paula
Elder Class— Tegan D
Elm Class— Ronnie W
Oak Class— Logan D



Reading Corner

Year Group	This week we will be reading....
Nursery	Dinosaur Roar! by Henrietta Stickland & Paul Stickland
Reception	Jack and the Beanstalk
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	Savannah
Year 1—Rose	Blake J
Year 1 - Tulip	Matty L
Year 2 - Orchid	James M
Year 2 - Sunflower	Reggie L
Year 2 - Lavender	Amira C
Year 3 - Pine	Daisy D
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Zoe M
Year 3 - Birch	Bogdan C
Year 4 - Maple	Nicole T
Year 4 - Beech	Archie F
Year 4 - Ash	Ellie C
Year 5 - Olive	Isabelle P
Year 5 - Sycamore	Macie H
Year 5 - Willow	Leah
Year 6—Elder	Marley B
Year— Elm	Hallie F
Year 6—Oak	Leenie H

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	Phonics this week was the sounds ur, ow, oi and ear. Tricky words: my, by and all
Year 1	In phonics this week, Year 1 have been learning to read words with split vowel digraphs. We have learnt the following sounds: a-e like in snake i-e like in time o-e like in home u-e making the /oo/ sound like in rude and the /yoo/ sound in cute e-e like in these ew making the /oo/ sound like in chew and the /yoo/ sound like in new ie like in shield aw like in claw We have also learnt the tricky words: could, would, should, our, house, mouse, water and want.
Year 2	Year 2 has revised the following graphemes this week, ai, ee, igh and oa. Children were investigating the unusual and common graphemes to go with these digraphs.

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: Are electric cars better than petrol or diesel cars?

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:

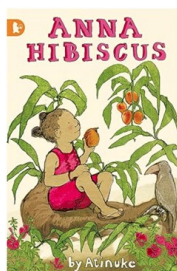
- Why do you think...?
- What evidence do you have to support X idea?
- Could you provide an example?

Probe

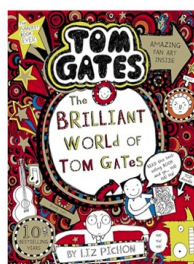
Please visit your local library and find out more about their Winter Reading Challenge.



Recommended Reads



KS1



Lower KS2



Upper KS2



TT Rockstars Class of the week is Pine—

Player of the week—
Lavender— Adebajji A
Orchid— Muhammad
Sunflower— Azlan I
Birch— Olivia C
Hawthorn— Daria P
Pine — Tiffany L
Ash— Hayden M
Beech— Ruby B
Maple— Jason T
Olive— Aisha C
Sycamore— Ava H
Willow— Alfie
Elder— William W
Elm— Bobby H
Oak— Olyver B

Numbots Classes of the week are Bluebell, Rose & Tulip —

Numbots Player of the week—

Rose— Ollie N
Tulip— Florence G
Bluebell— Leona

Times Table Rockstars and Numbots

Battle Board	25.1.24
Sycamore class	9
Pine class	6
Maple class	6
Lavender class	6
Elder class	6
Willow class	3
Sunflower class	3
Olive class	3
Hawthorn class	3
Beech class	3
Ash class	3
Orchid class	0
Oak class	0
Elm class	0
Birch class	0

