

Happy Friday Cherry Tree!

It has been an unusual week for us, with the events of Fairhouse and welcoming some extra children and staff to our school. We are all very thankful that everyone was ok, and this was due to their staff and how quickly and professionally they acted.

Please do not park on the lines outside the school. These are affecting local residents and cars are having to mount curbs to get past. We are doing our best to minimise the extra traffic at the moment. Fairhouse staff have been asked not to park near the school. We also have two entrances from Swan Mead park, if you are able to use these.

A big shout out to all the year 6 children for their practice SATS again - these are so important to help them feel comfortable and familiar with the tests, in order to try and reduce the anxiety for the real things! Keep up the amazing work!

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> school in Basildon that I have worked at. It is still such as privilege to serve your community and I can say with utter confidence, that the children here are a credit to you all.

- I like to shout out individual achievements in my celebration assemblies, so please, continue to send in medals, trophies, badges, etc for out of school successes.
- The toy donations are coming in thick and fast - thank you for your generosity here! These will be put to good use, especially by our younger children.

I am very pleased to announce that our whole school attendance has increased to 93%! This is still a way off where we want to be (96%) but does represent a lot of progress in a short space of time.

We are looking to change our core values. I have whittled it down to 10 values, and the children will be voting for their favourite four. I would love to get your views. I am asking for you to choose a maximum of four values from the list, that are important to you. You can copy this link into your browser to find the online poll

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=yePiZEOvG0ijgder1osDr2XxKhGhoc9NuVgSUKLYgK5UN1paVEVCVU8xRE9SSzO1NkJORTBSVTU5SC4u&route=shorturl>



A massive thank you for all the book donations last term. You have helped to stock our new library! This will be open to families after school from 3:30-4:15 via the doors on the KS1 playground on Tuesdays, so please feel free to pop in!



This week in nursery, we have been exploring our PSED theme 'Healthy Me'. We have been learning the importance of oral hygiene. Practicing how to clean our teeth through fun and interactive learning. Using large teeth models, songs, timers, and games.

This week, year 1 has continued to learn about place value in maths and have been making numbers to 20 using tens and ones. In English, we have written our very own information report of our favourite toy. In Science, we have been exploring our senses and the different body parts we use to taste, touch, hear, smell and see. In History, we began to ask questions about toys of the past and in PE we have enjoyed beginning our dance lessons!

This week Year 5 have been extremely busy yet again! In maths we have been practising multiplying 3 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers as well as multiplication word problems! In English, we have worked really hard to complete our newspaper report about a meteorite crashing into the ocean! In art, we completed a tricky self-portrait using tracing paper to write words across the lines. In science, we continued researching planets and the Sun in our solar system and finally in geography we learnt about the different trading that occur across the different oceans of the Earth by importing and exporting goods!

This week in Reception we have used the magic mirror to look at ourselves closely and to recognise our strengths. We also looked at our features to help us draw a self portrait. In maths we have learnt to recognise and use a tens frame. In music we discussed different action songs and had lots of fun exploring the song 'Head Shoulders, Knees and Toes' changing one of the words to sausages.

This week Year 4 learnt about their teeth in science. They identified the 4 different types of teeth and could even say what the function was. In art they applied their knowledge of tints and shades to create a 3D painting.

This week, Year 3 have been looking at the human skeleton. We have been able to discuss the role of the skeleton and learnt the anatomical names and locations of bones in our body. We are continuing to enjoy immersing ourselves in all things Antarctica and are showing excellent enthusiasm.

Year 6 has had a very busy week completing assessments, and they have done a wonderful job, giving their absolute best throughout. In addition, the children have been enjoying their French lessons, where they are learning about different modes of transport and how they travel to school.

This week in Year 2, we created our own animals by mixing the head, body, and legs of different animals to help us write our own non-chronological reports. In art, we became texture hunters and explored different objects, discussing how they felt. We then used paint and the objects to create a range of interesting textures.

Have a lovely weekend  
Mr Davie  
Head of School

## 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.

## School Dinner Menu - Week One

19th—23rd January 2026

Monday

**Sausage Roll**

Vegetarian Sausage Roll

**Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna**

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wrap

Arctic Roll

Tuesday

**Beef Bolognaise**

Vegetarian Mince Bolognaise

**Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna**

Cheese or Ham Sandwich

Chocolate Brownie

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

<b>Butterflies</b>	<b>93.9%</b>
Ladybirds	92.4%
Hedgehogs	92.5%
Rabbits	88.8%
Owls	89.0%
Squirrels	92.6%
Year 3 Blue	91.4%
Year 3 Green	91.8%
Year 4 Blue	90.6%
<b>Year 4 Green</b>	<b>93.1%</b>
Year 5 Blue	93.0%
Year 5 Green	91.6%
Year 6 Blue	90.0%
Year 6 Green	91.5%

Well done to Butterflies is Key Stage 1 with an attendance of 93.9% - second week running as the highest class.

In Key Stage 2, Year 4 Green are the highest with 93.1% this week—well done.

The highest for the school was Butterflies with 93.9%. Who will it be next week?

**Which class will get cake or brownies for reaching 100%?**

## School Dinner Chocolate Winners

The winners from each year group from those who had a School Dinner yesterday:

Reception	Ishanna R (butterflies)
Year 1	Chimaobim O (rabbits)
Year 2	A.S. (squirrels)
Year 3	Stacey C (3 blue)
Year 4	Skyler W (4 blue)
Year 5	Chase B (5 green)
Year 6	Nikol S (6 blue)



ENJOY;



# Shout Out Awards

Hedgehogs	Leo B	For an exceptional improvement in his writing this week and responding well to feedback.
Rabbits	Jeremiah N	For always trying hard and being an independent learner.
Owls	Anshara M	For huge progress in her reading and trying hard with her writing.
Squirrels	Skyla I	This week Skyla has been kind, friendly and helpful to our visitors from Fairhouse. She always tries her best in all her learning and enjoys supporting her peers to understand their learning too. A great role model to all.
Year 3 Blue	Lola R	Lola has shown excellent attitudes to learning and has continued to show kindness to others which has resulted in an improvement in the quality of work.
Year 3 Green	Ezra K	Ezra is consistently showing excellent attitudes in all aspects of learning and is kind and helpful. He has an infectious smile that is welcoming to all.
Year 4 Blue	Skyler W	For her perseverance to try her best in all lessons this week by staying in class and completing all of her work.
Year 4 Green	Noah C	For showing a fantastic attitude towards his learning, challenging himself in maths and working hard to recall his times tables.
Year 5 Blue	Aliza K	For settling in well, showing independence in her learning and always trying her best.
Year 5 Green	Fern H	She has shown great determination to becoming more independent in her maths lessons and trying extra hard to improve her presentation. Keep it up Fern!
Year 6 Blue	Jayna J	For being a wonderful role model in all she does—she works and tries hard and always puts in fantastic effort.
Year 6 Green	Felix G	Always trying his best which is leading to wonderful progress.

## Dates for your Diary 2026

### Wednesday 21st January

Year 6 height and weight checks

### Thursday 5th February

8.50am School Aged Healthy Family Drop-in session

### Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day

### Friday 13th February

Last Day of term

### Monday 16th–Friday 20th February

Half term

### Monday 23rd February

Return to School

### Tuesday 10th March

Happy Days Class Photos



**Launching Monday  
19th January 2026**  
**Details will be sent  
on Studybugs**



## **School Aged Healthy Family Drop-in sessions**

These sessions previously took place at various sites across the local area. They will now be held within schools, once per term, and we will hold ours here **at Cherry Tree** on the following dates:

**5<sup>th</sup> February – 8.50 am onwards**

**7<sup>th</sup> May – 8.50 am onwards**

You will have the opportunity to speak to a **Healthy Family Support Practitioner** about any aspect of your child's health, e.g., sleeping, eating, physical development, etc.

This is a **drop-in clinic** and there is **no need to book**.

If you do have any questions, please speak to Mrs Cory, AHT: Inclusion

## **School Uniform**

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

The link for Myclothing is:

<https://myclothing.com>

Exclusive Cherry Tree 10% discount until 31.03.2026

**Use the code MYCQ110**

## **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.

## **Online gaming safety tips**



### **What helps most in practice includes:**

- Regular, interested conversations about what children enjoy playing, who they play with, and what they notice online
- Adults showing curiosity, including watching or playing alongside children, so games are not treated as a secret or separate world
- A clear understanding of personal information, including why chats should stay about the game and when to tell an adult
- Agreed rules around spending, with children knowing when real money is involved and when permission is needed
- Reassurance that worries should be shared, including exposure to upsetting content, mean behaviour or hate-based language
- Confidence using block and report tools, so concerns can be addressed calmly and practically

Active use of safety settings, including age-appropriate controls, chat restrictions and parent account oversight



**BERLESDUNA**  
ACADEMY TRUST

### **BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES**

CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 29<sup>th</sup> January

CHERRY TREE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 5<sup>th</sup> February

MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 26<sup>th</sup> January

WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> January

WILLOWS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 21<sup>st</sup> January

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