



Welcome to the end of another busy week and a very “eventful” half term.

On Wednesday this week, Fairhouse Primary hosted the Berlesduna Academy Trust’s annual spelling bee. Each of the 11 schools selected 4 children (2 from Key stage 1 and 2 from key stage 2) to represent their school in a fun, friendly competition to correctly spell the most words. I would like to say a huge well done to Aryan and Alex, and Bridey and Hashir who represented Fairhouse. The children demonstrated resilience and courage and did themselves and their school proud. We are delighted to say that Fairhouse came 2nd for key stage 2 and this was after a tie break with Cherry Tree. Cherry Tree unfortunately pipped us to the post in the tie breaker so we just missed out on first position! Well done to all the contestants and to Mrs Strachan and Mr Gatenby who planned and delivered the event.

In EYFS this week the children have continued their sentences and are becoming confident little writers. In maths they have been using a variety of resources to help them understand which two numbers can make seven. We have also celebrated Chinese New Year by dressing in red and yellow. We have enjoyed fortune cookies and some exciting activities in the provision including; Chinese money wallets, lantern collages and painting beautiful pictures using the colours red and yellow. We have also used glitter to write Chinese numbers to help with our fine motor skills.



The children in year 2 have been composing and writing persuasive invitations for a themed party of their choice. They have used persuasive language and practised using question marks, exclamations and conjunctions to write some effective invitations. They have also been learning about materials in science, they have been looking at different objects in their classroom and their properties, understanding why objects have different properties. They then sketched diagrams to show their understanding.

Year 3 have been shaking things up this week as we dived into the exciting world of tectonic plates! We discovered how the Earth’s crust is made up of giant pieces that move and sometimes bump, slide or pull apart – causing earthquakes and volcanoes. The children were fascinated to learn about different types of plate boundaries and what happens when they collide. We also explored the famous Ring of Fire and found out how it earned its fiery nickname. There were lots of “wow!” moments as we realised just how powerful our planet really is!

Year 4 have been continuing to learn about rivers. This week we used atlases to identify famous rivers in the world. Pupils were able to identify each river, the country of its origin and the continent you would find it.



This week the children in year 5 explored reproduction in flowering plants by dissecting daffodils and identifying various parts of the plant. In art they created striking pieces of black and white artwork with the use of ink. The children were fortunate enough to take a trip to Basildon library



where they were given the opportunity to sign up for a library card and borrow a book. They had a brilliant time and thoroughly enjoyed learning all about what the library can offer.

This week, year 6 have been exploring a range of inspiring texts to mark Children’s Mental Health Week. The children have read extracts from The Dot, You Are Awesome, and The Boy at the Back of the Class, discussing important themes such as resilience, inclusion, self-belief and wellbeing. Alongside thoughtful class discussions, pupils have been applying their reading skills by answering SATs-style questions based on the texts. It has been wonderful to see them engaging so maturely with these meaningful topics while continuing to strengthen their comprehension and reasoning skills.

We hope you all have a wonderful half term and we look forward to welcoming you all back at school on Monday 23rd February.

## ParentPay

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

If your account accrues arrears of two meals (£4.80) 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

23rd - 27th February 2026

### Monday

Meatballs in Rustic Tomato Sauce

Veggie Meatballs in Rustic Tomato Sauce

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Cheese Bap

Seasonal Fruit Medley

### Tuesday

Ham & Cheese Pasta Bake

Mushroom Pasta Bake

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Jam Sandwich

Chocolate Cake & Custard

### Wednesday

Roast Turkey, Yorkie Pud & Gravy

Vegan Buttermilk Chicken, Yorkie Pud & Gravy

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Egg Baguette

Blueberry Muffin

### Thursday

Chicken & Mushroom Pie

Quorn Mince & Mushroom Pie

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Ham Wrap

Honey Oat Biscuits

### Friday

Fish Fingers

Veggie Fingers

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Turkey Bap

Fruity Friday

## Fairhouse Weekly Attendance Table

Elephants	95.7%
Pandas	97.9%
Hedgehogs	93.9%
Tigers	89.1%
Macaws	93%
Rhinos	95%
Jaguars	93.9%
Vaquitas	92.1%
Belugas	96.7%
Sea Otters	97.9%
Gorillas	90.7%
Saolas	95.5%
Galapagos Penguins	91%
Sea Turtles	96%

Well done to Pandas (KS1) and Sea Otters (KS2) who have earned the company of our attendance bears Fred and Freda in class after half term. Unfortunately, this week, attendance was lower than it has been recently, meaning that none of our classes achieved 98% to earn them a spin on the wheel.



