



Dear families

Welcome to the end of what I am sure has seemed a long week for you all. I cannot thank you all enough for your support at what I am sure is a very difficult time for you all. As a school, we do not underestimate how hard it is to manage child care and home learning for your child/children. We really are doing our best to get the issues at school sorted for the quickest return possible. Thank you to all of the year 6 and year 1 parents and parents of those other pupils who are invited in for face-to-face teaching, for responding to this change and getting your child to Cherry Tree. The children have been amazing at adapting to this plan. The children at home have been working hard on remote learning and we have seen fantastic engagement from the vast majority of pupils with their home learning. Thank you so much for your support at home to enable this to happen. We know how hard this must be!

In school, we have been very busy repairing the fire damage and preparing to install the new electrical mains line. We have started work on building the electrical circuit boards in the cupboard and repairing the fibre optics and internet connections that come from this cupboard. At the moment, we are looking like we are on track for our re-open date of Monday 2nd February. School is very cold and very dark at the moment and it feels very strange. We cannot wait to have it all back up and running and filled with our children and staff once again.

Please rest assured that we are working really hard to push this along the best we can.

So what else has been going on with our Fairhouse community this week?

Our **EYFS** children have been busy with their home learning, practising writing their names and writing their numbers 1-10. They have enjoyed reading Jack and the Beanstalk and answering questions about the story. They have all been practising their set 1 sounds and blending CVC words. We have had some amazing pictures uploaded on Tapestry that have highlighted how hard these children have been working at home.



We have had a brilliant week in **year 1**. Children have showed courage when coming into a new school and with a new timetable. We have worked hard on our phonics development and are reading every day in school with adults. At home, children have been writing four-part stories inspired by pictures. There have been stories set in castles, jungles and classrooms. Curriculum work has been incredible. We have choreographed dances, researched continents and created posters about them. There were some incredible self-portraits created and lots of transient art using natural materials.



In **year 2**, the children have been practising counting in their 2s, 5s, and 10s. They have been consolidating their knowledge of two-digit place value and adding one more and one less to a two-digit

number. In writing, they have been refining their grammar skills by looking at sentence types (question, statements, exclamations and commands) and using capital letters and appropriate punctuation to complete a sentence. They also completed a range of activities to be able to identify nouns and adjectives. In the foundation subjects, the children have explored everyday materials in science and revisited features of the United Kingdom in geography. Finally, in PSHE the children have looked at different types of families. The children have been busy logging lots of reads and are preparing for the Timetable Rockstars competition.

In maths in **year 3** this week, we have been recapping previous learning and strengthening key skills through regular practice. It is evident through scores on century that that children have been successful in practicing their place value skills, solving problems in height and length and counting in multiples of 2,5 and 10. In reading, children have been developing their retrieval, inference, and vocabulary skills. We would also like to thank you for continuing to support your child with daily reading and logging this on Boom Reader. This is extremely important in helping to build fluency, understanding, and a love of reading. Our writing focus has been on revisiting familiar features to improve and refine our work, giving children lots of opportunities to practise and build confidence. In science, we have revisited our topic on how the body works, including healthy diets, the skeleton, muscles, and joints. We have also recapped some of last year's learning from Year 2, completing work on plants and how they grow. In art, children have been exploring stippling and cross-hatching techniques using guided YouTube videos. It would be lovely to see some of the pieces of art the children have created when we return back to school. Finally, don't forget the TT Rockstars trust competition on Monday. To take part, children need to play a game in Garage Mode. Good luck!

The **year 4** teams are very impressed with the level of engagement from their children. We have been revising previous learning in science and recapping food chains. This week in maths, the children have been revisiting previous learning of the 3,6,9 multiplication facts and consolidating key skills through regular practice. They have worked very hard, and their scores clearly reflect the effort they have put in. In reading, the children have engaged with a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, focusing on developing their retrieval, inference and vocabulary skills. It has been particularly pleasing to see so many children recording their reading and choosing a wide variety of books. In science, we have been revisiting food chains, predators and prey. This is a topic the children thoroughly enjoyed in school, and we hope they have found the learning both informative and engaging at home. In art, the children have been exploring landscapes, and it was lovely to see the high-quality artwork shared with us. Year 4 - please remember that the TT Rockstars Trust Competition will take place on Monday. To participate, children should play a game in Garage Mode. We wish them the best of luck!

In **year 5**, the children have been completing multiplication questions within maths. They have explored modal verbs, prepositions and relative clauses within writing. In Reading, the children have identified the meaning of different words and looked at synonyms, antonyms and suffixes. In their topic lessons they have delved into a range of science topics and have created some incredible abstract art work in their art lessons. In Gorilla class, Mrs Waker / Mrs Strachan would like to give a shout out to Alex for her incredible effort completing work on Century. it is clear she has been taking her time and watching the instructional videos to support her learning. In Saola class, Mr Haley would like to give a shout out to Donald for his ongoing perseverance, particularly in maths, and for his wonderful abstract art attempt.



Year 6 - Despite facing great adversity, Year 6 children embraced the challenge of learning in a different environment, demonstrating impressive perseverance and resilience throughout the week. As part of their Frozen Kingdom topic, the children explored Inuit sculptures in art and, inspired by these, created their own stone-style sculptures using soap. Incredible Arctic creatures came to life under their nimble fingers. We are all extremely proud of all our Year 6 children. The star pupils in year 6 are Cas in Penguins and Toby in Turtles. Cas – for embracing changes in a positive and mature way, showing support and consideration to his peers throughout the week. Toby - for being a super star, not allowing a tooth extraction to stop him from being at school and overcoming challenges.

