



Friday 15th May 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

SATs week is done and dusted!

It is always a very busy week and the change in routine for many can be overwhelming and stressful. I am tremendously proud of the fact that the staff in Year 6 work hard over the year to make sure that our children don't worry, don't get stressed and approach this week with determination and a relaxed demeanour where they rely on what they have been taught and trust themselves.

At The Willows we treat Year 6 and SATs very much as the end of a journey and consequentially all the work and effort over the years by everyone impacts in this week. We believe in helping children develop personalities and traits so that when exams, tests, or difficult moments in their lives happen they have the tools to deal with them and flourish. SATs is the first of these, and I can safely say that the children behaved and performed in a way that would make you all proud.

I want to thank everyone involved (which means every person in the school in some way and parents in Year 6!) and say thankyou; everything that we do in school we do together as a unit and we succeed together and fail together. SATs is a perfect example of this in action, the children are where they are because of the time, patience and care over the years by everybody.

Have a great weekend everyone,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – GOVERNOR/TRUSTEE closing date 22nd May
CRAYS HILL – CLASS TEACHER closing date 15th May
FELMORE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 18th May
WHITMORE – LEARNING SUPPORT/MIDDAY ASSISTANT (UPPER KS2) closing date 31st May
WHITMORE – LEARNING SUPPORT/MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 31st May

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 Chimaka for always coming to school with a smile and trying your best with everything.

1P Theo has been working very hard on his learning this week.

1C Oliver has a fantastic attitude towards learning. He is always willing to give it a go and tries his hardest every time. Well done Ollie :)

2D Lorenzo always holds a positive and respectful attitude and approach to all areas of his school and learning. Well done!

2H Ahmed for having an excellent attitude to your learning at school. You always work hard and try your best. Well done!

2T Eden-Rose has an amazing positive attitude and always tries her best. She is hard working, motivated and responsible. Keep it up Eden-Rose!

3SB Dollimai for approaching each day with a positive attitude, a polite manner and a smile!

3D Evelina for always having such a positive attitude towards all of her work and her peers.

3S Reggie for working hard to develop a positive attitude to learning, it has made a huge difference to his work and I can see he is enjoying more. I am so proud of you Reggie!



4I Lucas for showing a fantastic attitude during his first week at school. He has settled in brilliantly, approached every new challenge with confidence and positivity, and have been a wonderful addition to our class.

4E Harrison for improving your attitude to your learning and always trying your hardest. Well done!

4RH Jacob for your fantastic positive attitude and for beginning to join in so happily with your class, friends, and peers – you bring great energy and kindness to those around you! Keep it up!

5F Mekaal for always coming in with a positive attitude and a huge smile on his face. Well done!

5J Rocco for always having a fantastic attitude towards learning and striving to be the best that you can be :)

5W Reggie for always having such a positive attitude towards school and your learning. Even when things are challenging, you put on a brave face and try your best. Well done!

All of 6B for your hard work, resilience and dedication during SATs; you should all feel very proud.

All of 6H for being excellent during SATS week and making the school proud. Well done!

All of 6F for being excellent during SATS week and making the school proud. Well done!

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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MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



WHITMORE
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CRAYS HILL
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CHERRY TREE
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FAIRHOUSE
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

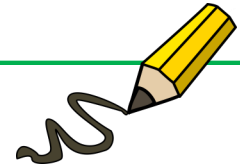
Superstar Readers of the Week

Yr1— Carter, Harley, Rayden
 Yr2 — Jakub, Connor, Harrison
 Yr3 — Georgie, Milan, Finley
 Yr4 — Antonia, Harper, Kofi
 Yr5 — Kiyanna, Maya, Lillie
 Yr 6— SATs Week



Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Ella, Mathias, Luna
 Yr2— Oliver, Lucas, Riley
 Yr3 — Bertie, Toby, Max
 Yr4 — Noah, Mayra, Gabriella
 Yr5 — Leland, Galena, Mia
 Yr 6— SATs Week



Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 2T-52 Lower Key Stage 2: 4I-106 Upper Key Stage 2: 5F & 5J-68

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**

OPAL Certificate this week

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

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Attendance percentages

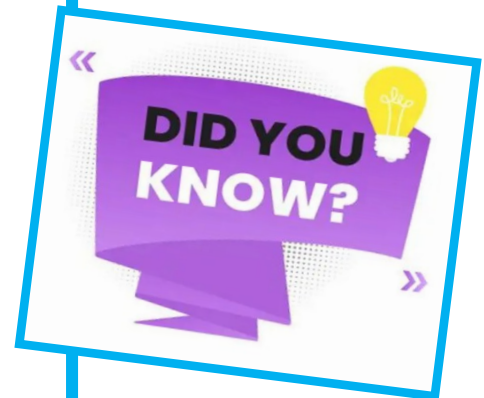
for this week.

