



Friday 12th December

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Another week has flown by; we are now just a fortnight away from Christmas! Though it feels more like Spring with the weather!

I want to say well done to the Year 1 team for a lovely Christmas performance. Staff and children should be proud; performances never portray fully the effort that goes into them and I'm sure that you can appreciate the effort of managing 90 Year 1 children into a cohesive performance!

Speaking of performances, thank you to the KS1 and KS2 choirs, readers & percussion club for their performances on Wednesday. As usual, a performance full of gusto and technique. Well done everyone!

Next week will be a busy one, please remember to check the app for important dates - there is a lot coming up. Remember, if you need anything just ask. You would be surprised what we can help with in these busy weeks.

Mr T Robinson
Headteacher
The Willows Primary School





WELL DONE!



1R Darius for his wonderful humour that brings joy and laughter to our class.

1P Annabelle for sharing brilliant humour and brightening our days!

1C Oliver for always making his peers laugh and trying his hardest to put a smile on people's faces.

2D Harrison is always making us laugh with his funny stories and jokes. A delight to have in the class— keep smiling Harrison!

2H Connor for having a great sense of humour and always trying to make your friends laugh.

2T Chinemerem has a wonderful sense of humor and makes us all laugh every single day. We love listening to his stories and his quick wit. Keep it up Chinemerem!

3SB Maxwell for his cheerfulness and always making us smile! :D

3D Noah for always having a sense of humour, both when he is playing the joke and receiving it.

3S Kajetan for having an infectious personality which lights up the room and makes people laugh, even when they should be working!

4I Jacob for his brilliant humour and his ability to make the whole class smile—keep spreading the laughter Jacob!

4E Yasmin for having a wonderful sense of humour and always making everyone smile.

4RH Theo for always bringing wonderful humour to our classroom and brightening everyone's day. Keep it up!

5F Galena for having a fantastic sense of humour and always make me laugh with your witty comments!

5J Nathaniel for having an absolutely amazing sense of humour and always managing to make Miss Jones laugh!

5W Finley for your excellent and cheeky sense of humour, always making those around you smile and laugh.

6B Andrea for always sharing his fantastic sense of humour and brightening everyone's day.

6H Ianus for showing wonderful courage, resilience, and enthusiasm while settling brilliantly into a new school and becoming a valued member of our class.

6F Brylie for working hard in class to make improvements across all subjects. She is showing real resilience with his learning.

Star Readers of the Week

Yr1— Carter, David, Parker

Yr2 — Nura, Nancy, Emilia

Yr3 — Darja, Adele, Jayden

Yr4 — Sienna, Hudson, Daisy

Yr5 — Leland, Emily, Aariz

Yr 6— Alice, Jaden, Vlad

Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— David, Amelia, Joseph

Yr2— Jacob, Blake, Usaim

Yr3 — Pippa, Kit, Jedidiah

Yr4 — Antonia, Bonnie, Ohemaa

Yr5 — Tania, Alfie, Louie

Yr 6— Krish, Natalia, Milana

This weeks OPAL Certificate

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

Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 2T-77 Lower Key Stage 2: 4I-72 Upper Key Stage 2: 5J-91

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

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.



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. Any sickness or diarrhoea present, your child will need to be kept home for 48 hours from the last episode.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ **Year 6 trip Imperial War Museum - Monday 15th December**
- ◆ **Christmas Dinner Day—Wednesday 15th December**
- ◆ **PTA Non-uniform & last day of term—Friday 19th December**
 - ◆ **Return to school—Monday 5th January**



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

OPAL

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



Attendance percentages

for this week.

Yearly - 93.7% Weekly - 93.1%

KS1 – 92.9% KS2 - 93.1%



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



The



Whole School Attendance Challenge

Just a reminder that our 12 Days Of Christmas Attendance Challenge has now begun!

This is a fun way to encourage excellent attendance in the run up to the holidays and to celebrate the children who arrive every day on time and ready to learn.

From Thursday 4th December to Friday 19th December every child who attends every day and arrives on time will be entered into a special Christmas Lucky Dip.

Each child will receive their 12 Days of Christmas Attendance Challenge card, which will be stamped daily by their teachers when they arrive on time and attend school. Children must collect all 12 stamps to be entered into the prize draw.

Prizes will include:

- Gift Cards
- Selection boxes
- Festive treats and other goodies!



The Christmas prize draw will take place on the last day of term.

We hope this challenge helps promote positive attendance habits and adds a little extra excitement to the festive season. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child arrive at school punctually and attend regularly.

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

Reporting Absence

Please report your child's absence to the office by emailing admin@willows.essex.sch.uk or by leaving a message on the office telephone by calling 01268 470880.



The school must be informed EVERY school day that the child is absent.

Please ensure that you have reported your child's absence by 9.20am.

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.**

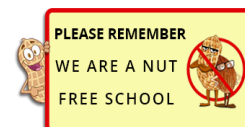
If a later arrival time has not been agreed, should your child arrive after 9am, they will be marked as 'L' on the register. Any arrivals after 9.25am are marked as 'U', which goes down as a missed/unauthorised mark!

PLEASE 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.



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 C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Nicholas
Primary



Canewdon
Primary School



SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2026/2027

Reception—September 2026

With the September 2026 school application process fast approaching, here are some useful steps to follow when applying;

- Application Period: Applications for primary school places in Essex are open from **10th November 2025** to **15th January 2026**.
- Application Method: You can apply online through your local council or use the application form provided by the council.
- Preparation: Ensure you are prepared for the application process, as starting primary school is a significant milestone for your child.
- Check Preferences: Make sure to use all four of your preferences to increase your chances of securing a place at your preferred school.
- Offers: Offers will be sent to **online applicants by email on 16 April 2026**.

Good luck with your applications, please do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have.



Our Creative Club has been busy bringing festive cheer to life! The children worked brilliantly together to design and craft the eye-catching sign for this year's Christmas concert, using colourful layers of tissue paper, bright paint and plenty of sparkling tinsel. We're so proud of their hard work and creativity. Well done, everyone!

Mrs Ruffell

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 C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Communication at The Willows

At The Willows, we pride ourselves on the multiple lines of communication that we offer. Here is a simple guide on how to best use them!

The Willows Parents App (PA Connect)

The place where you can find everything!

You can use the app to:

- Check menus
- Check upcoming dates
- Look at calendar events & term dates
- Notify us of an absence, a medical appointment or to request a holiday
- Pay for trips/events



Class Charts

This is to communicate directly with your child's teacher for all non-urgent things. You can use this to:

- Notify your child's teacher directly of something that is not urgent (lost items etc)
 - Ask a non-urgent question (e.g. Ask about a trip that is the future)
- Inform the teacher of something about your child that may help support them (e.g. A pet passed away and they may be upset)

The School Admin Email - admin@willows.essex.sch.uk

How to get a message to the right person.

This is to be used for all urgent and confidential enquiries! For example:

- To notify us of anything urgent (e.g. Late pick ups, changes to adults picking up, absences if you cannot use the app)
 - Notify us of anything confidential (safeguarding, personal information)
 - Ask to speak with SLT or the Inclusion Team about your child
- Ask a question about something wider than your child's class (e.g. Staffing, Health & Safety etc)
 - Speak with someone about a concern that you have
 - Talk to us about anything financial



Using the correct method of communicating with us will hugely improve the speed in which we can deal with your issue as it will go the right person at the right time!

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Willows

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