



**Friday 16th January 2026**



Dear parents and carers,

I cannot remember the last time we had one complete wash out day at The Willows, yet this week has gifted us two. When you experience days such as Tuesday and Thursday you realise how important getting outside and moving around is for children! Hopefully, next week will bring drier weather.

Despite the rain, some Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in Bikeability where they learn to ride their bikes on the road. Learning to ride a bike properly is a wonderful, life long skill that I'm sure those children will put to work travelling to and from school soon.

The PTA hosted their AGM this week. They are still in their infancy compared to others but they have achieved a remarkable amount in their first year. I want to thank everyone who has organised, helped and supported PTA events the past year. They are really making a difference to the school community. If you want to get involved please follow the links that you will find on this newsletter. The stronger that we make the PTA the better off everyone will be!

Have a great weekend everyone,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School

A special congratulations to  
Miss Raymond on her  
graduation.  
We are super proud of her!



# WELL DONE!

**1R Anna** for super spelling by sounding out words using your phonics.

**1P Tihomir** for excellent work sounding out new words and using your phonics when writing.

**1C Matthew** for using his phonics knowledge to support his spelling in all subjects :)

**2D Chloe** has been trying really hard to use her phonics to spell and working on common exception words this week. Well done!

**2H Ahmed** for working very hard at learning your spellings and doing well in your spelling tests since starting at the school. Well done!

**2T Dottie** is a super speller! She practices her spellings ready for her spelling test each week and I have noticed a massive improvement since the beginning of the year!

**3SB Uthman** for excellent spelling in his written work. Well done!

**3D Amayah** for consistently working hard on her spellings in all lessons.

**3S Emily** for working hard to improve her spelling and remember the rules we have learnt, sharing her excellent recollection.

**4I Amarachukwu** for always persevering with his spellings showing determination and a positive attitude.

**4E Nellie** for making huge progress with her spelling. Well done!

**4RH Teddy** for working so hard to improve your spellings and for using exciting and adventurous vocabulary in your writing. Keep up the fantastic effort!

**5F Maya** for being a truly sensational writer, who includes up levelled spellings to improve your work. You also always aim to get 100% on your spelling test by practicing at home. Well done.

**5J Freddie** for always trying immensely hard with your spellings in your English work and during Spelling tests—well done :)

**5W Dea** for working hard to improve your spellings each week, as well as making sure to include many year 5 and 6 spellings in your work!

**6B Oscar** for consistently achieving 100% score in spelling tests since the start of Year 6.

**6H David** for always working hard on his writing and publishing work. David takes extra care and pays attention to detail, using dictionaries and thesauruses to accurately improve his work.

**6F Chibugo** for consistently scoring 25/25 in our weekly spelling tests!

## Star Readers of the Week

**Yr1**— Archie, Oscar, Tobie

**Yr2** — Alicia, Chinemerem, Emilia

**Yr3** — Harrison, Alex, Bella

**Yr4** — Mayra, Joury, Yasmin

**Yr5** — Jayda, Charles, Elsie

**Yr 6**— Katia, Roman, Daniella

## Superstar Writers of the Week

**Yr1**— Ollie, Archie, Halei-Jane

**Yr2**— Leo, Alora, Finley

**Yr3** — Hunter, Phoebe, Mia

**Yr4** — Freddie, Kassie, Erin

**Yr5** — Eymen, Jacob, Jenson

**Yr 6**— Peggy, Hayden, Sophie



## Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

**Key Stage 1: 2D-84 Lower Key Stage 2: 3S-71 Upper Key Stage 2: 5J-89**

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


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**


**OPAL Certificate this week**

**Sophia** for working hard to tidy up equipment  
and encouraging others to tidy.









**Level 1 & 2 Bikeability Training**

Well done to the first group of Year 5 pupils to take part in the Level 1 & 2 Bikeability training this week. Despite the difficult weather conditions on the first day of training they all did really well. We have another 2 groups of Year 5/6 pupils doing their training in February.

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.





## Attendance percentages

for this week.

