



THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Friday 23rd January 2026



Dear parents and carers,

Another (wet) week has passed; I am constantly surprised at the pace of year, the weeks seem to fly by in the blink of an eye. Or maybe that is just my age...

It has been a very busy week as usual. I want to thank Mrs Ingram and the rest of the staff who are attending Young Voices. We have been doing this for years now and it is always a fantastic event that parents and children talk about for weeks. Well done to all the children and parents who are going, we hope you enjoy this amazing spectacle.

I am very close to confirming a date for Essex County Council, Basildon Council, Police and our local MP, Richard Holden, to come and start the process of finding a solution to our parking issues. I know a lot of you will be pleased to know this! When I have a definite date and time I will let you know; I know there are some who would like to share their thoughts.

You may have seen this week started another attendance week. Attendance is a clear focus for us this academic year and many of you will have had conversations with us as we attempt to find solutions to improve our attendance. There will be many more weeks like this and we are open to any ideas that you may have to promote attendance and punctuality in the school. Email any ideas in!

Have a great weekend everyone,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 29th January
CHERRY TREE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 5th February
CHERRY TREE – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 5th February
ST MARYS – CLASS TEACHER closing date 4th February
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 26th January
WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 23rd January

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

WELL DONE!

1R Alexandru for always taking part and having fun in music.

1P Rosalyn for being a superstar in your music lessons showing us your lovely singing.

1C Ruby for always trying her hardest during our music sessions and serenading the class with her amazing singing :)

2D Nancy shows great passion in music with her lessons and always encourages others in lessons with their singing.

2H Piper-Lily for always thoroughly enjoying music lessons and participating to the best of your ability.

2T Arya-Rose enjoys music lessons and has a lovely singing voice. She sings enthusiastically and always tries her best. Keep it up Arya-Rose!

3SB Finley for participating so well during music lessons. Well done!

3D Isla for consistently working hard in lessons, especially music, and showing her commitment to the choir.

3S Poppy for always putting amazing effort into her music lessons and during choir, learning lyrics and melody with greater confidence.



4I Scarlett for always showing enthusiasm for music during lessons and in the choir. Scarlett uses the correct terminology, works hard at reading music and enjoys writing her own compositions.

4E Camilla for being musical and trying her hardest to be creative all the time. Well done!

4RH Charlie for your fantastic musical skills and your amazing ability to find and keep a steady beat and pulse!

5F Annabelle for always participating enthusiastically in music lessons and also sharing different perspectives on different genres of music.

5J Rocco for showing a deep passion for Music in class, your extra-curricular activities and singing assemblies :)

5W Amelly for your enthusiasm in music lessons and for always joining in beautifully during singing assembly.

6B Sophia in recognition of your beautiful singing, enthusiasm, and consistent effort in the school choir.

6H Esme for her commitment and effort in choir, always singing with confidence and contributing positively to the group.

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



Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 2T-148 Lower Key Stage 2: 3S-80 Upper Key Stage 2: 5J-94

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.



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WHITMORE
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CRAYS HILL
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PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



FAIRHOUSE
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Superstar Readers of the Week

Yr1— Letty, Gracie, Erin

Yr2 — Myles, Selena, Ava

Yr3 — Aubree, Adanna,

Yr4 — Harrison, Tommie, Matthew

Yr5 — Danny, Maykl, Alex

Yr 6— Oliver, Katia, Aleena



Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Albie, Chiamaka, Jazmyn

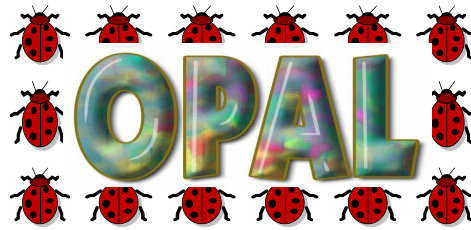
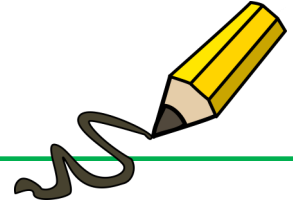
Yr2— Leo, Blake, Presley

Yr3 — Lily-Rose, Reggie,

Yr4 — Millie, Danila, Tallulah

Yr5 — Noah, Elsie, Aya

Yr 6— Isabelle, George, Peggy



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**

OPAL Certificate this week

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

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Attendance percentages

for this week.

Yearly - 93.3% Weekly - 92.4%

KS1 – 92.5% KS2 - 93.9%



Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days of absence	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for Concern	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
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Serious cause for concern	86%	163 days	27	135
Critical	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

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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.



Congratulations and well done to our Attendance Week winners!

The class winners of the Pizza & Movie treat, for the highest attendance this week were: 1R and 5W.

We hope you all enjoy your treats!

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.



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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

Y1 Science workshop	26 th January
Reception screenings	27 th & 28 th January
Yr 5 Ancient Greece workshop	28 th January
Yr 6 Essex fire visit	28 th January
Y5 Science workshop	29 th January
Yr 1 Library visit	30 th January
Reception screenings	2 nd February
Whole school review	3 rd February
Yr 3 Activity afternoon	4 th February
Yr 5/6 Bikeability	5 th February
Yr 3 Colchester castle	5 th February
Reception Essex fire visit	6 th February
Children’s mental health week	9 th February
Safer Internet day	10 th February
Library team to visit Nursery	10 th February
Yr 6 Parent calls	10 th February
KS2 Cross country - James Hornsby	12 th February
Trust Spelling bee - Fairhouse	12 th February
Yr 1 Superhero day	13 th February
Yr 6 Enrichment trip - Golf	13 th February
PTA Non uniform day	13 th February



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.

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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

have a nice weekend



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