A special mention to the children below who have displayed some of our core values this week:

Class	Child	Core Value
Galapagos Penguins	Faye	Respect
Sea Turtles	Emmalia	Responsibility
Gorillas	Alex	Courage
Saolas	Dzesika	Responsibility
Belugas	Mirabel	Kindness
Sea Otters	Ella	Kindness
Jaguars	Elliott	Courage
Vaquitas	Angela	Courage
Macaws	Bridey	Courage
Rhinos	Louisa	Responsibility
Hedgehogs	Alisha	Courage
Tigers	Elijah	Courage
Elephants	Kiera	Responsibility
Pandas	Damian	Kindness



## Dates for your Diary



Monday, 16th - Friday, 20th February 2026  
Half Term

Monday, 23rd - Friday, 27th February 2026  
Scholastic Book Fair - More info to follow

Wednesday, 25th February 2026  
Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena  
Year 4 Library Visit

Tuesday, 3rd March 2026  
Year 5 Trip - Lambourne End

Thursday, 5th March 2026  
World Book Day

Thursday, 12th March 2026  
Berlesduna Science Challenge

Tuesday, 17th March 2026  
Reception Weigh & Measure

Wednesday, 18th March 2026  
Reception Weigh & Measure  
Year 6 Crucial Crew Workshop  
Parent's Evening - More info to follow

Thursday, 19th March 2026  
Parent's Evening - More info to follow

Friday, 20th March 2026  
Comic Relief / Red Nose Day

Wednesday, 25th March 2026  
Year 6 Weigh & Measure

Thursday, 26th March 2026  
Pupil Voice - British Values

Monday, 30th March - Friday, 10th April 2026  
Easter Holidays

Wednesday, 15th April 2026  
'Setting Boundaries' Parent Workshop - 9am - 11.30am

Thursday, 30th April 2026  
Berlesduna Orienteering Event  
New Intake 2026 Welcome Meeting 5 - 6pm

Monday, 4th May 2026  
Early May Bank Holiday

Monday, 11th - Friday, 15th May 2026  
Year 6 SATS Week

Wednesday, 20th May 2026  
Year 2 Trip - Hever Castle

Monday, 25th - Friday 29th May 2026  
Half Term

Wednesday, 3rd June 2026  
'Routines Rule' Parent Workshop - 9am - 11.30am  
Year 1 Trip - Call of The Wild Zoo

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club **MUST** be pre-booked via ParentPay. Bookings should be made 24hrs in advance.

Breakfast club runs from 8am - 8.40am and costs £2 per child per day. Last entry is at 8.15am.

Parents **MUST** accompany their child to the main doors by the office where they will be met and registered by a member of staff. Various breakfast options will be available such as cereal, toast & crumpets as well as fresh juice & milk.

## Parking in the local area

Please drive with caution and be aware of children outside the school, there have been a few near misses with vehicles driving and reversing at speed.

Please also be considerate of our neighbours when dropping off and collecting your children from school. We have received a number of complaints from local residents due to parents parking on & blocking the entrances / driveways at Fairhouse Court and Napier Close at drop off and pick up times.



# 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

## 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.

**Studybugs** 

### Studybugs

Fairhouse are using a more efficient and secure system for messaging parents, called Studybugs. The website & app has an easy to use messaging service which allows us to set up a chat feature with parents to notify you of anything you may need to know about and answer any queries you may have. It is also our absence line service allowing parents to easily notify school of their child's absence.

Please download the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website.

If you need any assistance in setting this up on your phone, please call into the school office and we will be happy to help.



### Break Time Snack

Our snack shop has a range of healthy snacks available daily. Each item costs 50p and children are limited to one item each. If you wish to send your child in with a snack from home

please do try to make sure it is something from our approved snack list.

