FAIRHOUSE primary SCHOOL

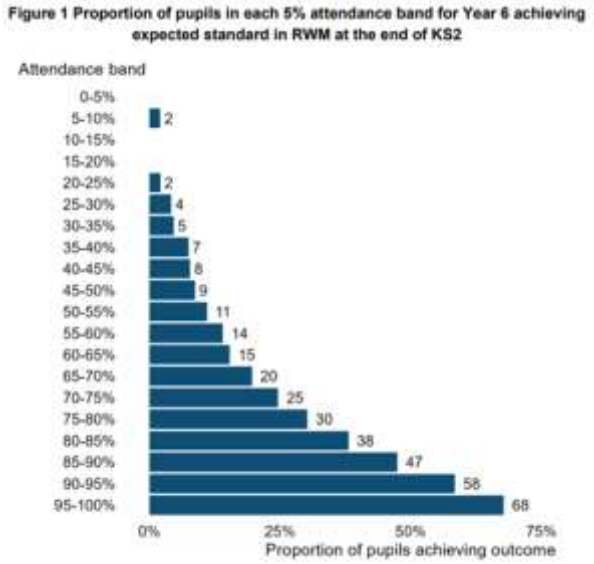
NEWSLETTER - 9 (06/11/26)

Dear families

Welcome back to the new half term. I hope you all enjoyed the break.

It was wonderful to see so many parents come along to our year 2 reading workshop this week. The children loved having you in class reading with them. We hope that parents and carers have found this session useful. Thank you to Mrs Burton for planning and leading this session. Reading at home remains one of the most important things you can do with your child at home to support them in their learning.

Alongside the importance of reading, attendance is the key to good outcomes. If children are not in school, they are missing out on important learning that others are receiving. If they miss out on parts of the curriculum, it is so hard to plug those gaps and gaps widen and children lose confidence. It really is the key to success.



This graph demonstrates the relationship between attendance bands and the percentage of children who achieve the expected levels of attainment at the end of primary school and the relationship is clear.

Please remember that children are still expected to attend school with a sore throat, sore tummy, cough, cold, headache or tiredness. We will fully support them in school and will always call you if we feel they are not managing and need to go home. We can support you with providing medication such as paracetamol, antibiotics etc. to ensure they are as comfortable as possible.

This week some of our year 5 pupils have started their Bikeability level 1 & 2 training. This has taken place over two days. This course gives the children confidence in riding their bike by developing gliding and balance, bike control, confidence in pedalling, awareness of space and obstacles and road safety. It is great to see confidence develop in these areas.

What a fantastic week we have had in EYFS. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back and see them settle so beautifully into their learning. Our story this week (By The Light of the Moon) has taken us on a journey exploring the experience of moving to a new home. Through the story, the children have been thinking about how moving somewhere new can sometimes leave us feeling unsettled, nervous or unsure. We have enjoyed talking about our feelings, sharing our own experiences and thinking about how we can help others when they are facing big changes. Our young artists have been getting creative this week, producing some spectacular firework-inspired artwork. Using paint, glitter and a variety of exciting art materials and tools, the children experimented with colours, textures and different techniques to create their own dazzling displays. We have loved seeing their imaginations come to life in such colourful and sparkly creations. Our little mathematicians have been busy exploring numbers to 10 using a range of practical resources. They have been learning to recognise, make and represent numbers in lots of different ways, helping to deepen their understanding of what numbers really mean. We have been encouraging the children to explore, investigate and explain their mathematical thinking. Our little writers have been putting on their listening ears and becoming sound detectives. This week, we have been focusing on initial sounds, encouraging the children to listen carefully to the beginning sounds they can hear in words. They have been developing their phonics skills and making important links between the sounds they hear and the letters that represent them. Every little step is helping to build confident readers and writers.

This week in Year 1, we have been comparing the height, mass and length of different objects in maths lessons. In history, we have been comparing childhood today with childhood in the 1950s, building on our experience of 1950s shopping before half-term. In writing, we have been practising writing sentences, and in PSHE, we have been sharing our achievements and celebrating the things we are proud of.

