



THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

**Friday 24th
October 2025**

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Another week gone. I have never known a first half term to fly by so much; though maybe it is just me getting older...

The school cycle just continues to complete. I have been showing around prospective parents for admissions in 2026. I do these during the day so that they can get to meet children and see the school as it normally is. Every family that has been shown around has commented on the way the children smile and interact with adults and how happy the place feels. This is something that we are really proud of.

I have seen a lot of you over the past week at activity afternoons and reading cafes. Thank you for supporting these, the children love having you on site joining in and I know that the staff see huge benefits in collaboration. Our newly established PTA is going from strength to strength and have lots of things organised for this year. Their contact details are on the newsletter, so please continue to support in any way you can - they won't turn anyone away!

I have previously written about attendance and our focus on it this year. Some of you may have received letters regarding your child's absences. Please take this, not as a criticism, illnesses are a part of school life, but as an opportunity to discuss any issues with our staff. There is a huge menu of options to support you and your family with attendance so just ask us and we can help. One or two days here and there matter and they can quickly add up so be attendance aware.

Have a safe and happy half term, don't forget Monday 3rd November is an INSET day! We will see you on Tuesday 4th November.

Mr T Robinson
Headteacher

The Willows Primary PTA

You can now find information on any of our events under the '**PTA Events**' section on the contents page of the **PA connect app**.

For more information, or to register your support please email: pta.thewillows@gmail.com.



Attendance

100%

Congratulations to those children who have received 100% attendance certificates and badges for this term!

We are very proud!



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
read well by the end of third grade

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
pass important courses

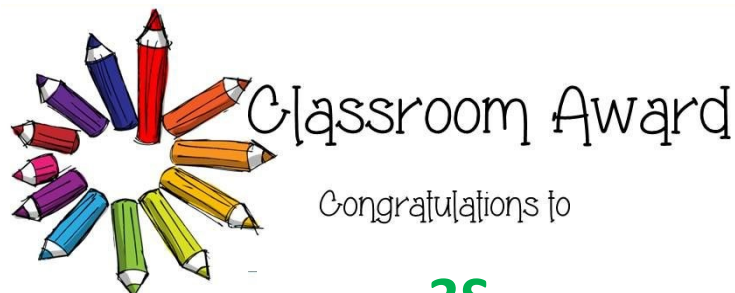
HIGH SCHOOLERS
stay on track for graduation

COLLEGE STUDENTS
earn their degrees

WORKERS
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

Attendance Works
Making Better Schools by Making Better Attendance
www.attendancesworks.org



Congratulations to

3S

for achieving the highest attendance this week at **99.3%**!

Attendance percentages for this week.

Yearly – 93.6%

Weekly - 91.0%

KS1 – 93.7%

KS2 - 88.8%

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

FELMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 3rd November

WHITMORE – BREAKFAST CLUB ASSISTANT closing date 3rd November

WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 3rd November

WILLOWS – FIXED TERM EYFS CLASS TEACHER closing date 14th November

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

Our Core Values: Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Hope, Justice, Compassion, Integrity, Wisdom

The vision of the Berlesduna Academy Trust is to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all pupils, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background.



Taking holidays in term time.

Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Missing school can negatively impact a pupil's progress and stop them from reaching their true academic potential.

If you feel that there are exceptional circumstances, you should make an application to your the school. You must get permission from the headteacher if you want to take your child out of school during term time. You may be asked to provide a form of evidence dependant on the circumstances.

You could be fined or face legal action for taking your child out of school during term time without the school's permission.

Any leave of absence request should be completed on the PA connect app. Once this has been done, your request will be reviewed and then a member of staff will be in contact with you regarding the outcome.

Lateness



We are recently noticing a large number of children arriving late to school without an agreed arrival time. **This will impact your child's overall percentage of attendance.**



Persistent lateness to school can significantly disrupt academic performance, social dynamics, and overall students well-being, leading to long term, negative consequences.

Whilst we understand that there are certain situations where this cannot be helped, it is important that you keep communicating with us. This is to help us better understand, or to be able to help with the improvement of late arrivals, addressing any barriers that may be contributing to this. If your child arrives to school after the gates have closed, or if they have an agreed later start time, you must accompany them to enter school via the office. You must sign them & support them in using our InVentry console in the reception area. You will be asked to give a reason for their lateness, please make sure you complete this accurately, **as it is recorded on your child's attendance.**

If a later arrival time has not been agreed, should your child arrive after 9am, they will be marked as 'L' on the register. Any arrivals after 9.25am are marked as 'U', which goes down as a missed/unauthorised mark! Please can also use the InVentry console to specify your child's lunch choice for that day. Please see the menu in the main reception.

PLEASE BE REMINDED THE SCHOOL GATES CLOSE 9AM PROMPTLY!

