

Hi all. Happy Friday!

As the weather turns colder, please ensure your child brings an appropriate jacket to school. As the cold and flu season approaches, take measures to minimise the likelihood of getting ill (**balanced diet, good sleep, good handwashing habits**)

Please also remember to label everything. We have a mountain of lost property building already!

This week we celebrated 10 years of the Berlesduna Trust. I am lucky enough to have been part of this Trust from the beginning, and I have worked in 5 of its Basildon schools. This is a fantastic Trust that champions every pupil that comes through its doors. It is warm, supportive and has high expectations for all. We were really pleased to be able to celebrate this occasion with you. And thank you to the Trust for buying the cakes!

We had the Sublime Science workshops and assemblies today. We hope the children were enthused by the experiments and are ready to raid your kitchen cupboards for experiments of their own!

Next week we have the author 'Steve Clifford' visiting us and speaking to pupils. Again, we hope to expose them to the world of writing and reading and enthuse them to become storytellers of their own.

We continue to push attendance. This week has seen our BEST EVER WEEK! This, in turn, has dragged up our year-to-date attendance. Our target is **96%** so keep pushing!



Attendance Week to Date



Attendance School Year to Date
For All Pupils

This week in Reception we have been focusing on the change of seasons. We went on an autumn walk around the school grounds and collected things to look at back in class. We read the story Leaf Man and created our own art work using leaf rubbings. In maths we have copied, continued and made our own patterns.

It has been an exciting week in Year 5! We had the fantastic opportunity to use our new computing suite for the very first time, and the children were thrilled to get started. They enjoyed exploring the new space and developing their computing skills. In English, we have been planning and writing the problem sections of our stories, with a particular focus on creating suspense. The children have been experimenting with descriptive language and carefully choosing vocabulary to keep their readers on the edge of their seats! In Art, we have been developing our drawing skills by exploring how to create a sense of depth. The children have been learning how techniques such as size, positioning and detail can make their drawings appear more realistic and three-dimensional.



This week in nursery, we enjoyed sharing the story **Owl Babies**, which inspired lots of curiosity and excitement. The children loved creating cosy nests using natural materials and were delighted to discover hidden eggs, sparking imaginative play and storytelling.

We also explored early maths through collecting, counting, and comparing objects, while threading colourful feathers helped develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

It has been a lovely week full of creativity, discovery, and learning



This week, year 1 has continued to develop their writing and phonics skills by writing their own 4-part stories. In maths, we have been comparing objects and numbers using greater than, less than and equal to. In Science, we have explored how day light hours change during the seasons and in Geography, we have learnt about maps and drew a map of our classroom. In RE, we explored the Jewish and Christian creation story and in art we have explored colours and shapes to create a piece of art work. We also loved being joined by our grownups today and showing them our phonics skills!

What a lovely week we have had in Sunshine Cafe! We have been exploring the wonderful story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and have loved bringing the story to life through a range of fun and engaging activities. The children have enjoyed exploring different sensory trays, getting creative by designing and making their very own wellie boots, and having lots of fun decorating their own bears.

A big well done to Aarib S for settling so beautifully into our daily routines. Aarib has shown such a positive attitude and is always coming into the Sunshine Cafe with a lovely smile on his face.

This week Year 4 have been practicing the songs for our harvest assembly next week! Don't forget to join us! We also took part in a science workshop which was a lot of fun, we learnt about states of matter and even learnt about plasma, ask us about the experiments we did. We have finished writing our own rescue story set in the rainforest and learnt how to use fronted adverbials and we have also started to explore powerful verbs. We are still practicing our times tables so make sure to log into TTRS at least 10 minutes a day. This week INDIA class won the tournament!

This week in Year 6, we have been writing a diary entry from the perspective of a character in Zootopia. We have focused on different adverbials to help us recount the events of her day. In Maths, we have been rounding numbers up to 100,000, using our knowledge of place value. Whilst in Science, we extended our work on classifying living things through the use of classification keys.

Year 3 have had another fantastic week of learning!

In Writing, the children wrote exciting descriptions of an active volcano, using expanded noun phrases and subordinating conjunctions to add detail and ambitious vocabulary to their work.

In Maths, the children have been learning to add and subtract 10s and 100s from three-digit numbers, developing their confidence and fluency with place value.

In Science, the children have continued their learning about how muscles and bones work together to help us move. They took part in a variety of exercises to observe which muscles they could see working and to understand how different parts of the body support movement. To end the week, the children were very excited to take part in **Sublime Science**. They thoroughly enjoyed observing a range of fascinating experiments and were amazed by the scientific discoveries they made throughout the session.

