FAIRHOUSE primary SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - 11 (20/11/26)

Dear families

And it's Friday once again. I know that the weather has turned and all the nasty viral bugs are out there doing the rounds so well done to all of you who are managing to keep your child at school. We know children need to be off school with vomiting and diarrhoea. We also know children with a very high temperature need to be at home until it can be stabilised to under 38 degrees Celsius. Once your child's temperature is under control, you can send them to back to school. They may need regular top ups of paracetamol to help maintain this and any other aches or pains they may have. We are happy to administer antibiotics if they need to be taken 4 times a day. Please note that we do not permit absence for sore throats, coughs, colds, tummy ache (without vomiting/ diarrhoea) or being tired. We will always do our best to support a child not feeling too well and will always call you if they are not managing. Attendance at school is so important for your child so that learning gaps do not appear or widen – it is not possible to make that time up. We appreciate you working alongside this to minimise disruption to their learning.



It was lovely to see so many of you attend our parents' evening this week. It was wonderful to receive such lovely feedback from so many of you and to see so many happy children and parents. We are collating all the survey information and will share this with you once it has all been analysed.

It has been another busy and exciting week in EYFS. For art this week, we have been exploring colour mixing, combining blue and yellow to create a new colour. Linking to our topic, Sparkle and Shine, we have enjoyed experimenting with foil painting using bright fluorescent colours. In maths we have been exploring different ways to make five and continuing to develop our number formation skills. In P.E we have been practising our balancing skills by balancing beanbags on our heads, as well as learning to move safely and confidently around the space. In writing the children are beginning to write CVC words and use them to build simple sentences.

This week in Year 2 we have been working very hard getting ready for the festive season. We have made salt dough candy canes, to decorate our classes' Christmas hoops for the festive month. In writing, we have written our own Winter poems, focusing about all things festive! The children have shone using brilliant vocabulary and rhyming in each of their pieces of work. In maths, we have been working hard solidifying our understanding of adding and subtracting numbers within a decade, building up our numeracy fluency. We also have focused on a Mover and Shaker in History, Rosa Parks. We had the opportunity to take part in a Now Press Play all about Rosa Parks which the children loved. Finally, we have been persevering in PSHE and worked hard to learn a new skill in our lesson - the macarena dance! The children were very proud of their accomplishment and we look forward to another week of brilliant learning.



This week, Year 3 have been getting creative as part of our persuasive writing unit inspired by Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! We designed and made our very own magical chocolate lollipops, carefully choosing our favourite toppings and decorations. We then used our imaginations to give our lollipops extraordinary magical powers! From making people fly to turning them invisible, we had some fantastic ideas. We have now started creating our persuasive posters, using exciting vocabulary, rhetorical questions and persuasive language to convince others to buy our magical creations!

This week, Year 4 have been busy creating their very own evil fairy-tale characters. The children have let their imaginations run wild, inventing wicked villains with mysterious backgrounds and sinister personalities. They have been using a range of fronted adverbials and ambitious vocabulary to write detailed biographies about their fictional characters. We can't wait to see how their villainous creations develop.

This week, Year 5 continued developing their maths skills and tackling new challenges. We enjoyed reading The Wind in the Willows and The Phantom Tollbooth, developing our vocabulary and exploring etymology. In writing, we finished, edited and published our explanations in pink books. We also took part in My Future My Basildon, where our theme was leadership. We heard inspiring talks from a musician, a church minister and a CEO. In addition, we learnt about Fu Hao in history and explored day and night in science.



In DT, Year 6 explored healthy eating by using the Eatwell Guide to design a balanced menu based on whole foods and minimal processed ingredients. The children made a fresh tomato sauce from scratch using tomatoes, onion, garlic and basil, practising a range of food preparation skills. While the sauce cooked, they planned their healthy menus before tasting the sauce with pasta and evaluating the final product, considering its taste, texture, appearance and how it could be improved.

