

WHITMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

What a quick half term it has been. It feels like only a few weeks ago that we welcomed our school community back from the summer break and we're now rapidly approaching the festive period. When we return, information will be sent out about the arrangements for this year's Christmas performances/events for Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

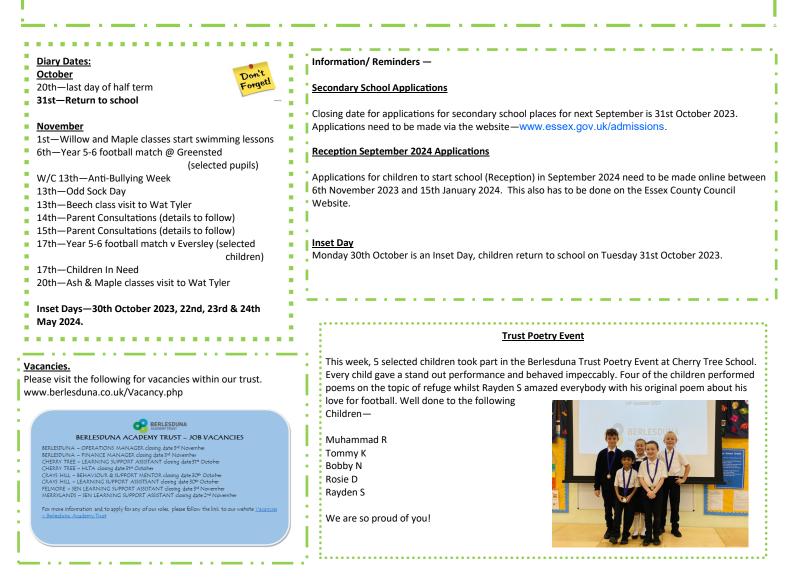
This week, the Year 3 children did a terrific job at performing The Little Red Hen to the rest of the school and later in the week to their families. The message within the performance centred around being thankful for the food we have and recognising how we can help others. At the end of the performance the children and families were thanked for all of the donations that were made to St Andrews and Holy Cross for them to create parcels for those in need of a little support. These thanks are shared more widely to all those who managed to donate items, big or small. The food collection boxes remain in classes all year round, so if you are in a position to donate any time throughout the year, we can pass these on to the church.

In assembly today, we thanked Mrs Elson for her hard work at Whitmore over the last seven years and bid her farewell as she embarks upon her next journey to co-ordinate SEND for Essex local authority. Mrs Elson will be covering Basildon in her new role which means we will still be working alongside us here and we look forward to welcoming her back into school albeit in a different capacity. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Mrs Elson and wishing her well in her new role.

We return to school on Tuesday 31st October and I hope you and your children have a restful break over the next week.

Mr Wade

Head of School





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Certificate of Achievement

Week of 16th October 2023

Buttercup— Mirabelle Daffodil – Louie Primrose – Briana Bluebell Class— Alice Rose Class— Elissa El M Tulip Class— Asante O Lavender Class — Roman S Orchid Class— Gabriel Sunflower Class—Jaxson Y Birch Class— Amelia B Hawthorn Class— Marin C Pine Class— Alec C Ash Class— Lille-Ann M Beech Class— Ruby B Maple Class— Sophie F Olive Class— Albie G Sycamore Class — Malakai F Willow Class— Bradley Elder Class— Faith S Elm Class— Ayaan H Oak Class – Maria L



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Reading Corner

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

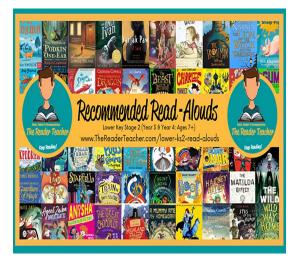
Year Group	After half term we will be reading	
Nursery	Frog and a Very Special Day by Max Velhuijs	
Reception	It's harvest time	
Year 1	Naughty Bus by Jan & Jerry Oke	
Year 2	Bear under the stairs by Helen Cooper	
Year 3	The boy who grew dragons by Andy Shepherd	
Year 4	Matilda by Roald Dahl	
Year 5	The boy at the back of the class by Onjali Q Rauf	
Year 6	Windrush child by Benjamin Zephaniah	