Yearly - 93.4% Weekly - 92.6%

KS1 – 92.4% KS2 - 93.9%



| Descriptor                       | Threshold attendance | Actual attendance | Whole days of absence | Learning Hours Lost |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Excellent</b>                 | 100%                 | 190 days          | 0                     | 0                   |
|                                  | 99%                  | 188 days          | 2                     | 10                  |
| <b>Good</b>                      | 98%                  | 186 days          | 4                     | 20                  |
|                                  | 97%                  | 184 days          | 6                     | 30                  |
|                                  | 96%                  | 182.5 days        | 7.5                   | 37.5                |
| <b>Cause for Concern</b>         | 95%                  | 180.5 days        | 9.5                   | 47.5                |
|                                  | 94%                  | 179 days          | 11                    | 55                  |
|                                  | 93%                  | 177 days          | 13                    | 65                  |
|                                  | 92%                  | 175 days          | 15                    | 75                  |
|                                  | 91%                  | 173 days          | 17                    | 85                  |
| <b>Unsatisfactory</b>            | 90%                  | 171 days          | 19                    | 95                  |
|                                  | 89%                  | 169 days          | 21                    | 105                 |
|                                  | 88%                  | 167 days          | 23                    | 115                 |
|                                  | 87%                  | 165 days          | 25                    | 125                 |
| <b>Serious cause for concern</b> | 86%                  | 163 days          | 27                    | 135                 |
| <b>Critical</b>                  | 85%                  | 161.5 days        | 28.5                  | 142.5               |
|                                  | 84%                  | 159.5 days        | 30.5                  | 152.5               |
|                                  | 83%                  | 158 days          | 32                    | 160                 |
|                                  | 82%                  | 156 days          | 34                    | 170                 |
|                                  | 81%                  | 154 days          | 36                    | 180                 |
|                                  | 80%                  | 152 days          | 38                    | 190                 |

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.



## Reporting Absence

Please report your child's absence to the office by emailing [admin@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto: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



**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.**

## **ATTENDANCE**

## Attendance Week!

Week Commencing Monday 19th January 2026

***Come to School, Be on Time, and Shine!***

***Every pupil counts, and we want to see which class can show up and shine the most! The class with the highest attendance percentage will win a Pizza & Movie Afternoon!***

***But that's not all every pupil who comes to school every day and on time will have their Attendance Week Card stamped. Stamped cards mean goodies for everyone, and they will also be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win a gift voucher!***

***Let's work together, show up, and make this the best Attendance Week ever!***

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



**St Nicholas**  
Primary



**Canewdon**  
Primary School



**Online school application are now closed for Reception—September 2026**

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.**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Dental health checks         | 21 <sup>st</sup> January                    |
| Young voices at 02           | 23 <sup>rd</sup> January                    |
| Y1 Science workshop          | 26 <sup>th</sup> January                    |
| Reception screenings         | 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> January |
| Yr 5 Ancient Greece workshop | 28 <sup>th</sup> January                    |
| Yr 6 Essex fire visit        | 28 <sup>th</sup> January                    |
| Y5 Science workshop          | 29 <sup>th</sup> January                    |
| Yr 1 Library visit           | 30 <sup>th</sup> January                    |



**The Willows PTA!**  
Exciting News

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new events site your goto hub for all upcoming PTA events!

[www.pta-events.co.uk/thewillowspta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/thewillowspta)

Online Ticket option now available for future events

Prefer to Pay with Cash?  
No problem! We'll continue offering tickets at school on specific days and times.

Keep an eye on our emails, posters, and updates so you don't miss out!

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our amazing school community!

Contact Us  
Email: [pta.thewillows@gmail.com](mailto:pta.thewillows@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Parents page TWPS

**BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST**

**BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES**

CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 29<sup>th</sup> January  
 CHERRY TREE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 5<sup>th</sup> February  
 MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 26<sup>th</sup> January  
 WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
 WILLOWS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 21<sup>st</sup> January

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

**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](mailto:pta.thewillows@gmail.com).

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.



# 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](mailto: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