



It has been a busy week of learning in school. My visits to classrooms across the week have highlighted how much progress the children have made in their learning this year already. It's wonderful to see our pupils thriving and developing their knowledge and skills across all areas of the curriculum.

We know that parental engagement in children's learning makes a tremendous difference to their progress and academic outcomes. I'd like to encourage you to continue supporting your child at home by listening to them read regularly, engaging with TT Rockstars and Numbots, and practising spellings together. Even just 10 minutes of reading a day can significantly boost their reading fluency and comprehension, whilst regular practise with times tables and spellings embeds learning and builds confidence. These activities truly have such a big impact on your child's educational outcomes and helps reinforce what they're learning in school.

Attendance continues to be a focus for us. To put this into perspective, at this point in the year, a child with 86% attendance will have missed 40 hours of learning. This is significant time away from their education and can impact their progress. We ask for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day, on time, so they can benefit from all the learning opportunities we provide.

We have some fantastic news to share this week! Our Year 5 and 6 dodgeball team returned to school as champions – congratulations to all the children involved! Your dedication, teamwork and sporting excellence have made us all very proud. In addition, a selection of KS2 children represented Whitmore at the Berlesduna Academy Trust Poetry Slam. They had a wonderful time and demonstrated what excellent orators they are. Their confidence, expression and performance skills were outstanding. Well done to everyone who took part!

We are collecting donations for our Harvest Festival, which will be donated to local foodbanks to support families in our community. Each classroom has a donation box within it. We would be grateful for any contributions of non-perishable food items such as tinned goods, pasta, rice, breakfast cereals, long-life milk, tea and coffee. Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting those in need.

A quick reminder about school uniform: hoodies should not be worn to school. The expectation is that children wear plain black school uniform jumpers or school logo jumpers. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining our uniform standards.

Mr Wade

Head of School

Diary Dates:

October

- 13th—A.I.M High event at Lee Chapel (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 assemblies 9:15am & 2pm
- 24th—Last day of half term

November

- 3rd—Inset Day
- 4th—Children return to school
- 4th—Year 5 Anglo-Saxon workshop in school
- 6th—Yr3/4 football match v Eversley (A) (Selected children)
- W/C 10th—Anti-bullying Week
- 11th—Armistice Day
- 11th—Yr5/6 Football match v Ghyllgrove (A) (Selected children)
- 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 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.



and
place

This [link](#) will take you to a digital magazine that can give you more

'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—What happens when we work as a team? This links to the British Value —Rule of Law.

KS1 & KS2—What makes a good peacekeeper? This links to the British Value —Rule of Law.

Certificate of Achievement

Week of 6th October 2025



- Daffodil Class— Rafe O’C
- Buttercup Class— Aria R
- Primrose Class— Grayson
- Bluebell Class— Ava K
- Rose Class— Leonard B-B
- Tulip Class— Nova
- Lavender Class— Temilolaoluwa A
- Orchid Class— Bethany
- Sunflower Class— Ida E
- Birch Class— Ibrahim
- Hawthorn Class— Phoebe
- Pine Class— Vincy T
- Ash Class— Beyza E
- Beech Class— Lamia M-A
- Maple Class— Mark
- Olive Class— Roheem A
- Sycamore Class— Elizabeth A
- Willow Class— Hudson
- Elder Class— Khadija
- Elm Class— Darcey G
- Oak Class— Adrian D



Year Group	Next week, we will be reading....
Nursery	Peppa Pig: Dentist visit
Reception	Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain
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	Kiara K
Year 1—Rose	Evie C
Year 1 - Tulip	Elissia
Year 2 - Orchid	Morgan
Year 2 - Sunflower	Michaela E
Year 2 - Lavender	Harry W
Year 3 - Birch	Jaskirat K
Year 3 - Hawthorn	Bradley B
Year 3 - Pine	Shabiyah R
Year 4 - Maple	Marnie
Year 4 - Beech	Maisy D
Year 4 - Ash	Ivy-Mae L
Year 5 - Olive	Ella M
Year 5 - Sycamore	Hallie Q
Year 5 - Willow	Ruth
Year 6—Elder	Bella-Rose
Year 6—Elm	Anni O
Year 6—Oak	Alice

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: h (helicopter), b (bear), f (flamingo), l (lollipop) We have practiced the pronunciation, the formation of these letters and looking at words that end and begin with these sounds. The tricky words we have learnt so far are: I, is, the.
Year 1	We revised CVCC/CCVC/CCVCC words and words with long vowels. Such as squelch, shrink, springs, floating, windmill, driftwood. We revised tricky words was, they, some, come, were, there, sure, pure.
Year 2	This week, year 2 have been working hard with their phonics and have now finished the phase 5 lessons. We shall spend the next 2 weeks, revisiting and reviewing any areas the children may need to be more secure in, which will benefit them with their end of term phonic assessment.



Oracy Corner



Let's Talk



Would you prefer to live in a country with a cold or a warm climate? Why?



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:

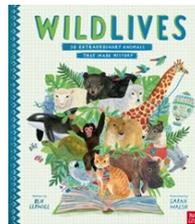
- I disagree because...
- To challenge you X, I think...
- I understand your point of view, but have you thought about...?

Challenge

Recommended Reads



KS1



Lower KS2



Upper KS2



Times Table Rockstars and Numbots

TTR class of the week— Hawthorn Class — 60%.

Player of the week—

Lavender— Marnie M
Orchid — Noah
Sunflower— Henderson W
Birch— Joshua L
Hawthorn— Joris
Pine— Zyva A
Ash— Jeremiah K
Beech— Adebangi A
Maple— Bambo
Sycamore— Imogen B
Olive - Freya F
Willow— Alliana
Elder— Vivian
Elm— Lucy L
Oak— Darius

Numbots class of the week - Bluebell Class—81%

Player of the week—

Bluebell— Nathaniel O
Rose— Elsa N
Tulip— Zidan



Berlesduna Academy Trust Vacancies



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – FIXED TERM TEACHER closing date 22nd October
CHERRY TREE – SEMH ASSISTANT closing date 15th October
FAIRHOUSE – FIXED TERM SEND SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 12th October
MERRYLANDS – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 12th October
MERRYLANDS – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT/SEND SUPPORT closing date 17th October
WILLOWS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 9th October

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

Year 3 trip to Thorndon Country Park

Last Friday, Year 3 became Neanderthals as they journeyed back to the Stone Age in Thorndon Woods. They had an amazing day despite the weather and thoroughly enjoyed making their own Stone Age hut, killing a woolly mammoth for its skin to cover the hut, making a fire for light and warmth and finally creating their very own art using the natural resources. The children were all very well behaved and we are very proud of them.



Berlesduna Trust Poetry Slam

On Thursday, a selection of children took part in the Berlesduna Trust Poetry Showcase at Cherry Tree School. They all performed poems on the theme National Poetry theme "Play".

Everyone performed exceptionally well and their behaviour was impeccable.

We are so proud of all of you... You are superstars!

