



Here's a roundup of some of the fantastic things that have happened at Whitmore this week.

Our Year 6 pupils have just returned from an incredible week at Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island. We are so proud of every single child – their behaviour was exemplary throughout the trip. Staff and instructors commented on their politeness, teamwork, and positive attitude. More importantly, the children showed amazing resilience and perseverance during all the activities, from climbing and cycling to team challenges and campfire fun. It was wonderful to see them building their confidence and independence as they prepare for the last stage of their primary school journey. Thank you to the adults who attended and also the parents and carers for your support in making this trip possible.

Yesterday, our Year 5 pupils took part in a Speed Watch activity alongside Essex Police to help raise awareness of the dangers of speeding on Whitmore Way. The children observed real-life speed checks and learned about road safety. The police officers involved were full of praise for our pupils, noting how well behaved and engaged they were. In fact, they commented that our children are “a credit to the school.” Well done, Year 5!

We'd like to remind families that personal items, such as keyrings attached to school bags, should be left at home. Unfortunately, several children have lost these items recently, which has led to disruptions during the school day. Please help us to keep everyone's belongings safe and the school day running smoothly by ensuring these items stay at home.

It looks like we're in for a sunny weekend – I hope you have a chance to get outside and enjoy it. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to seeing everyone back in school next week.

Mr Wade
Head of School

Diary Dates:
September

- 19th—Year 5 meet the teacher parent meeting KS1 hall 3:30pm
- 22nd—Year 2 meet the teacher parent meeting KS1 hall 3:30pm
- 24th—Year 4 meet the teacher parent meeting KS1 hall 3:30pm

October

- 1st—KS2 School Council trip to UK Parliament
- 3rd—Year 3 trip to Thorndon Country Park
- 6th—Reception parent phonics meeting KS1 hall 2:30pm
- 6th—Reception parent phonics meeting KS1 hall 5pm
- 9th—Year 3/4 Dodgeball Competition (selected children)
- 14th—Flu Immunisations
- 21st—Individual photos
- 24th—Last day of half term

**Inset Dates—3rd November 2025, 20th, 21st & 22nd
May 2026**

Year 6—Secondary School applications

If your child is in year 6, the admissions process for secondary schools opens on 12th September 2025 and closes on 31st October 2025. Many schools will run open days and evenings where you and your child can tour the schools and find out more about them. You can find out more about each school's open events by contacting them directly. You can apply for a secondary school place for your child at this website: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary-school-places>, or by scanning this QR code.



This [link](#) will take you to a digital magazine that can give you more information about the secondary school application process and some local schools.

'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—Could you break a Guinness World Record? This links to the British Value —Individual Liberty.

KS1 & KS2—Can anyone break a record if they try hard enough? This links to the British Value —Individual Liberty.

Certificate of Achievement

Week of 15th September 2025



- Daffodil Class— Callum T
- Buttercup Class— Gracie L
- Primrose Class— Eden
- Bluebell Class— Rokas S
- Rose Class— William C
- Tulip Class— Zidan
- Lavender Class— Kyle P
- Orchid Class— Noah
- Sunflower Class— Maisie H
- Birch Class— Violet R
- Hawthorn Class— Bradley B
- Pine Class— Ralph C
- Ash Class— Jacqueline H
- Beech Class— Chidiebube E-O
- Maple Class— Freddie J
- Olive Class— Vanessa G
- Sycamore Class— Laiton M
- Willow Class— Jacob



Year Group	Next week, we will be reading....
Nursery	
Reception	Where the wild things are by Maurice Sendak
Year 1	Supertato by Sue Hendra
Year 2	The bear under the stairs by Helen Cooper
Year 3	The boy who grew dragons by Andy Shepherd
Year 4	The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis
Year 5	The boy at the back of the class by Onjali Rauf
Year 6	Windrush Child by Benjamin Zepaniah

Class	Reader of the week...
Year 1 – Bluebell	Violet F
Year 1 – Rose	Alessia C
Year 1 - Tulip	Ryan
Year 2 - Orchid	Eliza
Year 2 - Sunflower	Reggie D
Year 2 - Lavender	Temí A
Year 3 - Birch	Re'Nell C
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Victor D
Year 3 - Pine	Florence G
Year 4 - Maple	Amelia S
Year 4 - Beech	JamRyka R
Year 4 - Ash	James M
Year 5 - Olive	Lacey M
Year 5 - Sycamore	Alfie F
Year 5 - Willow	Sasha

Please scan the QR code or click the link to take you to the Little Wandle Parents page where you will find how we teach a new sound, how we teach children to read decodable words and tricky words. You will also find how to pronounce all GPCS your children learn.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Reception	This week in Reception we have been learning the sounds: I (iguana) N (net) M (mouse) D (duck) We have practiced the pronunciation, the formation of these letters and looking at words that end and begin with these sounds.
Year 1	We have been reviewing root words with the 'er' and root words with 'est' we have also looked at longer words such as portrait and frighten. We have reviewed tricky words to, into, all, are, they, one, out today. Year 1 have also finalised their phonics catch up lessons and have started their assessments. They will begin Year 1 Autumn 1 phonics on Monday. A big well done to all the children that completed their first phonics assessment this week.
Year 2	This week, year 2 have been working hard and focusing on their graphemes: /zh/ su si - treasure vision /j/ dge - bridge /i/ y - crystal /j/ ge - large Plus, the tricky words: move, improve, parents and shoe.



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



"Children should be banned from using mobile phones." Discuss.



Build

Develop, add to or elaborate on an idea.

Start by saying:

- Building on X's idea...
- I agree and would like to add...
- X's idea made me think...

Build



Challenge

Disagree or present an alternative argument

Start by saying:

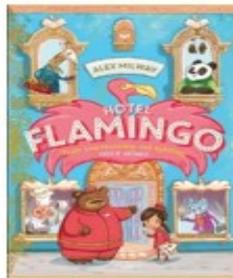
- I disagree because...
- To challenge you X, I think...
- I understand your point of view, but have you thought about...?

Challenge

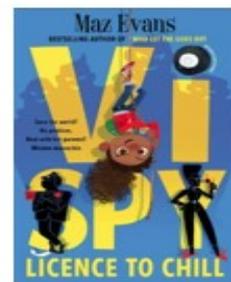
Recommended Reads



KS1



Lower KS2



Upper KS2



Times Table Rockstars and Numbots

TTR class of the week— **Hawthorn Class — 72%.**

Player of the week—

Lavender— Harry M
Orchid — Sonia
Sunflower— Henderson W
Birch— Vlad C
Hawthorn— Talia C
Pine— Buddy M
Ash— Rebecca V
Beech— Elena B
Maple— Caleb
Sycamore— Apshara S
Olive - Freya F
Willow— Bogdan

Numbots class of the week - **Bluebell Class—29%**

Player of the week—

Bluebell— Alexandra M
Rose— Joseph B
Tulip— Elissia



Berlesduna Academy Trust Vacancies



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CANEWDON – FIXED TERM SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 29th September
CHERRY TREE – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 19th September
CHERRY TREE – FIXED TERM TEACHER closing date 2nd October
MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 1st October
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 30th September

For more information and to apply for any of these exciting opportunities, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies - Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)

Happy Days Creative

Happy Days Creative are the school photographers, they offer a monthly payment scheme which entitles you to all the photos they take of your child over the 3 visits that they do throughout the school year. Further information can be found on the school website.

PLEASE REGISTER HERE: www.happydays.photos No later than Sunday 21st September 2025 When registering please use your school code of: WHISS14 Do you already have a subscription but need to add another child? If you have an existing subscription and want to add a new sibling to your account, please use the following: <https://form.jotform.com/232402872195355>

If you have already registered your child(ren) they will remain on the subscription until they are either removed by the parent or they leave Whitmore Primary School.