Well done to Esin and Jalessa who are the top of our BoomReader Leaderboard in Year 3! Let's see who will be top of the leaderboard next week!

This week, Year 2 have enjoyed exploring what life is like in a hot country and comparing it with life here in the UK. We discovered that Kenya has a hot climate because it is located in Africa, close to the Equator. In Science, we explored woodland habitats and learned about the different animals that live there, including what they like to eat. We also enjoyed taking our learning outdoors and creating an Art picture of Nelson Mandela using colouring pencils and natural materials we found on the field.

Have a great weekend

Mr Davie

Head of School



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SPACE

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- in person - meet us at Local Offer roadshows, coffee mornings, and community events
- by phone - talk one-to-one with a peer educator
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- on the SPACE website - find helpful info and guidance anytime

Book your place for an online session, or a phone call today!
parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk



Value Awards



Reception Spain	Hector	Ambition—he reads every day at home and is trying very hard with his phonics.
Reception France	Maisie	Ambition—she has read at home every night and tries very hard in phonics.
Year 1 Croatia	Reggie D	Ambition—for trying to become more independent with his learning.
Year 1 Estonia	Damian P	Ambition—by completing maths challenges each day.
Year 2 Finland	Shiddharth	Honesty—for being very helpful towards teachers and his classmates and for working super hard on being his most honest self.
Year 2 Norway	Amayah	Ambition—Amayah is a quieter member of our class, but she consistently shows great ambition and always tries her very best in everything she does. It has been lovely to see her becoming more confident and willing to share her ideas with the class.
Year 3 Jordan	Yasmina B	Ambition—for striving to do her best in all of her learning. Well done Yasmina!
Year 3 Cyprus	Aliya D	Respect—for always showing respect to others by being kind, polite and considerate. She is a wonderful role-model to the rest of her peers.
Year 4 India	Stacey C	Honesty—she has been asking for support when needed and trying her best to complete her lesson to the best of her ability. It has been lovely to see her confidence grow when wanting to find answers and solve tricky tasks.
Year 4 Japan	Evie	Honesty—Evie has grown in confidence being able to express when she needs support and trying her hardest in all lessons. This has shown a positive improvement in her work this week, well done Evie!
Year 5 Morocco	Harry	Respect—for always showing the highest levels of respect to all adults in the school and his peers.
Year 5 Egypt	Rokas M	Ambition—Rokas puts 100% effort into every lesson. He responds well to feedback to further improve his work.
Year 6 Brazil	Fern	Ambition—perseverance in maths this week.
Year 6 Mexico	Anabelle	Kindness—Anabelle has shown tremendous kindness to her partner this week. She has supported them during maths, helping them to understand what the question is asking them to do, and the steps to answer it.

Free Breakfast Club

From 8.10am till 8.40am every morning Breakfast Club is FREE to all children in Reception to Year 6. This is a government incentive to give children a softer start to the school day. In order that we can ensure we have enough food to feed everyone and enough staff to keep everyone safe, all we ask is that you register in advance. This will be on School Money (just to book there is no charge) but at the moment there is a technical hitch with it so can you please message on Studybugs or call the School Office.

If you need your child to come into school earlier, this will fall into our Wraparound Care package.

Wraparound Care

Breakfast Club

A paid element of Breakfast Club runs from 7.40am till 8.10am. This is a paid element as it is for childcare purposes. The charge is £2 per session and you need to complete a registration form for this. This will then be payable and bookable on School Money—at the moment please advise us via Studybugs or calling the School Office.

After School Club

We are very proud to be able to offer our own in-house After School Club. This is being run by two members of our school staff, Mrs Gwanzura and Miss Kotze.

The club runs from 3.15pm till 5.30pm daily (we are reviewing this to potentially be 6pm depending on demand for the later time).

The children receive a snack once they finish school. They are then able to play games, do activities, read their school books and do any homework they may have. During the session they will also receive a hot meal.

The fee is £12.50 per session including the snacks and hot meal. If we extend to 6pm, this will increase the session fee to £15. All children have brought home a leaflet today about this club and the reverse of it has the application form on it.

To sign your child up you need to complete the registration form. This will also be bookable via School Money but at the moment is being booked by Studybugs or with the School Office.

If you need any further information, please message in or pop into the School Office.

The Berlesduna Trust is 10

Thank you to everyone that came along to enjoy our celebration for Berlesduna's 10th year anniversary,



School Dinner Menu - Week Two

5th—9th October

Monday

Rustic Tomato Sauce with Pasta

Rustic Tomato Sauce with Pasta

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wrap

Jelly and Cream

Tuesday

Beef Burritos

Roasted Vegetable and Paneer Burrito

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Ham Sandwich

Lemon Drizzle Cake

Wednesday

Roast Chicken

Quorn Roast

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Egg Mayo Wrap

Fresh Fruit Salad

Thursday

Baked Lemon Chicken

Falafel

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Tuna Mayo Sandwich

Choc Chip Banana Mini Muffin

Friday

Chicken Nuggets

Beyond Chicken Nuggets

Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna Mayo

Cheese or Ham Wrap

Choc Ice



Cherry Tree Weekly Attendance Table

The whole school total for this week was 97.4% - well done, that is amazing.

Reception France	95.0%
Reception Spain	97.6%
Year 1 Croatia	95.8%
Year 1 Estonia	95.7%
Year 2 Finland	99.6%
Year 2 Norway	99.3%
Year 3 Cyprus	98.1%
Year 3 Jordan	98.0%
Year 4 India	99.6%
Year 4 Japan	95.2%
Year 5 Egypt	99.3%
Year 5 Morocco	98.6%
Year 6 Brazil	97.8%
Year 6 Mexico	92.8%

Highest in Key Stage 1 was Year 2 Finland

Highest in Key Stage 2 was Year 4 India

9 classes with over 96% that is fabulous—well done everyone!!



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>

Save on your next school uniform order with MyClothing. Refer a friend and they'll get 20% off, while you'll earn 20% off when they shop. Refer more friends to unlock bigger rewards, up to 50% off.

Find out more:

<https://myclothing.referralcandy.com/join/default>

Dates for your Diary 2026

Monday 5th October

Author Steve Clifford in school

Tuesday 6th October

Author Steve Clifford in school

Wednesday 7th October

Author Steve Clifford in school

Thursday 8th October

Author Steve Clifford in school

Trust Poetry Slam at Cherry Tree

Friday 9th October

9am Harvest Festival Assembly Years 3 & 4

Wednesday 21st October

Year 3 trip to Hyde Hall

Friday 23rd October

Last day of half term

Monday 26th—Friday 30th October

HALF TERM

Saturday 31st October

YEAR 7 APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Monday 2nd November

INSET DAY—NON PUPIL DAY

Tuesday 3rd November

Return to School

Wednesday 4th November

Happy Days Individual Photos

Reception 2027 Open Evening

Monday 9th November

Reception 2027 applications open

Friday 13th November

EYFS dress up as a nursery rhyme character

Friday 18th December

Last Day of Term

Monday 4th January

Return to School for Spring Term

School House,
Church Road,
Bealdon, Essex, SS14 2EX
Tel: 01208 464759
office@berlesduna.co.uk
www.berlesduna.co.uk



2nd October 2026

Celebrating 10 Years of Berlesduna Academy Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday marked a special milestone for Berlesduna Academy Trust as we celebrate 10 years since the Trust was established on 1 October 2016.

What started with three schools, Merrylands, The Willows and Whitmore, has grown into a thriving family of schools serving more than 3,000 children and young people across our communities.

Over the last decade, we have remained committed to our vision of creating a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment of learning, academic success and lifelong skills for every child, regardless of their background. We are proud of the achievements of our pupils, the success of our schools and the strong partnerships we have built with families and our wider communities.

There is so much to celebrate. From strong educational outcomes and successful inspections to the growth of our nursery provision and our commitment to inclusion, we have always sought to ensure that every child is supported to achieve their very best.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the support of our governors and trustees, and the trust that you, as parents and carers, place in us every day. We are incredibly grateful for the role you play in your child's education and for being part of the Berlesduna family.

As we reflect on the past 10 years, we also look forward with excitement and ambition. Our values of Aspiration, Family and Success continue to guide us, and we remain committed to providing the very best opportunities for the children and young people we serve.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our journey.

Best wishes,

Sean Tobin
CEO / Executive Headteacher
Berlesduna Academy Trust

Berlesduna Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.
Company number 10267656.

Fun at Wraparound Care this Week



The children love coming to our wraparound club.

They play games and have delicious snacks and dinner.

They have a variety of games they can play indoors and outside.

If you are interested in your child attending, please enquire.

We have a survey coming out next week to try to improve the facility to be what parents need.



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

FAIRHOUSE – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 9 October
MERRYLANDS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 11 October
WHITMORE – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER closing date 5 October
WILLOWS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 9 October

For more information and to apply for any of these exciting opportunities, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies - Berlesduna Academy Trust](https://www.berlesduna.co.uk/vacancies)