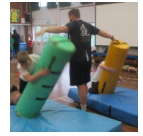


Happy Friday everyone.

It was quite a short term, but the week's break is still very welcome. Our next half term is even shorter - with only 5 weeks! I think it has rained every day this term, or so it would feel like, but it hasn't dampened the children's spirits.



- On Monday the rugby coach visited again and invited the year 4s, 5s and 6s to take part in training.



- On Wednesday, four children represented Cherry Tree Primary School in the Berlesduna Trust Spelling Bee. It was a fiercely competitive event, which ended in a sudden death round. Our KS2 children were victorious and brought back the gold medals, beating 10 other teams in the process. A huge [congratulations](#) to you and the KS1 competitors who all did a fantastic job.



- Today our reception classes have had a wonderful Knights Ball. They danced and had a fabulous day. They all looked very regal.



We are hoping to improve our playground equipment and our early years setting in the not too distant future. I have received some initial designs and will share more with you once I can.

The new values - that you voted for - will come into action next half term. Your children will be placed into one of the new houses (Honesty, Ambition, Respect, Kindness). A child from each week will be chosen to receive a value sticker in assembly for demonstrating one of these values.



As always, I ask that you are patient and keep good lines of communication with us. A reminder that if you or your child have any issue, we would ask you to meet with the class teachers in the first instance to seek a resolution.

Lastly, today we say goodbye to Mrs Barlow, who has decided that now is the time for her to look ahead to her next chapter. She has been a staple at this school for many years and been with it through its ups and downs. I have enjoyed my time working with her, and wish her all the best for the future. I know she will be greatly missed but fondly remembered. We will be operating without a Deputy Headteacher next term whilst we seek to recruit, but will have plenty of support from our Executive Headteacher (Mrs Hamilton) and the Berlesduna Trust in the meantime.

This week in Sunshine Cafe we have been enjoying our story of the week [We're Going on a Bear Hunt](#). Our children have loved our sensory trails around the Sunshine Cafe, exploring different textures. We have been working very hard in our PE sessions with Miss Rose, we have been practicing balance and control and have become much more confident with this. [We wish you all a lovely half term.](#)



This week in Nursery the children have been introduced to different customs and traditions, celebrating the Chinese New Year. We shared the story 'The Great Race' the children learnt about the animals within the Chinese zodiac, and that this year it's the year of the horse. The children took part in many activities, lantern-making, decorating their own bright coloured horse's, dragon dancing and creating repeating pattern dragons. The children also practised using chopsticks. This activity was both fun and challenging, the children demonstrated wonderful perseverance practising a new skill.

This week, year 1 have been writing their own recounts and exploring subtraction using a range of equipment. In science, we identified how we use our senses in everyday life and in history we explored how toys have changed over time. In computing, we made our own rockets and took photos with ipads and in art we created a piece of art work using colour mixing inspired by an artist.



This week in Reception we have been learning about Chinese New Year, we have learnt about the traditions around this celebration and worked out which Chinese Zodiac animal we are! The children have used different methods of attaching paper to make paper chain Dragons and enjoyed using chopsticks in the role play to pick up pompoms and noodles. We have celebrated the end of our topic and half term with the ball today - the children looked amazing in their dressing up clothes.

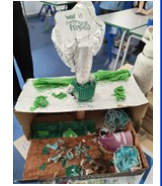


In Year 4 this week we painted our still life compositions making sure we used tint and shading to make a 3D effect. We also had a go at performance poetry and recited our chocolate poems to the class making sure we included gesture. We are continuing to practice our times tables in order to prepare for the times table assessment. Make sure you are logging into TTRS!

This week in Year 2 we created a collage in art of a wonder of a world and added detail using paint. We have been learning about money in maths for the past 2 weeks. Please practice counting money at home over half term. Next half term our topic is monarchs and we will be learning about castles.



Year 6 have enjoyed a fantastic final week of the half term. The children celebrated their Year 6 treat with a delicious "fakeaway" breakfast followed by a fun-filled quiz. There was a wonderful buzz of excitement, and everyone had a brilliant time. **Congratulations** to our quiz winners! In addition, pupils stepped back in time with their WWII learning. They designed and built impressive Anderson shelters, carefully published their wartime letters, and created striking propaganda posters. It has been a week full of creativity, enthusiasm, and excellent effort. Well done, Year 6!



