



BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST

ASPIRATION • FAMILY • SUCCESS

PARENT & CARERS NEWSLETTER

END OF TERM EDITION

JULY 2026



ASPIRATION

We aim high and
believe in better



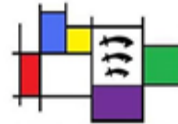
FAMILY

We care for
one another



SUCCESS

We achieve
together



*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.*

Message from CEO

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another academic year comes to an end, I would like to thank all our parents, carers, pupils, staff and governors for the support, encouragement and partnership you have shown throughout the year.

This year has brought many successes across Berlesduna Trust. Our schools continue to improve, pupil outcomes are strengthening and it is particularly encouraging to see the positive feedback we have received from our children through pupil surveys. Their responses show that they feel happy, safe and supported in our schools, which is something we are incredibly proud of.

We have also continued to invest in our school environments. Improvements to playgrounds and outdoor areas have taken place at schools including Cherry Tree, Felmore and Downham, while the new building project at Merrylands continues to make excellent progress. These developments will help provide even better learning environments for our children for years to come.

One of the highlights of the year has been welcoming Downham Primary School into Berlesduna Trust. We are delighted to have them join our family of schools and look forward to working together to provide the very best opportunities for all our pupils.

The year has also included challenges and moments when our school communities have come together to support one another. Once again, I would like to thank families for the kindness and support shown throughout the year. The strength of our schools lies in the partnership between home and school, and your support makes a tremendous difference.

Next year will be an exciting one as Berlesduna Trust celebrates its 10th anniversary on 16 October. We are proud of how far the Trust has come since its formation and grateful to everyone who has played a part in that journey.

To mark this milestone, commemorative photographs will be taken before the end of term, creating a lasting record of all the children and staff who are part of this special anniversary year.

We are also launching a special summer competition 'Design a decade of Berlesduna,' please read on for further details.

As we finish another successful year, I would like to thank our talented and dedicated staff, our supportive governors, our wonderful families and, most importantly, our fantastic children. Their enthusiasm, hard work and achievements continue to make us proud every day.

I wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer break, and I look forward to an exciting year ahead as we celebrate 10 years of Berlesduna Trust together.

SEAN TOBIN

*Our core values of “aspiration”, “family” and “success” guide us on
our journey of school improvement.*



BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST

COMPETITION! DESIGN A DECADE OF BERLESDUNA

CELEBRATING **10** YEARS OF BERLESDUNA TRUST!



Children are invited to design a poster celebrating **10 Years** of Berlesduna Trust.



Entries should be returned to school during the **first week back in September**.



One winning design will be chosen from each school. These designs will be professionally produced as posters and **featured on the Trust website** as part of our anniversary celebrations.

PRIZES



ONE WINNER
FROM EACH SCHOOL
WILL RECEIVE A

£25

VOUCHER

10
YEARS OF
BERLESDUNA

AN OVERALL
TRUST WINNER
WILL RECEIVE A

£100

VOUCHER



BE CREATIVE. CELEBRATE 10 YEARS. LEAVE YOUR MARK!



BERLESDUNA ROCK 'N' BREAK TOURNAMENT



This term, pupils from across the Berlesduna Academy Trust put their multiplication skills to the test by taking part in our **Times Tables Rock Stars Rock 'n' Break Tournament**.

This competition challenged children to answer as many multiplication questions as they could with speed and accuracy, helping to develop their confidence, fluency and recall of times tables in a fun and engaging way. Throughout the tournament, pupils showed fantastic determination, resilience and enthusiasm as they competed against children from across our Trust schools.



**WELL DONE
TO EVERY
PUPIL WHO
TOOK PART!**

WHETHER YOU
FINISHED AT THE TOP
OF THE LEADERBOARD
OR SIMPLY CHALLENGED
YOURSELF TO IMPROVE,
YOU SHOULD ALL BE
INCREDIBLY PROUD
OF YOUR EFFORTS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
★ **CHAMPIONS!** ★



**WHITMORE
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

OVERALL BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST
ROCK 'N' BREAK
CHAMPIONS!

An outstanding team performance!

★ OUR TOP INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS ★



TRUST CHAMPION!
RAPHAEL

Year 4, Maple Class, Whitmore



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES!
WIKTOR

Year 3, Birch Class, Whitmore



AYESHA

Year 4, Sea Otters Class, Fairhouse



The Rock 'n' Break Tournament is a brilliant example of how learning can be both **exciting and competitive**, encouraging pupils to strengthen their mathematical skills while having fun. It also provides another fantastic opportunity for children from across our Trust schools to **come together, represent their school with pride and celebrate each other's achievements**.

★ **WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING AS MANY PUPILS AS
POSSIBLE TAKE PART IN THE NEXT COMPETITION THAT
WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.
FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SHARED BY YOUR SCHOOL.**





BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST

Teamwork | Aspiration | Together



TRUST SPORTING EVENTS



A Fantastic Term of Teamwork, Talent and Trust Collaboration

This term has been another fantastic one for our Trust-wide sporting events, bringing together pupils from across all our schools to compete, collaborate and celebrate success together.



TRUST ORIENTEERING CHALLENGE

Our first event was the Trust Orienteering Challenge, where six pupils from each school were placed into mixed teams with children from other schools across the Trust. Working together, pupils navigated a course, solved clues and raced to be the first team across the finish line. The event was a wonderful example of teamwork, communication and problem-solving, with new friendships formed along the way. Every participant received a certificate to recognise their achievement, while medals were presented to the teams finishing in first, second and third place.