[Boom Reader](#) - Please continue to log your home reads each day. That way, we can see who is reading and how often. Plus, the home reads are added up for each class and count towards the reward time at the end of each half term.

TTRockstars – competition!

Finally, please note that Berlesduna Academy School are entering a Times Table Rock Stars competition which will run from Monday through to Friday next week. We are battling against the other 10 schools that make up the Berlesduna Academy Trust. There will be prizes for the school with the best engagement/best scores. And there will be prizes for the best class and for individual pupils across the Trust!

We have a real opportunity to take the Trust by storm with this competition. Please, please, please encourage your child (year 3 to year 6) to be on TTRockstars as much as possible over the week to get as many points as they can. We do love a competition and we do love to win!

Let's do this Fairhouse!



Leaderboards:

Boom Reader	Reads		
Class	08.01.26	16.01.26	23.01.26
Elephants	8	30	41
Pandas	45	71	107
Hedgehogs	31	104	197
Tigers	36	80	128
Rhinos	75	148	247
Macaws	47	95	173
Jaguars	61	121	175
Vaquitas	62	122	180
Belugas	131	299	421
Sea Otters	99	214	335
Saolas	98	196	279
Gorillas	81	212	358
Sea Turtles	135	350	552
Galapagos Pe	127	242	364

Well done to Sea Turtles who are topping our leader board for Boom Reader home reads.

KS1 leads: Rhinos

KS2 leads: Sea Turtles

Numbots	Av Coins		
Class	08.01.26	16.01.26	23.01.26
Elephants	0	0	364
Pandas	22	36	140
Hedgehogs	519	1,211	2,079
Tigers	392	955	1,870
Rhinos	226	652	1,563
Macaws	246	744	2,030

Numbots winners:

Hedgehogs – well done Hedgehogs.

TTRockstars scores (Key stage 2):

TTROCKSTARSSCORES SPRING TERM	Jaguars	Vaquitas	Belugas	Sea otters	Saolas	Gorillas	Penguins	Sea turtles
SPR 1 WEEK 1	7	31	164	315	9	16	2	4
Total to date	280	1158	2363	5372	342	1731	440	433
SPR 1 WEEK 2	28	61	194	596	22	19	14	6
Total to date	308	1219	2557	5968	364	1750	454	439
SPR 1 WEEK 3	42	139	303	636	21	8	3	0
TOTAL to date	350	1358	2860	6604	385	1758	457	439

Well done to Sea Otters (our regular winners) for your fantastic interaction with TTRockstars. Let's get more of you on board to win points and win prizes for yourself, your class and your school!

Star learners this week!

These children have really impressed staff with their contributions to home learning or during face to face teaching

Evan (Pandas)	Ashar (Vaquitas)
Anastasia (Elephants)	Charissa (Jaguars)
Anayce (Hedgehogs)	Evie M (Sea Otters)
Isabella H (Tigers)	Sienna B (Belugas)
Alfie W (Macaws)	Donald (Saola)
Isabella C (Rhinos)	Alex (Gorillas)
Cas (Penguins)	Toby (Sea Turtles)

Once again, my heart-felt thank you to all of you for your support and perseverance in what is a very difficult situation for you all. Please keep going with the home learning and let's get those TTRockstars scores up to the max!

Have a great weekend.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday, 11th February 2026
Talking So Your Children Will Listen Workshop - 9-11.30am

Thursday, 12th February 2026
Berlesduna Spelling Bee

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

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

Thursday, 5th March 2026
World Book Day

Thursday, 12th March 2026
Berlesduna Science Challenge

Wednesday, 18th March 2026
Year 6 Crucial Crew Workshop

Wednesday, 18th & Thursday, 19th March 2026
Parent's Evening - More info to follow

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

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

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

Thursday, 30th April 2026
Berlesduna Orienteering Event

Monday, 4th May 2026
Early May Bank Holiday

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

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

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

Wednesday, 3rd June 2026
Routines Rule Workshop - 9-11.30am

Year 1 Trip - Call of The Wild Zoo

Tuesday, 16th June 2026
Year 3 Trip - Colchester Castle

Thursday, 18th June 2026
Berlesduna Football & Netball Tournament

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.

Fully Funded School Support Course



STUDY SMART
Free Online Courses

Aspire Education

www.studysmartuk.online

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.



BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 29th January

CHERRY TREE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 5th February

CHERRY TREE – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 5th February

ST MARYS – CLASS TEACHER closing date 4th February

MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 26th January

WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 23rd January

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

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!

COMPASS

A partnership of domestic abuse services providing a response in Essex

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline:

0330 333 7 444

Make a referral:

AGENCY or SELF REFERRAL

General enquiries: enquiries@essexcompass.org.uk

Essex Wellbeing Service

Find out more at:
essexwellbeingservice.co.uk
or contact us on:
0300 303 9988

Essex County Council
Libraries

Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



libraries.essex.gov.uk



Essex County Council
ESSEX YEAR
OF OPPORTUNITY

WADHAM COLLEGE
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 our FA qualified coaches, who are experienced in working with SEND players.
• Skills Development: enhance your skills through fun football skills, including passing, dribbling, shooting and much more.
• Special Guests: from Colchester United players and children cast 'Under the Eagle'.
• Exciting Rewards: every participant will receive a Colchester United keep sake, with additional medals and trophies available to be won.

WHO: Young people aged 5-16 with
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
WHERE: Shrub End Community and Sports Centre, CO2 9BG
COST: Earlybird price is £30 for both days or £18.50 for one day