Class	Reader of the week	
Year 1—Bluebell	Riley R	
Year 1—Rose	Ugne	
Year 1 - Tulip	Florence G	
Year 2 - Orchid	Charlie	
Year 2 - Sunflower	Ronnie F	
Year 2 - Lavender	Amira C	
Year 3 - Pine	Teddy S	
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Tudor M	
Year 3 - Birch	Alfie R	
Year 4 - Maple	Alice H	
Year 4 - Beech	Lily M	
Year 4 - Ash	Jayden J	
Year 5 - Olive	Robert M	
Year 5 - Sycamore	Kian S	
Year 5 - Willow	Leah	
Year 6—Elder	Alfie C	
Year— Elm	Jacob W	
Year 6—Oak	Marlee C-B	

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

Reception	Sounds for this week are h, f, b, l and the tricky word 'the'.
Year 1	In phonics this week, Year 1 have been learning to read longer words using the chunking method eg: van/ish and mamm/ oth. We have also looked at: Words with s /z/ in the middle e.g: visit and poison. Words with -s /s/ at the end e.g: coats and cooks and words with the -es /iz/ at the end e.g: wishes and boxes.
Year 2	This week year 2 has been revising some familiar diagraphs from year one. (ay, ai,a-e,ea and ee)

LETTERS AND SOUNDS





Reading Expectations and Prizes

Just a reminder that the expectation for reading at home each week is a minimum of three times. If children read five times or more each week, they can collect a prize!





TT Rockstars Player of the week-Lavender – Lamia MA Orchid - Muhammad Sunflower — Kevin T Birch— Isabella S Hawthorn-Mishal A Pine – Harper S Ash— Ebrima T Beech- Freddie M Maple — Evie O Olive — Pareezay L Sycamore – Riley K Willow-Sadie Elder- William W Elm- Nathaniel C Oak- Ollyver B

TT Rockstars Class of the week is Sycamore. Class of the half term is Ash (non uniform day on first day back)

Numbots Player of the week— Rose— Talia C Tulip— Elizabeth L Bluebell— Ibrahim Numbots class of the week is Rose. Class of the half term is Rose (non uniform day on the first day back)

Times Table Rockstars and Numbots

TTRS Battle table for this week is below-

Battle Board	Week 6
Sycamore class	24
Willow class	18
Pine class	15
Lavender class	15
Ash class	12
Olive class	12
Hawthorn class	12
Elder class	9
Beech class	9
Orchid class	6
Maple class	6
Oak class	6
Birch class	6
Sunflower class	0
Elm class	0





Free School Meal vouchers and Holiday Activity Clubs

Essex Activate October Half-term Clubs Arrangements

Roll on October Half Term - Essex Activate Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Essex Activate Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is run by Active Essex. The October half term holiday is funded by Essex County Council. This programme supports the delivery of FREE holiday activity and food clubs for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and working families. We are excited to launch the October provision with bookings going LIVE on Monday 25 September at midday.

Please note the changes and process for October Half term:

• You will <u>not</u> receive a WONDE e-voucher from your school to book your child onto a half term club. Once bookings go live, you will need to book your child/ren onto a club through the <u>Essex ActivAte website</u> Simply select your area and find what clubs are available, then book your child/ren onto a club. See <u>here</u> for more information on the differences in the programme per holiday

Free School Meal Vouchers

This term, support will continue for families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) on roll in Essex schools via the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund. However, there will be some minor changes to allocations and timings of payments. This has been done primarily considering the fact those families in receipt of FSM will be receiving additional support from the government's cost of living payments.

Funding is taken from the DWP Household Support Fund and is calculated by financial year. Two payments from the 2023 to 2024 financial year have already been made to schools, and this was in May half-term 2023, and then July 2023 for the summer holidays.

The final payment for schools this financial year will be in December 2023, with a total of £60 per eligible pupil. As a result of this, there will be no half-term payment this October 2023 or during the Spring term 2024. Vouchers issued in December should be used to cover Christmas 2023, and the Spring 2024 half-term.

We are yet to hear whether there will be any further funding after this for 2023 to 2024, but, of course as always, we will share details on this when we have knowledge on this.

Healthy Schools Festival

We were very lucky to be invited to the Healthy Schools Festival at the Brentwood Centre. We took part in multiple healthy activities including circus skills, basketball skills, football skills, bike riding, making a smoothie by riding a bike and enjoyed looking at books in the mobile library. We also learned that there are lots of ways to exercise whilst having fun! We also received a Certificate during the Awards Ceremony for our school contribution to Physical Activity.

by Lilly and William (Head Girl and Head Boy)

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"I really enjoyed bike riding, but my favourite part was accepting a Certificate for Physical Activity for Whitmore primary School." Lilly

"I really enjoyed the circus skills and learning how to use the circus sticks. I also enjoyed looking in the mobile library." William