Year 3 have taken part in safer internet day activities. We have taken a closer look at the benefits and risks associated with AI technology, children were able to discuss what to do if something goes wrong. We have culminated our learning about Antarctica with a story inspired by the adventures of Ernest Shackleton. Excitingly, preparations are underway for our 'Roman day' on Monday 23rd February where children are invited to dress as a Roman for the day and take part in lots of Roman inspired activities.

Year 5 this week have completed assessment work and have all tried very hard. We have conducted research about marine life being affected by pollution in geography. We have completed mixed media art this week of our own self-portrait.

I wish you a wonderful half term break.

Mr Davie  
Head of School

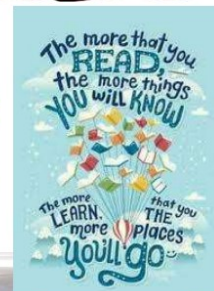
### **Important information - Term time holidays**

Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Where families choose to take a family holiday during term time, this can detrimentally impact a pupil's progress and can prevent them from fulfilling their true academic potential. Our school attendance policy, available via our school website, clearly sets out the process that parents should follow if they wish to apply for leave during term time. Please note that applications should only be made, if you feel that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the leave cannot be taken during the school holidays. We would ask all parents to note that, where families choose to go on holiday during term time and the absences are coded as unauthorised, Essex County Council may not issue penalty notices and may instead proceed straight to prosecution and place the case directly before the Magistrates for their consideration in court. If found guilty by the Magistrates, parents could face a fine of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

## Come visit our



Open every Tuesday  
in term time  
3:30pm-4:15pm!



## School Dinner Menu - Week One

23rd—27th February 2026

Monday

Sausage Roll

Vegetarian Sausage Roll

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wrap

Arctic Roll

Tuesday—*Chinese New Year*

Sweet & Sour Chicken

Sweet & Sour Quorn

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Ham Sandwich

Chocolate Brownie and Fortune Cookie

Wednesday

Roast Chicken

Quorn Roast

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Egg Mayo Wrap

Fresh Fruit Salad

Thursday

Penne Pasta in Rustic Tomato Sauce

Penne pasta in Rustic Tomato Sauce

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Sandwich

Mini Muffin

Friday

Nuggets

Vegetarian Nuggets

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Ham Wrap

Ice-Cream Pot



## Cherry Tree Weekly Attendance Table

Butterflies	86.7%
Ladybirds	85.6%
Hedgehogs	87.9%
Rabbits	92.3%
<b>Owls</b>	<b>94.5%</b>
Squirrels	90.9%
Year 3 Blue	80.4%
Year 3 Green	90.7%
Year 4 Blue	91.9%
Year 4 Green	93.7%
Year 5 Blue	96.1%
<b>Year 5 Green</b>	<b>96.2%</b>
Year 6 Blue	86.3%
Year 6 Green	93.2%

Well done to Owls in Key Stage 1 with an attendance of 94.5%.

In Key Stage 2, Year 5 Green are the highest with 96.2%

The highest attendance this week was Year 5 Green with 96.2% just beating Year 5 Blue with 96.1% - well done year 5.



## Winners this half term

### Key Stage 1

Hettie from Hedgehogs

### Key Stage 2

Oluchi from year 6 blue

Both won a bundle of stationery and sweets.

Who will it be next time??

## School Money

Please ensure you keep your School Money account in credit to cover any dinners booked for your child.

If your account accrues arrears of two meals (£4.80) or more your child **WILL NOT** be able to book any further school dinners and you **MUST** provide them with a packed lunch until the arrears are cleared.

