



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

Diary Dates:

October

20th—last day of half term

31st—Return to school



November

1st—Willow and Maple classes start swimming lessons

6th—Year 5-6 football match @ Greensted

(selected pupils)

W/C 13th—Anti-Bullying Week

13th—Odd Sock Day

13th—Beech class visit to Wat Tyler

14th—Parent Consultations (details to follow)

15th—Parent Consultations (details to follow)

17th—Year 5-6 football match v Eversley (selected children)

17th—Children In Need

20th—Ash & Maple classes visit to Wat Tyler

Inset Days—30th October 2023, 22nd, 23rd & 24th May 2024.

Information/ Reminders —

Secondary School Applications

Closing date for applications for secondary school places for next September is 31st October 2023.

Applications need to be made via the website—www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Reception September 2024 Applications

Applications for children to start school (Reception) in September 2024 need to be made online between 6th November 2023 and 15th January 2024. This also has to be done on the Essex County Council Website.

Inset Day

Monday 30th October is an Inset Day, children return to school on Tuesday 31st October 2023.

Vacancies.

Please visit the following for vacancies within our trust.
www.berlesduna.co.uk/Vacancy.php



BERLES DUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

BERLES DUNA – OPERATIONS MANAGER closing date 3rd November
BERLES DUNA – FINANCE MANAGER closing date 3rd November
CHERRY TREE – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 31st October
CHERRY TREE – HLTA closing date 31st October
CRAYS HILL – BEHAVIOUR & SUPPORT MENTOR closing date 30th October
CRAYS HILL – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 30th October
FELMORE – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 3rd November
MERRYLANDS – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 2nd November

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/Vacancy.php)

Trust Poetry Event

This week, 5 selected children took part in the Berlesduna Trust Poetry Event at Cherry Tree School. Every child gave a stand out performance and behaved impeccably. Four of the children performed poems on the topic of refuge whilst Rayden S amazed everybody with his original poem about his love for football. Well done to the following Children—

Muhammad R
Tommy K
Bobby N
Rosie D
Rayden S

We are so proud of you!





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



Reading Corner

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

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

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

A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



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)



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



Discuss: Which season do you like the most? Why?

Sentence Stems

I agree because...

I disagree because...

Can I challenge that?

Challenger

Gives reasons to disagree or presents an alternative argument

Will say:
I disagree with you because...
You mentioned X but what about...
To challenge you X, I think...
I understand your point of view, but have you thought about...?



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



Poppy Appeal

This year as always we will be taking part in the Poppy Appeal. From 1st November children can bring a donation into school to get a Poppy. These will be taken round to the children in their classes daily.

We also have the following items which children can purchase if they wish to—

Snap Rulers—£1.50

Wristbands—£1.00

Reflectors—£1.00

Zip Pulls—50p



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 not 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 [Essex ActivAte website](#). Simply select your area and find what clubs are available, then book your child/ren onto a club. See [here](#) 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)

"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