If you or your child have an appointment, or know that you will be arriving to school late for any other reason, please inform the office via email your child's lunch choice for that day. This is so the kitchen can be provided with the correct number of lunches. Should we not receive your lunch choice, we cannot guarantee your child will be able to have their preferred option.

Should your child's choice be baguette, please state which filling they would like to have.



Thank you for your understanding.



Our Core Values: Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Hope, Justice, Compassion, Integrity, Wisdom

The vision of the Berlesduna Academy Trust is to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all pupils, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background.



BERLEDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST



MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



WHITMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



CRAYS HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL



FELMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



CHERRY TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



FAIRHOUSE
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Nicholas
Primary



Canewdon
Primary School

WELL DONE!

1R Tasfi for playing kindly, taking care of OPAL resources and being a superstar outdoors.

1P Lorissa for being an OPAL superstar and using the dressing up and equipment to make lunchtime lots of fun.

1C Lilly for playing nicely, taking care of resources, and being a superstar outdoors. Well done Lilly!

2D Nancy shows great kindness to others during outdoor play and learning, involving the whole class and sharing things. Well done Nancy!

2H Winnie for always playing nicely with your friends outside and doing your best to take care of the play resources and tidy up.

2T Evelyn plays nicely with her friends and always does her best to tidy up her toys nicely. Keep it up Evie!

3SB Maria for consistently demonstrating excellent behaviour and respect when using outdoor play equipment, showing responsibility and thoughtfulness to others.

3D Bertie for working together with his friends to use all equipment outside sensibly, and tidying away after he is finished.

3S Franklin for using the OPAL equipment imaginatively to create circuits with varying difficulty.

4I Violette for consistently demonstrating excellent behaviour and respect when using outdoor play equipment, showing responsibility and thoughtfulness to others.

4E Dylan for his enthusiastic and passionate use of the OPAL outdoor equipment every single day!

4RH Manha for using the OPAL outdoor equipment with outstanding creativity and imagination! Keep it up!

5F Alexandra for always being kind and helpful outside on the playground.

5J Jayda for always engaging with OPAL equipment during break and lunchtimes, and being helpful when tidying it away too!

5W Robert for always using the OPAL equipment so creatively!

6B Saiyam for always demonstrating a dedication to learning both in school and homework.

6H Elijah for showing great responsibility and care when using OPAL equipment, keeping playtime fun and safe for everyone.

6F Kye for excellent hard work and determination during practice SATs week. Kye has made a brilliant start to year 6 which has not gone unnoticed.

Star Readers of the Week

Yr1 — Presley, Oliver, Tihomir

Yr2 — Bobby, Lorenzo, Presley

Yr3 — Roman, Emily, Cesar

Yr4 — Ibrahim, Nellie, Danila

Yr5 — Oscar, Georgie, Oscar

Yr 6 — Sophia, Milla, Charlie

Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1 — Sonny, Wafi, Rosalyn

Yr2 — Rain, Jenson, Sonny

Yr3 — Scarlett, Adanna, Esme

Yr4 — Noah, Georgia, Eden

Yr5 — Alexandru, Galena, Daniel

Yr 6 — Katy, Oliver, Katia

Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 2D—78

Lower Key Stage 2: 3S—64

Upper Key Stage 2: 5W—120

Our Core Values: Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Hope, Justice, Compassion, Integrity, Wisdom

The vision of the Berlesduna Academy Trust is to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all pupils, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background.



BERLEDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST



MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



WHITMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



CRAYS HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL



FELMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



CHERRY TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



FAIRHOUSE
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

OPAL

This weeks OPAL Certificate

Lorenzo for working hard to tidy up equipment and encouraging others to tidy.

Laundry basket 	Suitcase 	Wooden spoons 	Action figures 	Plastic crates 
Dress up items 	Cars 	Dinosaurs 	Pans 	Plastic dolls 
Lego 	Small balls 	Scooter 	Plastic tubes 	Tarpaulin 
Beach spades 	Buckets 	Trowels 	Skateboard 	Cardboard tubes 
Guttering 	Wooden planks 	Helmet 	Aprons 	Chalk 

Please try to keep these items in mind as these are the kinds of donations that our school needs as part of our Outdoor Play and Learning initiative. These items will make playtimes outside much more exciting, engaging and fun! Please give your child's class teacher any donations and these can then be passed on. Thank you for your ongoing support. Kind regards,

Miss Hudson and Miss Dorrington - OPAL Leads

Poetry Slam competition 09.10.25



Three children from year 2 and three children from year 6 went to Cherry Tree to represent the school in the trust poetry slam. They all did excellently and we are very proud of them. Well done!



In aid of
Little Havens

A big well done to these girls who raised £1500 doing a glow walk for Little Havens hospice. We are all so proud of you girls !



Our Core Values: Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Hope, Justice, Compassion, Integrity, Wisdom

The vision of the Berlesduna Academy Trust is to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all pupils, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background.



BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST



MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



WHITMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



CRAYS HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL



FELMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



CHERRY TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



FAIRHOUSE
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL