

Happy Friday everyone.

We have had a good week for attendance so please keep this up. There is more information about this attached and on our Facebook page. This includes our duty of care to conduct home visits for children we have not seen. Some of the headlines for the week:

- We have been celebrating science week with some investigations and experiments.
- We welcomed 9 baby chicks as part of our 'eggs in school' work in early years. They are very cute and have kept plenty of us busy!
- Our 'My Futures My Basildon' theme was 'Bright Sparks'. Your children heard from several professions in this industry so please ask them about this.

It was nice to see everyone looking so smart on Tuesday for photos.

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Vickery and Miss Wood, who leave to start their maternity. We wish them all the best. Both classes will be supported by familiar adults and with supply teachers until the end of this half term. After Easter, Miss Wood's class will welcome Mr Cooper. Mrs Vickery will be taught by a long-term supply, who we are currently sourcing.

Please get involved in the Easter Hop event, run by the PTA. This is to raise money for our new computing suite. It is so important that children have the fundamental skills in computing and leave us with good digital literacy, in this modern world. The computing suite will boast 32 desktops which will make teaching ICT so much easier and more effective.

The half price book sale managed to raise £150 for the school to purchase more books for our library, so thank you for your support with this.



Inspired by our story of the week "Sam Plants a Sunflower," the children created their own colourful sunflowers using mixed media. They explored how seeds grow and expressed their ideas through textures, colours, and creative materials. Our nursery is now blooming with their beautiful artwork!

There was also extra eggcitement in Nursey this week as the children enjoyed the wonderful experience of seeing the newly hatched chicks.

This week we celebrated Science Week, and Year 6 had a fantastic time putting their scientific thinking to the test. Their challenge was to investigate the classic question: Does toast always land butter-side down? To find out, the children designed their own experiment. They dropped pieces of toast from two different heights and carefully recorded each result using a tally chart. After analysing their data, they discovered that both the height of the drop and the weight of the topping can influence how the toast lands. This sparked even more curiosity and discussion among the class. If butter makes a difference, what about other toppings? The investigation quickly led to new scientific questions: Would jam or peanut butter change the outcome? Year 6 are now eager to continue their research and see whether different spreads affect the results!

This week Year 4 took part in Science week by having a paper aeroplane race. We thought carefully about shape and aerodynamics in order to make it fly straight and far. We had a competition to see which plane would go the furthest. We also made paper helicopters and we notice that with weight at the bottom they spun. We also had our topic day! It was all about the Anglo Saxons! We made shields, practiced formations and then took part in a battle between the classes! We had the chance to act out the events of the Anglo Saxon invasion and even write messages using runes.



This week in Reception we have had a very egg-citing week! We have very much enjoyed watching the chicks hatch and ensuring that they have everything that they need. We will continue to watch them grow and notice changes next week. In maths, we have been exploring number bonds to ten, using numicon and other concrete resources. We talk about the special people in our lives and what makes them a superhero.



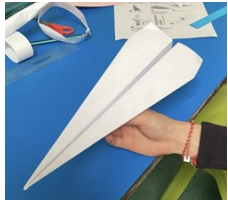
This week year 3 have been working hard in computing looking at databases. Children were introduced to the British resistance against the Romans and were able to understand the motives behind the rebellion that was organised by Boudicca and her army of 30,000 men. We have this week sent home letters to advise of our exciting school visit to Colchester castle to support our learning.



Year 5 have had a busy and exciting time in their learning! In Maths, we have been exploring percentages and how they relate to fractions and everyday problems. In English, we have been writing the dramatic prison scene from our class text, focusing on using inverted commas correctly to show speech. In History, we have been learning about the wives of Henry VIII and discovering the stories behind each marriage. In Computing, we created our own animations using Micro:Bits, developing our coding and problem-solving skills. In RE, we



learnt about the Samsara life cycle and what it means in Hindu beliefs. We also enjoyed visiting the school book fair and carried out a fun Science investigation to find out: "What's the best design for a paper aeroplane?"



This week, Year 1 have continued to explore numbers to 50 in maths and have practised counting forwards and backwards. In English, we have been planning and writing our own instructions on how to make a sandwich. In Geography, we explore compass points and used maps to describe the different places we could see. In Computing, we wrote our own instructions to guide a beebot and in DT, we learnt all about the importance of food hygiene. Finally, in PSHE, we discussed how to talk to adults around us both inside and outside of school.

This week in Sunshine Cafe we have been exploring the story "Room on the Broom". We listened to the story together, looked at the pictures, and talked about what was happening. The children also took part in sensory activities linked to the story, such as mark making, exploring themed resources, sensory trays and joining in with turn-taking games during our PSED lessons to incorporate sharing. Staff modelled and supported language such as "my turn" and "your turn" and used a visual aid, helping the children practise these important social skills. A big well done to Olivia K this week for her increased communication. She has been able to start using a 3-part sentence to request her wants and needs, by directing the adult she wants to talk to ("Miss _____ tickle please").

Have a lovely weekend

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.



<https://superkind.org/campaign/cherry-tree-pta-sponsored-easter-bunny-hopsticle-course>

School Dinner Menu - Week Two

16th—20th March

Monday

Baked Carbonara (ham)

Baked Carbonara (mushroom)

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wrap

Angel Delight

Tuesday

Chicken Quesadilla

Vegetarian Quesadilla

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Ham Sandwich

Cinnamon Cake

Wednesday

Roast Pork

Quorn Roast

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna

Cheese or Egg Mayo Wrap

Fresh Fruit Salad

Thursday

Penne Pasta with a Rustic Tomato Sauce

Penne pasta with a Rustic Tomato Sauce

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Sandwich

School Cake

Friday

Fish Fingers

Cheese and Onion Quiche

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Ham Wrap

Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Icing



Cherry Tree Weekly Attendance Table

Butterflies	96.7%
Ladybirds	92.9%
Hedgehogs	93.5%
Rabbits	93.2%
Owls	91.4%
Squirrels	90.8%
Year 3 Blue	92.3%
Year 3 Green	93.3%
Year 4 Blue	92.2%
Year 4 Green	93.0%
Year 5 Blue	97.7%
Year 5 Green	97.3%
Year 6 Blue	84.7%
Year 6 Green	96.1%

Well done to Year 5 Blue in Key Stage 2 as the highest attendance of 97.7% - well done.

In Key Stage 1 it was Butterflies with 96.7%

The highest attendance this week was Year 5 Blue with 97.7%, and Year 5 Green weren't far behind with 97.3%.

The overall school attendance was a respectable 93.1% lets see if we can get this above 96%.

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.

DIGITAL COUNCIL

Helping to ensure all our children are safe online and helping to maintain our digital devices:

3 Blue	Andy
3 Green	Ezra
4 Blue	Alfie
4 Green	Abyan
5 Blue	George
5 Green	Joseph
6 Blue	Dom
6 Green	Christian

Shout Out Awards

Butterflies	Ishana R	For working very hard to improve her handwriting, this is now very neat and well formed. Ishana always makes good choices and follows the school rules.
Ladybirds	Reggie D	Reggie has been working hard to improve his blending. He has read at home every night this week.
Hedgehogs	Amayah L	For excellent effort with her reading.
Rabbits	Skylar C	For working more independently and trying hard.
Owls	Esmae C	For improved independence in maths and using the strategies to help work out an answer.
Squirrels	Marni D-B	They have been working hard to improve their comprehension and reading skills by reading regularly and engaging well with the texts we explore in class. They are becoming more confident when answering retrieval, vocabulary and inference questions.
Year 3 Blue	Pippa C	Pippa has been working incredibly hard with her learning and has been showing an increased confidence in her writing. Sharing her ideas with her peers. Well done Pippa.
Year 3 Green	Umar	For including all of the features in his explanation text in his writing about a Roman Invasion.
Year 4 Blue	Fatimah A	Fatimah has shown great ambition to succeed in her lessons working well with all of her peers and with her positive attitude has been a great addition to our class.
Year 4 Green	Ella M	For showing great kindness towards her peers and making sure they have been included. Also for writing a great letter in our writing lessons!
Year 5 Blue	Eimal D	For improved effort in his learning and having a better attitude towards everyday school life.
Year 5 Green	Elijah K	For showing great care in English this week for setting the scene of the Tudor's prisoner as well as using inverted commas correctly to create a conversation!
Year 6 Blue	Macey O	For showing amazing ambition in her learning over the term. She has improved all her scaled scores in Reading, SPaG and Maths. Well done Macey—we are very proud of you.
Year 6 Green	Mellissa C	For working hard with her writing to make sure that she includes all of the success criteria.

Dates for your Diary 2026

Tuesday 17th March

Road safety—Reception and Year 5

Wednesday 18th March

Parent Consultations

Thursday 19th March

Parent Consultations

Friday 20th March

Sponsored Bunny Hop

Friday 27th March

Last day of term

Monday 30th March

First day of Easter Holidays

Monday 13th April

Start of Sumer Term



ROAD SAFETY

Reception and Year 5

Tuesday 17th March
2026

Reception

Parents are invited in for a 10-15 minute presentation at 9am and then the children will join them for about 25 minutes to practice being safe in the hall with a play road.

Year 5

The children will be taken out into the local area in small groups to practice road safety.



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>

10% off until 31.03.2026

Code MYCQ110



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 14th April
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 8th March
FAIRHOUSE – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 23rd March
FAIRHOUSE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 14th April
MERRYLANDS – LEAD TEACHER for AUTISM SPECTRUM CONDITIONS closing date 19th April
WHITMORE – ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER closing date 16th March
WHITMORE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 22nd March

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

Attendance



If we do not see your child for 3 days, we have a duty to conduct a home welfare check or contact the police to carry out a welfare check

If your child is not in, you **must** tell us by 9am

Your child's attendance should be over 96%

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance, please reach out to our attendance officer who would LOVE to help!

It is your legal responsibility to ensure your child comes to school



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Attendance Matters
...every school day counts!