# Shout Out Awards

Hedgehogs	Jenson T	For always listening and sharing his ideas, and for working on his presentation.
Rabbits	Alfie H	For always making the right choices, working hard and being a great role model in class.
Owls	Albie R	For working hard during reading comprehension lessons and trying his best to answer the questions.
Squirrels	Chester M	For improving his sentence structure and using different types of sentences within his writing.
Year 3 Blue	Luca C	Luca has worked incredibly hard at adjusting his attitude to learning and his instruction following. This has been noticed by a number of adults and we are impressed with his enthusiasm and his inquisitive nature.
Year 3 Green	Deogratias M	For always having an excellent attitude to learning.
Year 4 Blue	Anastasia B	For always showing a strong ambition to succeed within all subjects. She always pushes herself to produce work that is a high standard and always seeks ways to improve her work further.
Year 4 Green	Ruby M	For showing our school value of ambition by working hard on her poem in English, carefully listening to feedback and putting great effort into practising her times tables.
Year 5 Blue	Samira	For always being responsible, respectful and helpful to her peers and adults in school and being a good role model to other pupils.
Year 5 Green	Kirsty-Alice G	For showing 110% effort in all her lessons and assessments this week.
Year 6 Blue	Kyle S	For always putting in an amazing effort and he contributes his ideas in class.
Year 6 Green	Western H	For trying hard to include the features within his writing. Well done!

## Dates for your Diary 2026

Monday 16th—Friday 20th February

Half term

Monday 23rd February

Return to School

Monday 2nd March

Parent Consultations—Owls & Year 6 Blue only

Wednesday 4th March

Parent Consultations—Owls & Year 6 Blue only

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

Tuesday 10th March

Happy Days Class Photos

Tuesday 17th March

Road safety—Reception and Year 5

Wednesday 18th March

Parent Consultations

Thursday 19th March

Parent Consultations

## Half Term Attendance Results

### Key Stage 1

1st	Rabbits	93.1%
2nd	Hedgehogs	92.7%
3rd	Squirrels	92.2%
4th	Butterflies	89.2%
5th	Owls	89.1%
6th	Ladybirds	88.0%

### Key Stage 2

1st	Year 4 Green	96.5%
2nd	Year 5 Green	95.6%
3rd	Year 5 Blue	94.9%
4th	Year 6 Green	93.7%
5th	Year 3 Green	91.9%
6th	Year 4 Blue	91.2%
7th	Year 3 Blue	89.6%
8th	Year 6 Blue	86.8%

Overall percentage this half term

**91.9%**



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – DEPUTY HEADTEACHER closing date 24<sup>th</sup> February  
MERRYLANDS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 22<sup>nd</sup> February

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

## School Uniform

You can buy uniform with our logo on from My Clothing online as well as the uniform shop.

The link for My Clothing is:

<https://myclothing.com>

**20% off this weekend**

**13-15 Feb 2026**

**Code Love20**



## The digital reading log

### How it works

1.

Click on the link in the email/text from Learning with Parents

Go to site



2.

Read together with your child.

3.

Take and upload a **photo** or record an **audio clip** on Learning with Parents to **show your teacher how it went.**



If you need any support please email [hello@learningwithparents.com](mailto:hello@learningwithparents.com)



# FEBRUARY

## HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

FAIRHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL, SS14 1QP  
3 DAYS - 17<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 10:00 - 2:00

£15 PER DAY / Free council funded spaces

### Action Packed Activities

- Glow in the Dark Dodgeball
- Archery
- Axe Throwing
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Arts & Crafts
- Football




SCAN HERE



07707861027

southessex@sportscool.org

# Essex Fire Museum Open Day 2026



17th and 22nd Of February  
10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays  
RM17 5QS



**Book Now**  
Free Entry



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

**FREE**



## Creative Family Fun Day

Join Creative Basildon and Eastgate Shopping Centre on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026**, from 11am-3pm for a day of FREE creative family fun!

Enjoy crafts and performances, the unveiling of a brand-new light installation, and the launch of a two-week Owl & Cat Trail around the centre — this is a day not to be missed.

Celebrate one year since Museum of the Moon visited Basildon, inspired by the much-loved Owl & Pussycat clock.






## FREE Creative Workshops @ Pitsea Market

**Fri 20 Feb, 9am - 3.30pm**  
Market Music Making

Turn the sounds of Pitsea Market into music with exciting music tech

**Sat 21 Feb, 9am - 3.30pm**  
Upcycled Textile Making

Design and sew your own fabric artwork using reclaimed materials.