



What a week it has been at Whitmore! The children in the Reception classes have had visits from a range of animals including a hamster, a skunk, a snake and many more which they were so enthusiastic about. Staying with the theme of animals, Year 3 this week visited Colchester Zoo to learn about different types of animals— this visit closely linked to their Science unit. Today, Year 4 took part in an Ancient Greek day which involved them dressing up as Ancient Greeks and taking part in a range of activities relation to life in this time period.

Next week is the final week of the half term which also means we enter the second half of the school year when we return. In school it is clear how much progress the children have made so far this year and we are very proud of the children and their effort within this time. Parent consultation evenings are approaching and are planned for the week beginning 4th March so your child's class teacher will be able to share all of the fantastic progress they have made this year.

Could I please ask parents and carers to re-visit our school uniform policy to ensure that your children are in the correct uniform. It has been noted recently that some children are wearing inappropriate clothing or coloured trainers to school so your support with this will be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mr Wade
Head of School



Diary Dates:

February

- 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—Year 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)
- 16th—Last day of half term
- 26th—Return to school
- 29th—Year 5/6 Football match @ Bardfield (selected children)

March

- 1st—St David's Day
- 5th—Parent Consultations
- 6th—Parent Consultations
- 7th—World Book Day
- 12th—Girls football match v Eversley (Selected children)
- 13th—20th—Book fair in School
- 15th—Red Nose Day
- 20th—Girls Football match @ Lincewood (Selected Children)
- 26th—Yr 5/6 football match @ Eversley (Selected children)
- 28th—Last day of term

April

- 15th—Return to school
- Inset Days—22nd, 23rd & 24th May 2024.



Information/ Reminders —

After school Clubs

A reminder that there will be NO after school clubs on the 15th & 16th February due to school discos taking place.

Bikeability

Year 6 children have the opportunity to complete a Bikeability course please return the consent form asap to register your interest.

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

CRAYS HILL – EYFS CLASS TEACHER closing date 9th February
CRAYS HILL – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 9th February
FAIRHOUSE – CARETAKER closing date 11th February
FELMORE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 12th February
MERRYLANDS – NURSERY ASSISTANT closing date 9th February
MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 14th February
WHITMORE – ATTENDANCE & ADMINISTRATIONS OFFICER 26th February
WILLOWS – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 1st March

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

Should we learn sign language in school? This links to the British Value —Mutual Respect and Tolerance.



Certificate of Achievement

Week of 5th February 2024

Buttercup— Amelia
Daffodil— Bali T
Primrose— Sebastian
Bluebell Class— Harrison
Rose Class— Alosch A
Tulip Class— Thierry-Jane G
Lavender Class— Millie C
Orchid Class— Oliver
Sunflower Class— Raphael U
Birch Class— Sasha W
Hawthorn Class— Keira
Pine Class— Whole Class
Ash Class— Hayden M
Beech Class— Harrison C
Maple Class— Isabella A
Olive Class— Fatima A
Sycamore Class— Riley K
Willow Class— James
Elder Class— Cody H
Elm Class— Leon B
Oak Class— Ollyver B



Reading Corner

Year Group	This week we will be reading...
Nursery	Dinosaurs Vs Humans by Matt Robertson
Reception	Chinese New Year
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	Poppy
Year 1—Rose	Isla M-C
Year 1 - Tulip	AJ Y
Year 2 - Orchid	Harlie-Rose G
Year 2 - Sunflower	Amaya F
Year 2 - Lavender	Layla-Anne D
Year 3 - Pine	Apshara
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Tudor M
Year 3 - Birch	Hudson L
Year 4 - Maple	Jason T
Year 4 - Beech	Mia B
Year 4 - Ash	Ada-Grace S
Year 5 - Olive	Bella R
Year 5 - Sycamore	Tobi O
Year 5 - Willow	Nicoleta
Year 6—Elder	Lyla L
Year— Elm	Albie P
Year 6—Oak	Jack P

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 Reception have been continuing to read longer words such as sunset, rocket, and farm-yard. We have been focusing on the tricky words: are, sure, pure, into, she and push.
Year 1	This week in phonics, Year 1 have been learning the following sounds: y making the /ee/ sound like in happy ea making the /e/ sound like in head wh making the /w/ sound like in whisper oe and ou making the /oa/ sound like in toe and shoulder y making the /igh/ sound like in fly ow making the /oa/ sound like in snow g making the /j/ sound like in giant ph making the /f/ sound like in phone We have also learnt the following tricky words: any, many, again, who, whole, where and two.
Year 2	Year 2 has revised all the following graphemes this week: or, a, aw, au, ore, oor, a, oar, our, augh, aur, si, su, ch, tch, ture, sh, ti, ch, ssi, ci and si.