TRUST FOOTBALL & NETBALL TOURNAMENT

The excitement continued with our annual Trust Football and Netball Tournament, where pupils proudly represented their schools in three competitions: Mixed Football, Girls' Football and Netball. The standard of play was outstanding, with excellent sportsmanship, determination and teamwork demonstrated throughout the day.

Congratulations to this year's champions:

**NETBALL
CHAMPIONS:
WHITMORE**

**MIXED FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONS:
ST NICHOLAS**

**GIRLS' FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONS:
WILLOWS**



These events are about so much more than winning trophies. They provide valuable opportunities for pupils from across the Berlesduna Academy Trust to meet one another, build friendships, develop confidence and proudly represent their schools. Seeing children encourage one another, work together and celebrate each other's achievements truly reflects the values we strive to promote across our Trust.



A huge thank you to all the staff who organised and supported these events, and to every pupil who took part with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship.



We are delighted that our programme of Trust competitions and events will continue next year, and we look forward to creating even more memorable experiences for our pupils.



They are always a highlight of the school calendar, and judging by the smiles, laughter and determination on display, the children enjoy every minute!



TRUST SWIMMING GALA

Our final sporting event of the year was the eagerly anticipated Trust Swimming Gala. Pupils competed in a variety of races, including Front Crawl, Breaststroke, Backstroke and exciting Relay events. Every swimmer gave their best, creating a fantastic atmosphere of encouragement and friendly competition.

Congratulations to our swimming winners:

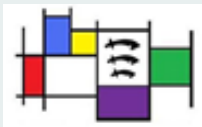
**LOWER KEY STAGE 2
CHAMPIONS:
WILLOWS**

**UPPER KEY STAGE 2
CHAMPIONS:
WHITMORE**

**OVERALL TRUST
SWIMMING CHAMPIONS:
WILLOWS**



♥ *Teamwork in action. Memories that last. Futures in the making.* ♥



Felmore Primary School Vision:

Felmore Primary School (a proud member of Berlesduna Academy Trust) is an inspirational and positive learning environment for all, which provides exceptional educational opportunities.

It is a place where self-belief and respect empower motivated learners to successfully navigate their present and future worlds.



WE HAVE HAD A BUSY TERM AT FELMORE!

Proud Moments
Happy
Memories
Bright
Futures

Here is a snapshot of some of the things that we have all enjoyed...



VR WORKSHOP

The History VR workshops generated a real buzz around learning. It was such a positive learning experience. The children really enjoyed themselves.



TRUST EVENTS - FOOTBALL, NETBALL & SWIMMING

We enjoyed participating in the Trust challenge and competition events this term and are proud of the fantastic sportsmanship, positivity and resilience shown by our pupils.

- The boys' football team were just pipped at the post, finishing in fourth place and narrowly missing out on a medal.
- The girls' football team enjoyed a fantastic tournament and secured a well-deserved bronze medal.
- Our swimming team had a very successful day, bringing home an impressive five medals!



SCHOOL CHOIR

The choir's performance at the Towngate Theatre was incredible. We are so proud of them as they sang their hearts out. A special mention goes to Jess in Yr6 who sang a solo so beautifully.



CYNOPHOBIA DOG TEAM

Year 4 had an excellent in school visit from the Cynophobia dog team who brought a range of dogs in to support the children's learning in science on animals.



SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Short story Competition winners! Congratulations to our Short Story Competition winners, Aurora (Year 6), Sochi (Year 6), Tiara (Year 4), Bella (Year 2), Charlie R (Year 1) and to all of the children who took part. Their creativity, dedication, and hard work shone through in every submission, making this year's competition a wonderful celebration of storytelling. We are delighted to recognise the achievements of our winners, whose imagination and talent captivated the judges. We are proud of everyone who entered and shared their unique ideas.



MEET THE POLICE COMMISSIONER

A group of our Year 4 pupils had a fantastic experience at Southend with Essex Police. They experienced and met a whole range of different police departments including: the dog team, the drone team and local policing units.



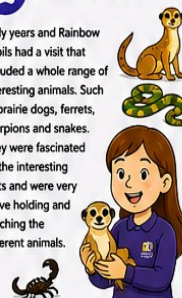
YEAR 6 POST SATs ACTIVITIES

As our amazing Year 6 come to the end of their primary school education, they have been taking part in a range of activities and experiences. These include: Roof of Residential, a picnic in the park, DT challenges, swimming and bowling, a trip to Southend Adventure Island and transition days at their new schools.



MOBILE ZOO

Early years and Rainbow Pupils had a visit that included a whole range of interesting animals. Such as prairie dogs, ferrets, scorpions and snakes. They were fascinated by the interesting facts and were very brave holding and touching the different animals.



DISTRICT SPORTS

Children from across Key Stage 2 represented the school at District Sports. The staff at Basildon Sporting Village singled Felmore out for praise regarding their excellent behaviour and manners throughout the Year 5 and 6 events - the best of all the schools who attended. We are so proud of them.



THANK YOU MR JONES

Mr Jones prepares to leave us at the end of term to take up a new position within the Trust, we want to thank him for his dedication, support, and commitment to our school community. He has made a lasting difference to the lives of our pupils and staff, and while we will miss him greatly, we wish him every success and happiness in his new role. He will always be a valued part of our school family.



THANK YOU MISS BROOKER

As Miss Brooker leaves us at the end of term, we would like to thank her for all she has contributed to our school community. We wish her every happiness and success as she begins her next chapter and know she has a bright future ahead.



WELCOME MRS PALMER & MRS GOODACRE

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Palmer and Mrs Goodacre to our school community. We are excited to have them join our team and look forward to the knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm they will bring. We hope they enjoy a happy and successful start with us and wish them every success in their new roles.



WELCOME BACK MRS BROMHEAD

We welcome back Mrs Bromhead as Deputy Head and SENCo following her maternity leave. We missed her and look forward to having her back with us on Team Felmore.



MRS SWAINBANK

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Miss Swainbank, whose kindness, compassion, and dedication touched the lives of so many. She was a caring and inspiring teacher who always put the children at the heart of everything she did, and her warmth and gentle nature will be remembered fondly by pupils, staff and families alike. Our thoughts remain with her family and loved ones.



Thank you to our amazing pupils, staff, parents and families for a fantastic term!



HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!



WHAT A FANTASTIC TERM!

Here's a look at some of the amazing things we've been up to...



SAILING ADVENTURES!

We recently upcycled a sailing boat, to add to our new playground equipment. Children have enjoyed sailing the seven seas and hoisting the sails. Don't worry - we will be keeping a close eye out for pirates!



ROCKSTEADY



Miss Bush organised for Rocksteady to come to school. We were treated to some live music and the children and teachers were able to join in!

OUR NEW PLAYGROUNDS OPENED BY THE MAYOR!

Our new playgrounds were opened by the Mayor of Basildon! The children enjoyed watching them being installed, and are thoroughly enjoying playing on them!



SPORTS DAY - A ROARING SUCCESS!

We trialled a new sports day here at Cherry Tree which was a roaring success - the classic 'egg and spoon' race features, as well as the 'sack'.



READ ALOUD COMPETITION

We entered a national read aloud competition and reached the top 5 out of 717 schools that took part. This event is not over yet and we ask children to keep reading over the summer!



We say goodbye to Mrs Cory - our AHT SENCO, who is leaving us to start a new exciting journey leading SEN at a new special school provision. We also say goodbye to teachers: Miss Jones and Miss Simpson: we wish them luck in their future endeavours.



SUMMER FETE FUNDRAISER

The PTA organised the summer fete for families - which was a fantastic event. This was to raise money for our new computing suite which will be fitted over the summer!



THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL PUPILS, STAFF, PARENTS AND FAMILIES



Have a safe and happy summer!



Cherry Tree Visions and Values:

Ambition, Honesty, Kindness and Respect

At Cherry Tree our school aims are that our school will be a place which:
Provides a happy, secure, environment in which everyone thrives.
Prepares our children to be successful, lifelong learners who feel able to achieve their potential.

Develops our children's emotional well-being so that they have a sense of pride in themselves, their peers, their learning and our school.

Widens our children's horizons with a broad curriculum and a range of activities and opportunities. Cares for the feelings and beliefs of others, promotes good manners, courtesy and self-discipline at all times.

Supports our children on their journeys to becoming resilient and responsible citizens with a strong moral purpose.

Works in partnership with our families, developing positive links with our local community and the wider world.

We summarise our aims and our vision in our mission statement:
Ambition, Honesty, Kindness and Respect



Fairhouse Aims, Values and Ethos

**Courage
Responsibility
Respect
Kindness**

Our aim is to work together to inspire every child to reach their full potential in a safe, happy, caring and committed environment and to make a positive difference to the lives of each and every one of our pupils, both academically and personally. We are ambitious, passionate and determined to achieve success in every aspect of school life. The staff, the governing body and the Trust work together to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all our pupils, regardless of their social, cultural or economic background.



WHAT A WONDERFUL TERM!

Here's a look at some of the amazing things we've been up to...

MINI MARATHON

In April, Fairhouse pupils took part on their own mini marathon held at school. Children demonstrated great perseverance and determination in completed many laps of the large field.



FRIENDSHIP FRIDAYS

Summer term at Fairhouse brings the return of "Friendship Fridays" where all pupils get to play together on the field and in the sandpits. This is a great way for our younger and older pupils to mix, to interact, to build friendships and support one another. The children absolutely love our friendship Fridays and they are always very successful.



PUBLISHED AUTHORS!

This term, many of our children from year 2 to year 6 became published authors. After submitting their short sagas to the Young Writers competition, they were nationally selected for publication in the 'The Adventures of...' book. We are incredibly proud of this fantastic achievement and delighted to celebrate the creativity, imagination and dedication shown by our pupils throughout the process. From carefully planning and writing their stories to eagerly awaiting the arrival of the finished books, the children have shown great enthusiasm and perseverance. Congratulations to all our published authors at Fairhouse Primary School!



EUROVISION DAY

Fairhouse Primary ran their very first "Eurovision Day" on 15th May. Pupils were able to 'travel' around the world and learn about the culture and traditions of different countries, including Austria, Bulgaria, Spain and even New Zealand. Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of engaging activities, from learning to yodel to line dancing, and were each given their very own passport to use on their journey. Please ask your child about their day and see what they can tell you about the country they visited...we are sure they will have lots to share! It really has been a wonderful day and great fun has been had by all!



ASPIRATIONS WEEK

Fairhouse ran a very successful aspirations week on week beginning 15th June. They had talks and visits from a range of professionals and other adults with interesting hobbies such as: a GB gymnast (Courtney Tulloch), a plasterer, HR consultants, paramedics, speech therapists, physiotherapists, AI specialists, mechanics and even an MP. The children loved the experience and we had lots of children inspired to think about their future pathways.