Key Stage 1 children will continue to receive a piece of fruit as part of the healthy schools initiative.



## School Uniform

### **Our school uniform consists of the following:**

- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore.
- White polo shirt
- Bottle green jumper or cardigan.
- Grey tights.
- Black, grey or white ankle socks.
- Grey shorts or green and white checked summer dress in summer months.
- Black school shoes or **ALL BLACK** trainers (including black soles - no big logos or brand names).

Leggings are **NOT** part of the school uniform and should **NOT** be worn to school.





## 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](http://Vacancies - Berlesduna Academy Trust)

### Essex Wellbeing Service

Find out more at:  
[essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk](http://essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk)  
or contact us on:  
0300 303 9988



### COMPASS

A partnership of domestic abuse services providing a response in Essex

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline:

**0330 333 7 444**

**Below 90%**  
Serious Concern.  
Persistent absence.

**90 - 95.9%**  
Concern, Low  
Attendance.

**At least 96%**  
Expected  
attendance.

**Expected attendance means  
having no more than seven  
days off this school year!**

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS & OFFER TAX-FREE CHILDCARE!

**MEGA CAMPS**  
KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

CHILD CARE FROM 8am - 6pm

AGES 4 - 14

**FEBRUARY CAMP 2026**

SAVE ££'s - EARLY BIRD OFFERS END 31<sup>st</sup> JAN  
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT ESSEX, SURREY & KENT

WALL CLIMBING

ANIMAL WORKSHOP

FENCING

KIDS FAVOURITE

ARCHERY & AXE THROWING

2026 DATES LAUNCHED

DIFFERENT MEGA ACTIVITIES, ARTS & CRAFTS AND SPORTS AVAILABLE EACH DAY

**MEGA FUN AT A LOCATION NEAR YOU!**  
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LOCATIONS AND DATES

**BOOK ONLINE NOW!**  
Ofsted [WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET](http://WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET)  
Registered OR CALL 0333 012 4378

ALL OUR STAFF ARE DBS CHECKED

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

Premier League Disability Football

**INCLUSIVE U'S FOOTBALL CAMP**

WHAT TO EXPECT?

- Expert Coaching: sessions will be led by ex FA qualified coaches, who are experienced in working with SEND players.
- Skills Development: enhance your skills through fun football drills, including passing, dribbling, shooting and match play.
- Special Guests: meet Colchester United players and club mascot Kiki the Kogal!
- Exciting Rewards: many participants will receive a Colchester United t-shirt plus, with additional medals and trophies available to be won.

W107 Young people aged 5-16 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities  
W1071 Tuesday 27th May & Wednesday 28th May, 10am-2pm  
W10711 Shrub End Community and Sports Centre, CO2 9BG  
0357 Earlybird price is £30 for both days or £18.50 for one day.

## February Half Term at Grangewaters



	MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY	TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY	WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY	THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY	FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY
9.30AM TO 11AM	Archery Climb Bushcraft	Archery Climb Longboat Sailing	Archery Climb Bushcraft	Archery Climb Bushcraft	Wiggly Bugs Bushcraft Climb
11.15AM TO 12.45PM	Archery Climb Canoe Raft	Archery High Ropes Canoe Raft	Archery Climb Wiggly Bugs	Archery Climb Longboat Sailing	Archery Bushcraft High Ropes
1.30PM TO 3PM	Archery Climb Bushcraft	Archery Climb Bushcraft	Archery Climb Bushcraft	Archery Abyssal Bushcraft	Archery Canoe Raft Climb

All priced at £12  
per person, per activity



To book go online at  
[grangewaters.co.uk](http://grangewaters.co.uk)

Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre,  
Buckles Lane, South Ockendon, RM15 6RS

 [thurrock.gov.uk](http://thurrock.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.



Arts Council  
ENGLAND

eastgate  
BASILDON



CREATIVE  
BASILDON

## ★K-POP DISCO★

### HALF TERM HOORAY!

INTRODUCING OUR BRAND NEW  
K-POP PERFORMERS

WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026  
START AT 2PM - 4PM



## 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](mailto:Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk)