



Dear families

Once again, I give my sincere thanks to you all for your hard work in completing work at home with your children. We know that this is very difficult for you all and we are so impressed with the effort and hard work that is going in to making this happen. We have seen some wonderful examples shared with us.

EYFS children have been working hard at home. They have completed a science experiment using coloured smarties or skittles and looking at colours within them. They have also been busy reading and learning the story of The Gingerbread Man. They have been writing sentences all about the story and uploading all of their amazing work onto Tapestry.



Year 1 have still been working hard, making progress with phonics. Lots of children have moved up phonics groups and started to read trickier words. We're excited to go back to school next week and resume afterschool booster phonics sessions to make even more progress! Home learning this week has included writing, gymnastics and looking at objects from the past and present.

The Nest children enjoyed exploring musical instruments this week. They were able to identify different instruments like a drum, maracas, a triangle and guitars. Children had the opportunity to play the instruments and explore the sounds they made.



Year 2 have been working very hard this week to make sure they are experts in knowing their numbers to 100! They have been using a number line to count backwards and forwards in tens from any given number. They have also been adding ten more or ten less to a number within 100 and adding multiples of ten within 100. In phonics and reading, the children have worked very hard to improve their reading fluency and stamina. In writing, the children have been practising their grammar knowledge of time conjunctions, imperative verbs and commands to write instructions. In art, the children used their skills and have created self-portraits using their prior knowledge of hues. In science, the children have been busy consolidating their knowledge of materials and animal habitats.

Year 3 have had a busy and positive week of learning at home! In maths, the children have been developing their understanding of money, learning how to count amounts and convert between pounds and pence. We have also continued to practise multiplication and division, which supports all areas of maths as we move through the juniors. This week we introduced our new science topic on forces. The children have been learning about friction and magnets, alongside a series of lessons focused on working scientifically. We have been thinking about what it means to be a scientist – asking questions, making predictions and explaining ideas clearly. In English, the children have continued reading a range of texts, practising their comprehension skills and answering questions about what they have read. Grammar lessons have focused on improving understanding of sentence structure, helping to support and strengthen their own writing. Well done, Year 3, for your hard work and enthusiasm during another successful week of remote learning!

Year 4: This week in maths, we would like to thank the children for their fantastic contribution to the TT Rockstars competition. They showed great enthusiasm and effort, and it was wonderful to see so many children taking part and challenging themselves. In English, the children have been engaging 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 such a wide variety of books. In history, we have been recapping our learning about the Anglo-Saxons. The children did very well using their prior knowledge and were very successful in recalling key facts and ideas, demonstrating how much they have remembered.

In **year 5**, the children have been completing addition and subtraction questions within maths. They have explored word classes within writing. In reading, the children have looked at synonyms, identified details in texts and answered true or false questions. In their topic lessons they have delved into a range of science topics and have learned all about natural resources within geography lessons. Mr Haley would like to give a special mention to Elodie for her wonderful abstract artwork. Following a little accident with a cup of water she thought her work was ruined, however, the water gave the artwork a blurred effect which was even better than the original! The lesson to be learned here is that even when things don't quite work out as you had planned, sometimes the end result can be even better than you expected!



This week in **year 6**, pupils have been exploring some of the most significant bridges in English history, focusing on the Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Menai Bridge. They learned about the remarkable achievements of engineers such as Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Thomas Telford, and discussed how their innovative ideas and designs transformed engineering and bridge construction. The children considered the lasting impact these pioneers have had on the world we live in today, linking history, engineering and the power of creative thinking.

Star Learners: A shout out to all our star learners this week who are being recognised for working especially hard either at home or in school. Well done everyone, keep up the good work!

Star learners	
Alexis (Pandas)	Maia (Elephants)
Hela Rose (Tigers)	Amira (Hedgehogs)
Deniz (Rhinos)	Timothy (Macaws)
Finley (Vaquitas)	Joshua M (Jaguars)
Eduard (Belugas)	Dami (Sea Otters)
Elodie (Saolas)	Gabija (Gorillas)
Erin (Penguins)	Alessia (Sea Turtles)

TT Rockstars: A huge well done to Sea Otters who are absolutely smashing it on TTRS!

TTROCKSTARSSC ORES SPRING TERM	jaguar s	vaquit as	belug as	Sea otters	Saola s	gorilla s	pengu ins	Sea turtle s
SPR 1 WEEK 4	283	547	323	920	145	148	450	341
TOTAL to date	633	1905	3183	7524	530	1906	907	780

We cannot wait for us to all be back at Fairhouse together on Tuesday 3rd February. There will be much celebration from staff, children and parents and carers alike – I am sure!

Please remember our face to face provision for Year 1 (part-time) and Year 6 will continue at Cherry Tree on Monday.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at Fairhouse on Tuesday.

Have a great weekend.

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 Two

3rd - 6th February 2026

Tuesday

Spaghetti Bolognese

Green Pesto Pasta

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Egg Mayo Wrap

Seasonal Fruit Medley

Wednesday

Roast Chicken, Yorkie Pud & Gravy

Winter Vegetable Pastry Parcel, Yorkie Pud & Gravy

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Cheese Baguette

Lemon Drizzle Cake

Thursday

Pepperoni Pizza

Cheese & Tomato Pizza

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Turkey Bap

Chocolate Doughnut

Friday

Fish Fingers

Veggie Fingers

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Ham Wrap

Fruity Friday

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



Creative Family Fun Day

Join Creative Basildon and Eastgate Shopping Centre on **Saturday 14th 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.



Essex Fire Museum
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

eastgate
shopping centre



CREATIVE
BASILDON



Dates for your Diary



Wednesday, 4th February 2026

Eco Council Forum

Tuesday, 10th February 2026

Year 5 Library Visit - Saolas

Wednesday, 11th February 2026

Berlesduna Spelling Bee

'Talking So Your Children Will Listen' Parent Workshop
9am - 11.30am

Thursday, 12th February 2026

Year 5 Library Visit - Gorillas

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

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.



Activities / Achievements



Eren was awarded his first medal on Sunday, for demonstrating great skill and very good listenening, from his football club, Limitless IFC (Inclusion Football Club). Well Done Eren!

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 – CLASS TEACHER closing date 5th February

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

ST MARYS – CLASS TEACHER closing date 4th February

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



Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



libraries.essex.gov.uk



Essex County Council

ESSEX YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

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:
essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk

or contact us on:
0300 303 9988



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!**



CLICK
HERE TO
BOOK



Premier League
Disability Football

INCLUSIVE U'S FOOTBALL CAMP

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

WHAT TO EXPECT?

- **Expert Coaching:** sessions will be led by our UK qualified coaches, who are experienced in working with SEND players.
- **Skills Development:** enhance your skills through fun football drills, including passing, dribbling, shooting and much more.
- **Special Guests:** meet Colchester United players and club mascot Eddie the Eagle!
- **Exciting Rewards:** every participant will receive a Colchester United themed prize, with additional medals and trophies available to be won.