AMAZING TRIPS!

Across school, all year groups have taken part in a visit or trip this term. These visits ranged from Barleylands, Call of the Wild, Hever Castle, Colchester Castle, The Horniman Museum, Lambourne End Farm to a 3 day residential at Danbury. Year 6 had a wonderful 3 days at Danbury outdoor activity centre taking part in adventurous activity and many hours of "slip and slide" in the very hot weather!



BOUNCE EVENT

On Friday 3rd July, Fairhouse held it's annual "Bounce Event", bringing together our local community in a fun and enjoyable way. A HUGE thank you to Miss Baldock for her hours of planning, preparation and liaising with the local community to make this happen. And a big thank you to staff for running this and to parents and carers for coming along to make it such a success. All monies raised go straight back to the pupils in school!



PARENT ASSEMBLIES

All our year groups have put on (or are putting on) parent assemblies this term to demonstrate some of the wonderful learning they have done this year. This is a great way to show off to parents all that they have learned and remembered and for our children to develop confidence and presenting skills. We hope parents enjoyed these assemblies as much as the children did.



THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL PUPILS, STAFF, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY

Have a safe and happy summer!



ST NICHOLAS
CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHAT A FANTASTIC TERM!

Here's a look at some of the amazing things our pupils have been up to...



Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 worked hard rehearsing and performing the yearly Junior Music Festival Event at The Cliff's Pavilion along side other pupils from schools across the district.



Year 6 pupils participated in Bikeability to learn essential life skills, build road confidence and cycle safety.



Year 1, 2 & 3 had a fantastic time at Thorndon Country Park. Year 3 travelled back roughly 2.6 million years to live as Stone Age people by making a den for shelter, which was then tested for water proofing and years 1 & 2 explored habitats. They searched for minibeasts and found a wide variety of different kinds.



Year 4 enjoyed the day at Colchester castle by undertaking a gallery trail which helped them explore exciting Iron Age and Roman artefacts.



Years 5 & Year 6 went to visit Bhaktivedanta Manor, which is a spiritual sanctuary with plentiful gardens, an organic farm with protected farms. Pupils enjoyed the whole experience, learning about their culture, foods and animals.



Year 6 Pupils spent the week at Danbury Residential with Canewdon Primary School.

They had a fantastic time developing their social, independence and group skills by participating in a vast number of exhilarating outdoor activities, i.e. archery, abseiling, zip wire, water sports and many more.



The whole school had fun sessions on basic first aid training.

St Nicholas Primary would like to thank an anonymous grandparent of the school, who made a donation to enable us to book Little Legs First Aid training so our children can build lifesaving skills, boost their confidence and keep them safe.



WE PERFORMED
We sing, play and shine!



WE STAY SAFE
Building confidence on wheels!



WE EXPLORE
Learning beyond the classroom!



WE DISCOVER
Our past brings learning to life!



WE CELEBRATE
Different cultures, rich experiences!



WE ADVENTURE
Challenging ourselves, growing together!



WE CARE
Lifesaving skills for lifelong safety!



We're so proud of all our pupils – well done everyone!



LOVE • LEARN • ACHIEVE • TOGETHER IN FAITH



St Nicholas Core Values

Our school community identified three core, Christian, values that we believe should underpin every aspect of our work, play and relationships. They are at the heart of everything we do and our commitment to providing the very best for the pupils in our care.

Our Core Values are:

Respect:

Every member of our school community aims to demonstrate politeness, honour and care towards others, ourselves, the environment and our world.

Responsibility:

Every member of our community aims to demonstrate good judgement and the ability to act correctly and make decisions on our own. We try to understand and demonstrate our understanding of the fact that actions have consequences.

Integrity:

Every member of our school community aims to consistently demonstrate honesty and tries hard to do what is morally right. We tell the truth, own up to our mistakes and we know the importance of giving praise and receiving praise.



The Willows Core Values

OUR CORE VALUES:

**RESPECT,
RESPONSIBILITY,
COURAGE,
HOPE,
JUSTICE,
COMPASSION,
INTEGRITY,
WISDOM**

At The Willows, we are proud of our friendly and family atmosphere where we get to know each child whilst fostering a sense of community responsibility.

Our school values underpin everything we do, providing a safe, supportive and encouraging environment in which we recognise each unique individual. We set high standards of achievement and behaviour whilst ensuring that the children's school days are enjoyable.



The Willows Primary School

In no particular order!

Willows had very successful Berlesduna Summer competitions. Our girls won the girl' football competition, the boys came second and the netballers came third. In the swimming gala, the Year 3/4 team came first and the 5/6 team came third. Willows won the overall competition.



The PTA have gone from strength to strength this year, raising a substantial amount and hosting many events, including Fathers' and Mothes' day sales, non uniform days and finishing with Willows' first Summer Fete for over a decade.



We hosted our annual Race for Life in June where we raised over £2000 for cancer charities.



We had a huge attendance for our sports days, welcoming over 1300 parents and carers to see everyone from Nursery to Year 6.



Finally, we broke our record for work experience students. We welcomed 38 students from all over south Essex including many former pupils.



Siobhan Horrobin is leaving us to start her new journey as a trainee teacher.



Thank you to our amazing school community for making this such a fantastic year!



CANEWDON

CofE Primary School

NEWSLETTER



The summer term has been extremely busy.

We started off the term with assemblies from outside agencies. In April, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service gave a talk to our Year 6 students. The topic was 'Respect'.



In May our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 classes had an assembly which was led by a UK Parliament Outreach Officer. She spoke about how laws are made and the role of the UK Parliament.



On a sporting note – girls from Year 3 and Year 4 attended a Girls Football Festival which was held at a local secondary school. Here they learnt new techniques and practised their football skills.



We are very lucky to have a superb Forest School at Canewdon. This term the children welcomed Councillor Danielle Belton to join them at a Forest School session where she made Bannock bread over the fire with our Year 5 children.



We also had Saffron Severn, a team GB gymnast visit the school. Each class had a fun fitness circuit run by the athlete, followed by a whole school inspirational assembly and questions and answers session.



Canewdon joined in with 'Musical Mondays'. In May we tuned into a 'live' performance by former royal harpist Alice Huws, who played at the King's coronation and in June our KS2 children enjoyed an on-line workshop presented by the Royal Opera House.

Staying with the musical theme, our KS2 children in the school choir sang beautifully at the annual Junior Music Festival at the Cliffs Pavilion.



Unfortunately a couple of events were cancelled due to the extreme hot weather but we would like to mention how very proud we are of the SSP Youth Broad students who were trained to help out with the running and organisation of the KS1 Summer Games which should have been held on one of the hottest days of the year.



The selected pupils from the Berlesduna Trust Football and Netball Tournament played extremely well against the other schools in the trust. A student in our football team was awarded 'Best Goalkeeper' of the day.



Our Year 6 children are currently enjoying their residential trip to Danbury along with our federated school St Nicholas. We have heard that they have been canoeing, climbing and making campfires and having a brilliant time.

Our Year 4 students will be having a 'sleepover' at the school next week and our Year 6 will be visiting Adventure Island for their last school trip at Canewdon Primary School. We are looking forward to the Year 6 leavers service and production and we wish them all the very best of luck as they start their secondary schools in September.



LEARNING TOGETHER ★ GROWING TOGETHER ★ SUCCEEDING TOGETHER



Canewdon Core Values

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Crays Hill Vision, Aims and Values

*Learning, safety and
respect for all.*

Our Aims

For children to operate as
independent learners and
thinkers

To inspire a love for
learning

To provide a relevant
curriculum for all

For children to value
themselves

To foster a sense of
belonging to a community

Our Values

Respect for ourselves and
others

Respect for property

Truthfulness

Responsibility for own
actions

Being polite and
considerate

No bad language

No bullying

No racism

CRAYS HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER

As we come to the end of another successful school year, we would like to celebrate the many achievements, experiences and memorable moments enjoyed by our pupils throughout the summer term.

Across the school, children have embraced new challenges, developed their knowledge and skills, and demonstrated our school values of Learning, Safety and Respect for All. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and would like to thank our families for their continued support throughout the year.



Dolphins Class (Year 6)

As we prepare to say goodbye to our fantastic Year 6 pupils, we have been reflecting on their many successes and achievements this term.

Music

Working with Charlotte from the Essex Music Service, pupils have been learning to play the Toots. They can now confidently play a range of notes, create melodies and even compose their own tunes. Their progress and enthusiasm have been excellent.



Geography

As part of our 'Farms and Factories' topic, pupils attended the Essex Food and Farming Festival. They learned about where food comes from, explored the importance of sustainability and discovered more about farming within our local area.



Science

Our science learning focused on the circulatory system and healthy lifestyles. A highlight of the term was a visit from Dr Jo, who led a hands-on lamb's heart dissection. This fascinating experience allowed pupils to explore the structure and function of the heart in greater detail and brought their learning to life.



As they prepare for the next stage of their education, we wish all of our Year 6 pupils every success and happiness in secondary school. We are incredibly proud of them and all they have achieved during their time at Crays Hill Primary School.

Turtles Class (Years 4 & 5)

The summer term has been full of fun, curiosity and teamwork in Turtles Class.

PE

Pupils developed their skills in rounders and athletics, demonstrating perseverance, teamwork and determination. They enjoyed challenging themselves while building confidence and sportsmanship.



History

Children explored the history of Crays Hill and learned about life during World War II. They enjoyed discovering how their local area has changed over time and developed a deeper understanding of the past.



Religious Education

In RE, pupils learned about Hinduism and explored the significance of different Hindu gods and beliefs. They approached the topic thoughtfully and respectfully, demonstrating excellent understanding and curiosity.



Jellyfish Class (Years 3 & 4)

Jellyfish Class have enjoyed a busy and exciting summer term with lots of engaging learning opportunities.

History

Pupils have been learning about Victorian children and what life was like during the Victorian era. One of the highlights was spending an afternoon experiencing a Victorian-style classroom. Children even created their own Victorian names inspired by historical figures and compared modern schooling with Victorian education.



Science

In Science, pupils have been investigating forces and magnets through a range of practical experiments. Working collaboratively in teams, they used marbles, toy cars, magnets and different materials to make predictions, test ideas and evaluate their findings.



PE

Children have been learning the rules and skills of rounders while developing teamwork, communication and resilience. They particularly enjoyed taking part in large rounders games on the school field.



Sea Horses Class (Reception/ Year 1)

The Sea Horses have enjoyed a busy and exciting term, with much of their learning based around the story Supertato.

Literacy, Art and Design Technology

Using the story as inspiration, the children created their own Supertato characters and his nemesis, the Evil Pea. They enjoyed designing and making their creations while developing their creative skills.



Fine Motor Development

To develop their fine motor skills, the children explored different ways to capture different animals. They experimented with tape, string and paper, wrapping and securing toy animals while testing out their ideas. They showed creativity, perseverance and problem-solving skills throughout these activities.



Outdoor Learning

Outside, the children have enjoyed building dens and working together as a team. They explored a range of materials and learned how to cooperate, share ideas and support one another during construction activities.



Art

The children have also worked with two visiting artists this term, developing their painting and creative skills.



Healthy Living

We were very lucky to welcome Ms Payne's bearded dragon, Dizzy, into school. This visit supported the children's learning about caring for animals and gave them the opportunity to learn more about Dizzy and his needs. Seahorses have also been learning about plants and how we can care for our environment by looking after plants grow and discussing what living things need to stay healthy.



Healthy Eating

The children have also been learning about healthy lifestyles, including the benefits of eating fish as part of a balanced diet. To finish their healthy eating topic, they made their own potato salad, developing their cooking skills while having lots of fun. They explored a range of techniques and produced some fantastic artwork.



Whole School Celebration

Well done to all pupils for their hard work and effort this term. We are proud of the progress they have made and the positive attitudes they show every day.

Throughout the year, our pupils have continued to demonstrate our school values of:

- **Learning** – trying their best and developing new skills.
- **Safety** – making sensible choices and looking after themselves and others.
- **Respect for All** – showing kindness, good manners and consideration for everyone in our school community.



Joshua Signs for Ipswich Town FC Youth Academy



Congratulations to Joshua in Year 3, who has been successfully signed to Ipswich Town FC's youth academy – a tremendous achievement that we're incredibly proud of!

During his time at the school, Joshua has shown both a commitment to all of the sport that he takes part in and also the academic side of his learning. His dedication, hard work and talent have clearly paid off, and this exciting opportunity is well deserved. A big well done and good luck, Joshua – we'll all be cheering you on!



Thank You, Mrs Kemp



After 10 years of leadership at Whitmore Primary School – serving as Headteacher and later Executive Headteacher – Mrs Kemp will be retiring at the end of this term.

Throughout her time at Whitmore, Mrs Kemp has been deeply committed to providing children with the highest levels of pastoral provision – ensuring every child feels supported, valued and safe – alongside academic rigour, maintaining high expectations and excellent outcomes for all pupils.

Mrs Kemp's impact has extended far beyond our school gates. She has generously supported other schools within the Trust across numerous areas, sharing her expertise and helping to raise standards across our wider community.

♥ From everyone at Whitmore Primary School: ♥
Thank you, Mrs Kemp!

Your leadership and unwavering commitment to our children and staff have left a lasting legacy. We wish you a very happy and well-deserved retirement.



Whitmore Core Values

Honesty
Perseverance
Respect
Positivity
Friendship

At the heart of our school community is the well-being and education of all of our pupils.

We are passionate about providing quality experiences and maximising knowledge, skill and enjoyment for the children from our curriculum.

We strive to ensure that all children are making good progress, whatever their starting point.



Merrylands

School Values and Ethos

Growth Through Learning

At Merrylands Primary School and Nursery, we believe passionately in the importance of recognising every child as a unique individual.

We nurture the growth of the whole child academically, socially, emotionally, morally and physically, celebrating all achievements in a safe, caring and creative environment.

We believe a happy child will be a successful child and work to ensure every child enjoys school and achieves.

The Core Values at Merrylands underpin all that we believe in:

- Respect
- Kindness
- Perseverance



MERRYLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM HIGHLIGHTS



It has been another busy and successful term at Merrylands, beginning with our St George's Day celebrations in April and culminating in our end-of-year celebrations in July. To mark St George's Day, the children dressed in red and white and took part in a wide range of engaging activities, learning more about the significance of the day. Each class produced a fantastic dragon themed piece of art work as well as completing literacy-based tasks during the day.



In April, the KS2 choir performed at the Towngate Theatre alongside six other Basildon schools as part of the Basildon Music Festival. They gave a fantastic performance and should be very proud of their achievement.



In May, all the children took part in the 2026 Mini Marathon. This fantastic event showcased their enthusiasm, resilience and team spirit and also helped raise money for the school.



At the end of Summer Term 1, the children took part in engaging Wild About Maths workshops to celebrate National Numeracy Day, helping to bring mathematics to life in fun and meaningful ways.



In June, our Eco-Warriors joined forces with The Laindon Wombles to take part in a litter-picking session at Worthing Park. They worked together with great enthusiasm to clean up the area, collecting a significant amount of rubbish. As well as improving the appearance of the park, the group also took time to observe the space carefully and considered how it could be better maintained in the future.



Children across the school have participated in a wide range of sporting events this term, including pentathlon, cricket and District Sports, as well as the Berlesduna Trust orienteering competition, netball and football competitions, and a swimming gala. A number of medals were achieved, and we are incredibly proud of all those who took part.



This term, we were also delighted to welcome Strider as part of the WOW Walking to School scheme, reinforcing the importance of active travel and healthy lifestyles. The children have continued to record their journeys to school and have achieved awards for their efforts.



After an action-packed term, we hope all our families enjoy a well-deserved and relaxing summer break.



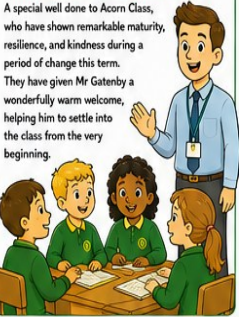
St Mary's CofE Primary School

Growing together in Faith, Learning and Love



Acorn Class Welcomed a new Class Teacher – Mr Gatenby

A special well done to Acorn Class, who have shown remarkable maturity, resilience, and kindness during a period of change this term. They have given Mr Gatenby a wonderfully warm welcome, helping him to settle into the class from the very beginning.



Earth Day Celebrations

The children enjoyed celebrating Earth Day by taking part in a range of activities that helped them learn about the importance of caring for our planet. Throughout the day, they explored ways we can make a positive difference to the environment, from protecting wildlife to reducing waste and looking after our local surroundings.



Oak Class Residential – Year 5 and 6

Our Year 5 and Year 6 Residential Trip to Essex Outdoors was a fantastic success and a real highlight of the term. Throughout their stay, the children challenged themselves by taking part in a wide range of exciting outdoor activities, developing their confidence, resilience, and teamwork along the way.



Trust Orienteering Competition

Well done to Phoebe, Harrison, Jesse, Adeline, Amelia and River who represented our school at the Trust Orienteering Competition this term. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their map-reading, navigation, and problem-solving skills while working together in a fun and challenging outdoor environment.



Acorn Class Trip to Call of the Wild

Acorn Class had a fantastic day on their visit to Call of the Wild Zoo, where they enjoyed an exciting opportunity to learn about a wide variety of animals and their habitats. The trip brought their classroom learning to life, allowing the children to observe the animals up close and discover fascinating facts about how they live and how we can help protect wildlife.



Year 6 SATs

A huge congratulations to our Year 6 children for the fantastic way they approached and completed their SATs this term. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, determination, and positive attitude they demonstrated throughout the assessment period. Well done, Year 6! You have been wonderful role models, and we look forward to celebrating all that you achieve as you prepare for the next exciting chapter of your education.



Caught you Caring

This term, we were delighted to launch our new 'Caught You Caring' initiative, celebrating the many acts of kindness, thoughtfulness, and compassion that take place across our school every day.



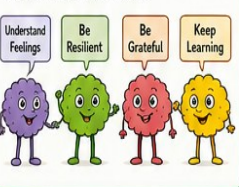
Young Carers Assembly

We were delighted to welcome Susan from Young Carers to our school, where she delivered an engaging and informative assembly to our pupils. During the assembly, Susan explained what it means to be a young carer and highlighted the important role that many children and young people play in supporting family members at home. She helped pupils understand the challenges that some young carers may face while it is available.



Introduction of the My Happy Mind Programme

My Happy Mind is embedded into everyday school life through regular lessons, class discussions and practical activities. Children are taught simple, age-appropriate strategies to help them understand their emotions, build resilience and develop positive relationships. The programme encourages pupils to reflect on their strengths, practice gratitude, manage challenges and develop a growth mindset. By using this constant positive and wellbeing across the school, My Happy Mind helps create a positive and supportive environment where children can flourish both academically and emotionally.



Great Athlete Visit – Alice Sharpe

We were thrilled to welcome Alice Sharpe, Olympic cyclist, to our school through the Great Athletes programme.

Alice delivered an inspiring and energetic assembly, sharing her journey to becoming an elite athlete. She spoke about the importance of determination, resilience, setting goals, and never giving up, encouraging our pupils to believe in themselves and work hard to achieve their ambitions.



Trust Netball Competition

Ivy, Eve, Olivia, Sophie, Francesca, Amelia, Dolly, Adeline, Norah-Rose and Harmony proudly represented St Mary's School at the Trust Netball Tournament. Their commitment and dedication during training certainly paid off, as they won their opening match and demonstrated excellent teamwork throughout the competition. The girls should be extremely proud of their achievements. Not only did they perform brilliantly on the court, but they also represented our school and our school values wonderfully, showing determination, respect, encouragement, and sportsmanship at all times.



Summer Reading Challenge – SWF Library

We were delighted to welcome Sally from South Woodham Ferrers Library, who visited our school to introduce this year's Summer Reading Challenge to the children. During their visit, they shared information about the exciting challenge and encouraged everyone to keep reading throughout the summer holidays.



Chestnut Class Trip to Writtle College Food and Farming Event

Chestnut Class enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to the Food and Farming Day at Writtle College, where they spent the day exploring the fascinating world of farming and food production.



Trust Swimming Gala

A huge congratulations to Cass, Eva, Ivy, Harry, Albie and Olive from Oak Class who proudly represented our school at the Trust Swimming Gala this week. Every one of them demonstrated fantastic determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the competition. They returned with a wonderful collection of medals, and we are incredibly proud to share that our team achieved an impressive 4th place overall across the relay and Year 5/6 events. What a fantastic achievement—well done to you all!



Band Performance Showcase

We were delighted to invite parents and families to a special band performance, where the children who have been taking band lessons had the opportunity to showcase the musical skills they have developed throughout the year.

We could not be prouder of the children's musical achievements or the caring and compassionate way they supported one another. Well done to every performer for a fantastic concert, and thank you to our families for coming along to celebrate their success.



Year 6 Bikeability Sessions

A huge congratulations to our Year 6 pupils, who have successfully completed their Bikeability training with flying colours!



At St Mary's CofE Primary School,
We believe, we achieve,
we succeed in God's family.



Welcoming our new EYFS Intake

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new EYFS children and their families into school for their welcome sessions. The children enjoyed exploring their new environment, meeting staff, and taking part in a taster Forest School session, where they embraced the opportunity to learn and play outdoors.

We would like to thank all of our new families for joining us, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for our upcoming settling-in session, where the children will have another opportunity to become familiar with their new surroundings and continue making connections before the start of the school year.



St Marys Core Values

Vision, Ethos and Values

'We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family.'

Thankfulness
Compassion
Community
Truthfulness
Courage
Forgiveness

St. Mary's C of E Primary School is a fully inclusive, caring school where all of God's children are welcomed, a place where pupils have access to a broad, balanced and bespoke curriculum. We aim to foster an environment of success where all children are offered opportunities to celebrate success, raise aspirations and develop their own character. Together we will build courageous, kind and thoughtful citizens of the future. Our vision is to provide children with a love of learning, social competence and the best possible tools to succeed personally, academically, spiritually, morally and socially in a fast paced, ever changing and technological 21st Century world. The caring, Christian ethos of the school is firmly based on our six core values which remind us all that we must consistently strive to achieve and exceed our potential.



Downham Values and Ethos

Care Consideration Courtesy

We **CARE** about each other as members of our school community and the world around us. We want to show God's love to everyone.

We **CONSIDER** our future and prepare for it today. We do our best. When we make mistakes, we take responsibility and try again. We know that God has good plans for us.

We show **COURTESY** to everyone. We are all made in God's image, unique but equal. We treat each other with respect.

Children are taught about the **24 different character strengths** that make up their personality. They understand that we all possess these strengths, but in different degrees, resulting in a truly unique character strength profile.

These character strengths have been carefully aligned with our school values "care, consideration and courtesy" and are recognised as part of our weekly celebration assembly



DOWNHAM CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM HIGHLIGHTS

What an absolutely incredible term it has been! Our school community has been buzzing with energy, creativity, and achievement over the last few months. We kicked things off in style with the grand opening of our brand-new playgrounds and table tennis table, providing fantastic new spaces for our pupils to stay active.



Our children truly shone on the grand stages this term: our Year 4s demonstrated incredible eloquence at the Mighty Oak Public Speaking Competition at Anglia Ruskin University, our young musicians blew us away at both the Junior Music Festival and our own musical instrument concert to parents, and our Samba Drumming Workshops brought an unforgettable rhythm to the school.



We also celebrated our community spirit with some wonderfully joyful events, including a vibrant Eurovision Celebration Day, lovely EYFS Stay and Play sessions, and delightful Teddy Bears Picnics for both EYFS and Year .



Adventure and active learning were at the heart of this term's success. Pupils pushed their boundaries during an action-packed Sports Week—which featured archery and dance workshops, a thrilling World Cup competition, and our traditional house games—as well as making waves at the TCS Mini-London Marathon, the BAT Orienteering competition, and the BAT Swimming Gala.



The fun extended well beyond the school gates, too! Year 1 enjoyed a sun-soaked trip to Southend Beach and Sealife Adventure, Year 2 brought immense energy to the Mini-Games, and our Year 6 students made lifelong memories during their unforgettable residential trip to Bawdsey Manor.



We are also incredibly grateful for the vital safety and digital awareness guidance provided by the ECFRS Summer Safety Assemblies and The 2Johns Parent Workshop.



Of course, none of this would be possible without our amazing PTA, who brought tons of smiles to the school with the brilliantly fun 'Make The Rules Day' and the World Cup Non-Uniform Day, or our wonderful families who joined us for the Year 1 Father's Day lunch.



Finally, as the term draws to a close, we want to say a massive congratulations to our Year 6 pupils. Their hard work and talent culminated in a spectacular Year 6 Production and a beautiful Leavers Service.





We are so proud of every single student and wish all our families a wonderful, well-deserved summer break!





BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST

A fond Farewell

from all at
Berlesduna Academy Trust



As we come to the end of another successful academic year, we also take the opportunity to say a heartfelt farewell to a number of valued members of staff who will be leaving the Berlesduna Academy Trust.



We would like to thank each of them for their dedication, commitment and the positive difference they have made to the children, families and colleagues they have worked alongside. Their contributions have been greatly appreciated, and they leave with our sincere gratitude.



We wish them every success and happiness in the next chapter of their careers and life, and know they will continue to make a positive impact wherever they go and whatever they do.

Berlesduna Academy Trust



• Nina Kemp

Cherry Tree Primary School



• Mrs Cory
• Miss Jones
• Miss Simpson

Crays Hill Primary School



• Miss Avery

Downham Church of England Primary School



• Mrs Applewhite
• Mrs Pearce

Fairhouse Primary School



• Miss Whittington
• Miss S. Hamilton
• Miss Peetoom

Felmore Primary School



• Miss Brooker

Merrylands Primary School



• Miss Williams
• Miss Barnard

The Willows Primary School



• Miss Horrobin
• Mrs Zahra

Whitmore Primary School



• Miss Coupar
• Mrs Dormer
• Miss Wood

Thank you all for everything you have given to our Trust.

You will be missed by all.

We wish you the very best for the future.



TRUST VISION





BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST



WISHING ALL OF OUR



Families
A **Happy** 

SUMMER BREAK!

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We are so proud of everything our pupils have achieved.



ASPIRATION



FAMILY



SUCCESS

Whether you're making memories close to home or heading off on an adventure, we hope you all have a safe, happy and restful break.

We look forward to seeing you in the new term! 

Enjoy your summer break! 