Year 5 and 6 have taken part in some knife crime workshops today. They have been learning about the risk and consequences of carrying knives and what the laws says about this too. The children were fantastic in understanding these concepts and were very mature in their responses and questions.



Year 5 have continued their Bikeability sessions this week with a focus on the level 2 skills. Level 2 teaches children how to grow more confident with each turn of the pedal. Our expert instructors will lead riders onto quiet roads, to experience “real” cycling. Level 2 can feel like the biggest step for the children – it’s cycling on the actual road! But with our instructors on hand, the children were feeling confident and safe in no time at all.

We hope you have a great weekend and hope to see all the children back at school on Monday.



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 Three

23rd - 27th November 2026

Monday

Toad In The Hole

Veggie Toad In The Hole

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Turkey Bap

Seasonal Fruit Medley

Tuesday

Spaghetti Bolognese

Veggie Bolognese

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Jam Sandwich

Chocolate Orange Cake

Wednesday

Roast Chicken, Yorkie Pud & Gravy

Cheese & Onion Pasty

Cheese Bap

Lemon & White Chocolate Cake

Thursday

Creamy Ham Carbonara

Macaroni Cheese

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Egg Mayo Wrap

Cornflake & Jam Tart

Friday

Chicken Nuggets

Veggie Nuggets

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Ham Baguette

Fruity Friday

Fairhouse Weekly Attendance Table

Galapagos Penguins	97.4%
Sea Otters	95.2%
Vaquitas	94.4%
Hedgehogs	92.5%
Macaws	92%
Pandas	91.5%
Saolas	91.3%
Jaguars	90.7%
Belugas	89%
Gorillas	88.7%
Elephants	87%
Rhinos	86%
Tigers	84.4%
Sea Turtles	80.7%



Well done to **Hedgehogs** (KS1) and **Galapagos Penguins** (KS2) who have earned the company of our attendance bears Fred and Freda in class next week. 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 all displayed some of our core values this week:

Class	Child	Core Value
Galapagos Penguins	Daniel	Courage
Sea Turtles	Ella	Responsibility
Gorillas	Safwaan	Respect
Saolas	Mario	Responsibility
Belugas	Favour	Courage
Sea Otters	Tamera	Responsibility
Jaguars	Noa	Kindness
Vaquitas	Matty	Responsibility
Macaws	Jacob	Responsibility
Rhinos	Isabella H	Respect
Hedgehogs	Niklaus	Responsibility
Tigers	Maia	Courage
Elephants	Krish	Kindness
Pandas	Alfie	Kindness

Dates for your Diary

Monday, 23rd November 2026
Year 5 Bikeability Course 3

Tuesday, 24th November 2026
Year 5 Trip to Vue Cinema

Wednesday, 25th November 2026
Year 4 Archie Project Visit to Mundy House

Thursday, 26th November 2026
Southend United Community Games Tournament

Friday, 27th November 2026
Year 4 Bikeability Course

Tuesday, 1st December 2026
Elf'ridges

Friday, 4th December 2026
Fairhouse Christmas Fayre 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Monday, 7th December 2026
Fairhouse Choir - Carols at the Eastgate Centre 1.30pm
Year 2 Christmas Assembly 2.40pm

Tuesday, 8th December 2026
Year 3 Christmas Assembly 2.45pm

Wednesday, 9th December 2026
Year 1 Christmas Assembly 2.40pm

Thursday, 10th December 2026
Year 6 Christmas Assembly 2.45pm

Friday, 11th December 2026
Whole School Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

Monday, 14th December 2026
Year 4 Christmas Assembly 2.45pm

Tuesday, 15th December 2026
EYFS Christmas Assembly 2.40pm

Wednesday, 16th December 2026
Christmas Panto

Thursday, 17th December 2026
Year 5 Christmas Assembly 2.45pm

Monday, 21st Dec 2026 - Friday, 1st Jan 2027
Christmas Holidays

Monday, 4th January 2027
Back To School

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club MUST be pre-booked via ParentPay. Bookings can be made until 7am on the day.
Breakfast club runs from 7.50am - 8.40am and costs £2.25 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 are available such as a variety of cereal, toast, bagels, fresh juice & milk.

Studybugs

Fairhouse use an 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. We also use it as our absence reporting 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.



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.

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 and or driveways at Fairhouse Court and Napier Close at drop off and pick up times.



Break Time Snack

Our school tuck 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 make sure it is something from our approved snack list which can be found on our school website.

Key Stage 1 children receive a piece of fruit as part of the healthy schools initiative. They are not permitted to bring in their own break time snack.



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.





















Smart Watches

Please note that smart watches that allow photos or video footage to be taken and / or have access to games and / or have cellular / internet connectivity are not permitted in school.

Essex Wellbeing Service

Find out more at:
essexwellbeingservice.co.uk

or contact us on:
0300 303 9988







BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CRAYS HILL – HLTA closing date 24 November
CRAYS HILL – CLASS TEACHER closing date 11 December
MERRYLANDS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 27 November
ST MARYS – SEND LEARNING SUUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 27 November
ST NICHOLAS – MIDDAY SUPERVISOR closing date 3 December
ST NICHOLAS – SEND MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 30 November
WHITMORE – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER (PART TIME) closing date 24 November
WILLOWS – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 27 November
WILLOWS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER (PART TIME) closing date 3 December
WILLOWS – FIXED TERM CLEANER closing date 4 December

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

ESSEX FIRE MUSEUM
OPEN DAY
Sunday 22nd of November 2026 - 10:30AM To 4:00PM



BOOK NOW!
Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk
Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

ESSEX FIRE MUSEUM
CHRISTMAS
OPEN DAY
Sunday 13th of December 2026 - 10:30AM To 4:00PM



BOOK NOW!
Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk
Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

Online Safety and Exploitation Awareness Session for Parents and Carers

Learn how to spot the signs of exploitation and protect your young people from online grooming.

Delivered virtually via Zoom for free.

Tuesday 1 December 7pm-9pm

Scan the QR code to register

Basildon Borough Council

eSafetyTraining



SEND Support Drop In

Laindon Library

Tuesday 24 November, 11am to 12:30pm

- Free drop-in support for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), offering information, advice and guidance at any stage of the SEND journey. No diagnosis is required.
- Meet representatives from SNAP, SPACE and Essex Family Forum, with additional support from Brave, a local charity providing self-care opportunities for parent carers.
- No booking needed. Just drop in. Children are welcome but do not need to attend.

We build more than footballers; we develop young players who Lead with Honour. Strive for Excellence. Rise with Resilience. On & Off The Pitch.

PERFORMANCE HUBS

MONDAYS - SOUTHEND - 6 til 7
TUESDAYS - BILLERICAY - 5 til 6
WEDNESDAYS - FAIRLOP - 7 til 8
THURSDAYS - BASILDON - 7 til 8
FRIDAYS - BENFLEET - 5 til 6



GIRLS ONLY AGES 6-16
UEFA LEVEL COACHING

EMAIL info@hersocceracademy.com

HONOUR | EXCELLENCE | RESILIENCE

COMPASS

A partnership of domestic abuse services providing a response in Essex

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline:

0330 333 7 444

SUFC 2026 HAF FOOTBALL CAMP

10:30AM - 2:30PM

Southend United Community Foundation

ACTIVATE





MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER
THE KING EDMUND SCHOOL / EVERSLEY LEISURE CENTRE

TUESDAY 22ND DECEMBER
EVERSLEY LEISURE CENTRE

WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER
ROOTS HALL STADIUM

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS AVAILABLE
MUST BOOK ON

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

AGES 5 - 13

TIME 10:30 - 2:30

BOOK NOW: app.holidayactivities.com/parent/providers/southend-utd