



It's hard to believe the children have already been back at school for a month now! We're so proud of how quickly they've all settled back into routines and the fantastic progress they are making across the school, so a great big well done to the children!

This year, our Reception intake is smaller due to a low birth year nationally, so we currently have some spaces available. If you know any families who would like their children to join our caring school community, please do encourage them to get in touch with us so that they can have a tour of the school. We'd love to welcome more children into our Reception classes!

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our recent 'Meet the Teacher' sessions. If you weren't able to make it, don't worry – the presentation slides are now available on our website. Please take some time to review these, as they contain important information about your child's learning and the year ahead.

We have some fantastic trips planned for our KS2 pupils next week. Our school council will be visiting the Houses of Parliament to learn more about democracy and how decisions are made that affect all of us. Our Year 3 children are looking forward to their visit to Thorndon Park, where they'll explore the outdoors and learn more about local wildlife. We're sure these experiences will be inspiring and memorable for our children!

A reminder for Reception parents: our phonics meetings are taking place next week. These sessions are designed to help you support your child's reading journey at home. Please do attend if you can – working together, we can make a real difference to your child's progress.

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Wade

Head of School

Diary Dates:

October

- 1st—KS2 School Council trip to UK Parliament
- 2—National Poetry Day
- 3rd—Year 3 trip to Thorndon Country Park
- 6th—Reception parent phonics meeting KS1 hall
- 6th—Reception parent phonics meeting KS1 hall 5pm
- 9th—Year 5/6 Dodgeball Competition (selected children)
- 9th—Trust Poetry Slam competition (selected children)
- 14th—Flu Immunisations
- 21st—Individual photos
- 21st—Reception Halloween Disco 3:10-4:15pm
- 21st—Year 3/4 Halloween Disco—4:30-6pm
- 23rd—Pupil Voice meeting (Head boy & girl)
- 23rd—Year 1/2 Halloween Disco 3:10-4:15pm
- 23rd—Year 5/6 Halloween Disco 4:30-6pm
- 24th—Year 3 Harvest Festival assembly
- 24th—Last day of half term

November

- 3rd—Inset Day
- 4th—Children return to school

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—How can running help us? This links to the British Value —Individual Liberty.

KS1 & KS2—Can sport bring people closer together? This links to the British Value —Individual Liberty.

Certificate of Achievement

Week of 22nd September 2025



- Daffodil Class— Illinca M
- Buttercup Class— William A
- Primrose Class— Oscar
- Bluebell Class— Joella A
- Rose Class— Gracie P
- Tulip Class— James
- Lavender Class— Sebastian G
- Orchid Class— Stefan
- Sunflower Class— Aliya S
- Birch Class— Matthew Z
- Hawthorn Class— Remy W
- Pine Class— Arthur F
- Ash Class— Jeremiah K
- Beech Class— Elena B
- Maple Class— Reggie L
- Olive Class— June O
- Sycamore Class— Francesca D
- Willow Class— Gabriel
- Elder Class— Faiqoh
- Elm Class— Neriah
- Oak Class— Isabella A



Year Group	Next week, we will be reading...
Nursery	Just the way you are by Daniel Howarth
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	Turner S
Year 1—Rose	Noel B
Year 1 - Tulip	River
Year 2 - Orchid	Aarna
Year 2 - Sunflower	Yasmin I
Year 2 - Lavender	Leo K
Year 3 - Birch	Alex M
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Talia C
Year 3 - Pine	Ian M
Year 4 - Maple	Jay-J
Year 4 - Beech	Oscar M
Year 4 - Ash	Toby C
Year 5 - Olive	Thomas W
Year 5 - Sycamore	Charlie Q
Year 5 - Willow	Emily
Year 6—Elder	Lauren
Year 6—Elm	Asher
Year 6—Oak	Taliah B

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: g (goat) o (octopus) c (cat) k (kite) We have practiced the pronunciation, the formation of these letters and looking at words that end and begin with these sounds.
Year 1	Year 1 have been revising the following sounds this week ai, ee, igh, oo, ar, ow oi and ear. We have also been reviewing the Phase 3 diagraphs and the tricky words no, go, so, my, by, to, into, out, the. We have been practising words such as ladder, food, surf, join, hear, fight, hard, foxes, mixes
Year 2	In phonics this week year 2 have been looking at the alternative grapheme for/sh/ - ti ssi si ci in the following words like - potion, mission, mansion and delicious. We used the chunking method to support children read longer words, for example - adventure and playful and aim for the children to be able to read the words without chunking them up.



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



"Trees help to look after our planet." Do you agree? 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

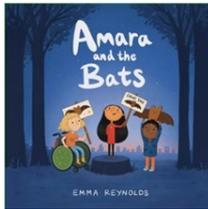
Disagree or present an alternative argument

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— Pine Class — 90%.

Player of the week—

Lavender— Khushi G
Orchid — David
Sunflower— Henderson W
Birch— Ibrahim
Hawthorn— Alex C
Pine— Ochuwa Y
Ash— Tommy K
Beech— Amelia R-R
Maple— Freddie W
Sycamore— Roziie F
Olive - Daria P
Willow— Bogdan
Elder— Owen
Elm— William
Oak— Kurtis P

Numbots class of the week - Bluebell Class—81%

Player of the week—

Bluebell— Nathaniel O
Rose— David D
Tulip— Skylar



Berlesduna Academy Trust Vacancies



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CANEWDON – FIXED TERM SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 29th September

CHERRY TREE – FIXED TERM TEACHER closing date 2nd October

DOWNHAM – FIXED TERM SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 2nd October

MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 1st October

MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 30th September

MERRYLANDS – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 12th October

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