Yearly - 93.6% Weekly - 94.1%

KS1 – 94.3% KS2 - 94.0%

Attendance Matters!

Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.



Whole class attendance
winners this week are

3S

with 97.8%

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Reporting Absence

Please report your child's absence to the office by emailing admin@willows.essex.sch.uk, on your [PA connect app](#), 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**.



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.

PLEASE REMEMBER

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL



Thank you for your understanding.



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.



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ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Nicholas
Primary



Canewdon
Primary School

THIS WEEK...



THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Year 1

This week, our focus in Maths and English has been assessment activities. In Science, the children planted sunflowers and discussed what plants need in order to grow, exploring ideas such as water, sunlight, and soil. We have also been working hard in phonics as we prepare for the upcoming screening check, building confidence with our sounds and blending skills.

Year 2

Year 2 have been exploring homophones in their spelling lessons and we have been recapping our knowledge of verbs. We have also been practising up-levelling our work by thinking of more interesting verbs to enhance our sentences. We have been finishing our diary entry story about our revolting Grandma and how we got our revenge on her by making some horrid medicine for her to have. We have been using expanded noun phrases and excellent adjectives to describe the smell, appearance and sound of the medicine that was made. We have been producing some marvellous work, more marvellous than George's Marvellous Medicine!

Year 3

We are continuing to be 'Saucepan Man' and have finished our diary entries from our time in the toy fort. In maths we have also concluded our money topic and have been looking at adding amounts, subtracting amounts and giving change. We have spoken about different climates in Geography and seed dispersal and the lifecycle of a plant in science. In art this week we have started our final product of our very own Faraway Tree portrait, we are enjoying choosing and using different media to create different effects.

Year 4

In Year 4 this week, the children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of their learning. In history, they enjoyed reviewing their knowledge of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, including learning more about the fascinating Viking Gods. The children also showed fantastic responsibility and organisation during swimming sessions, making sure they were prepared and ready throughout. In English, they took great pride in producing a published piece of work using their beautiful handwriting skills. In Art, the year group explored the vibrant style of Keith Haring and began creating their own imaginative dioramas inspired by his work. It has been wonderful to see such creativity, enthusiasm and maturity from everyone this week.

Year 5

This week in Year 5, we have been comparing periods of education throughout history and learning about what schools used to be like. We have also done some excellent work on translation and co-ordinates in Maths and written some sensational moral dilemma stories.

Year 6

Have done amazingly well in their SATs this week! We are all extremely proud of them and they were very excited to venture out on their rewards trip today!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Yr 3 Screens Park	18 th May
Reception Intake meeting (our Nursery)	18 th May
EYFS Engineering workshop	19 th May
Yr 4 reading café	19 th May
Reception Intake meeting (new starters)	19 th May
Yr 5/6 Quad kids	21 st May
Yr 1 Kings & Queens day	21 st May
Last day of term dress down/non uniform	21 st May
Inset day	22 nd May
Inset day	1st June



We are super excited to celebrate another term of amazing attendance!

We've seen such a big improvement, and we are so proud of all our children. Well done!

From the week beginning 5th May until 20th May, one class from Key Stage with the best attendance will win a Pizza Party with Mr Robinson!

Come to school every day, arrive on time, and help your class become our Attendance Champions!

Which class will win the pizza prize?

We can't wait to find out. Good luck, everyone!!



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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Race for Life – 5th June 2026

On the 5th June we are holding our annual whole school
'Race for Life' event in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Funds will be raised via our just giving page

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/the-willows-primary-nursery-school>

Children can wear traditional 'Race for Life' colours of pink
or blue, their normal P.E. kit or a decorated t-shirt.

All pupils will receive a certificate for taking part. Please ensure
your child has sun cream, sun hat and a water bottle
with them for the day.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. T Clay

Sensory and Nurture Leader – Autism Champion

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