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: What makes someone a good role model?

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

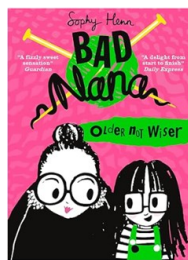
Probe
Dig deeper, ask for evidence or justification of ideas

Start by saying:

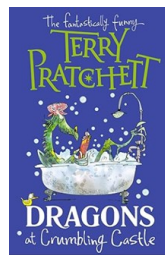
- Why do you think...?
- What evidence do you have to support X idea?
- Could you provide an example?

Probe

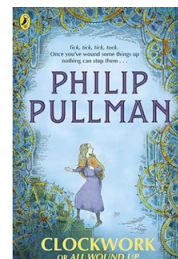
Recommended Reads



KS1



Lower KS2



Upper KS2

Times Table Rockstars and Numbots



TT Rockstars Class of the week is Orchid—

Player of the week—

Lavender— Sia P
Orchid— Banke
Sunflower— Adebambo A
Birch— Alfie R
Hawthorn— Poppie M
Pine — Bobby D
Ash— Lola Q
Beech— Ellie C
Maple— Bobby N
Olive— Luca N
Sycamore— Honey-Rose H
Willow— Bradley
Elder— William W
Elm— Shaun C
Oak— Hermione C-S

Numbots Class of the week is Bluebell—

Numbots Player of the week—

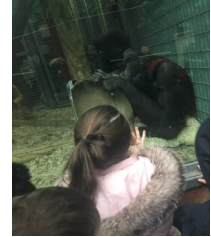
Rose— Ollie N
Tulip— Ralph C
Bluebell— Sophia

Battle Board	8.2.24
Sycamore class	15
Pine class	12
Elder class	9
Sunflower class	9
Hawthorn class	9
Ash class	9
Maple class	6
Lavender class	6
Olive class	6
Willow class	6
Birch class	6
Beech class	3
Orchid class	3
Elm class	3
Oak class	0



Year 3 trip to Colchester Zoo

Despite a very wet day at Colchester Zoo, year 3 thoroughly enjoyed themselves. During the day they saw zebras, giraffes, monkeys, sea lions, penguins, a tiger, a lion and many more. They even went for a ride on the Madagascar Express train. Many of the children enjoyed reading the facts around the enclosures and learning about which animals are endangered. Year 3 behaved impeccably all day and made all of the adults very proud.



Safer Internet Day 2024

This week across the school we have been celebrating Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is: Influence. We have been learning about how the internet and online world can have positive influences as well as negative influences on our lives. Children have also been exploring how to make the negative experiences more positive and what we can do to help stay safe in an ever-growing online world.



Useful E-safety web links for parents/carers.

Please follow this link for tips, advice, guides and resources to keep your child safe online.

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Some other resources which you may find helpful in supporting your child online:

Advice for parents and carers from [Childnet](#)

Advice for parents and carers from [E-safety Training – The 2 Johns](#)

Reviews and information about games, apps, TV shows and websites from [Common Sense Media](#)

Help on using parental controls and privacy settings from [Internet Matters](#)

Information and reporting of online grooming or abuse from [CEOP](#)

NSPCC Number Day

Last Friday we celebrated Number Day at Whitmore. We participated in some fun, practical maths activities linked to the book 'How many Jellybeans?' by Andrea Menotti and we also completed Buddy's Key Challenge where we had to solve mathematical problems to find parts of Buddy's key. There was a whole school contest to guess the amount of jellybeans in the jar. Well done to Archie B in Willow Class who guessed the closest amount of jellybeans in the jar. There were 1140 jellybeans in the jar and Archie guessed 1144.