Year 2 have had a wonderful start to the second half of the autumn term! We have had assessments this week and the children have been working extremely hard. We also had our reading workshop led by Mrs Burton on the importance of reading for children. Both classes loved reading with their family and had a lovely afternoon filled with high quality books! We have also learnt about a new mover and shaker in History, Martin Luther King Jr! We explored what his life was like and the discrimination he faced, creating a mind map of all the information we had discovered. We have been learning about the simple present and past tense in English and practicing writing in different tenses in our own writing. Overall, the children have settled back into Autumn 2 wonderfully and we look forward to a brilliant half term ahead!

This week in science, Year 3 have been learning about the human skeleton and exploring why our bodies are made up of lots of different bones rather than one large, solid bone. We discovered that having lots of individual bones allows our bodies to move more freely and flexibly. Our bones work together with our joints and muscles to help us bend, stretch, twist, walk and run. If our skeleton was made from one solid bone, we would be unable to move in the same way!



To investigate this, the children took part in a practical experiment using a straw and a piece of string. First, we threaded a whole straw onto the string and explored how difficult it was to bend and move. We then cut the straw into lots of smaller pieces and threaded them back onto the string. The children discovered that the smaller sections allowed much more movement and flexibility, helping them understand why our skeleton is made up of many individual bones connected by joints.



Year 4 have been developing their artistic skills through experimentation with different techniques to create a variety of artwork. They have been exploring how to use foreground and background in their paintings, experimenting with colour, brushstrokes and detail to create depth and bring their artwork to life.

Year 5 enjoyed a busy and engaging week of learning. In maths, they developed their understanding of column addition and subtraction with decimals and practised rounding decimals to the nearest tenth. In English, they explored new vocabulary, effective instructions, modal verbs and the use of parenthesis. During reading, they enjoyed The Graveyard Book and The Wolves in the Walls. They also investigated vegetation belts in Geography, explored different cultures in PSHE and celebrated their learning across the curriculum.



Year 6 returned from the half-term break ready and raring to go, diving straight into an exciting mystery on Tuesday morning when they arrived to discover the intervention rooms had been completely trashed! Pupils have been investigating the crime during writing lessons to prepare for writing their own newspaper reports about the incident; they have been interviewing staff and students using open questions and converting their findings into reported speech. They have also been mastering grammar through the passive voice, particularly focusing on the "hidden" passive voice, which is ideal when the culprit remains unknown (for example, 'The Year 6 intervention rooms were vandalised' and 'Books were scattered across the floor'). Meanwhile, in maths, Year 6 have been tackling fractions to boost their arithmetic performance; a special shout-out to the children who are already scoring a perfect 40/40 - what a fantastic start to the new half term!

Next Friday (13th November) we will be supporting Children in Need. We invite all children to come to school dressed in yellow or spotty clothing or any "Pudsey Bear" attire. We will be asking for a donation of £1 per pupil to donate to this very worthwhile charity. In addition to he £1 donation, we will also be selling Children in Need themed biscuits at break time for all children for 50p each. All money raised will be donated to Children in Need.

We have released our dates for Christmas assemblies where we will entertain you with some lovely Christmas singing and a bit of information sharing. Please look out for when your child's assembly will be taking place in our 'Dates for your Diary' section. All assemblies will take place at 2.40 pm for EYFS, year 1 and year 2, and 2.45 pm for year 3 to year 6. Please do check out our 'Dates for your Diary' section of the newsletter to find out about all the exciting things that are coming up this term.

And finally, we are delighted to inform you all that from January 2027 Little Nipperz will be running an after school provision from our School. This provision will be run by and staffed directly by Little Nipperz, they will also handle their own bookings. If you are interested in signing your child up to attend please contact Little Nipperz directly. Please see the flyer further down the newsletter for their contact details.

Have a wonderful weekend all.

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

9th - 13th November 2026

Monday

Chicken Tikka Masala

Quorn Chicken Masala

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Jam Sandwich

Marble Cake

Tuesday

Pork Sausage Hotdog

Veggie Sausage Hotdog

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Cheese Bap

Seasonal Fruit Medley

Wednesday

Roast Turkey, Yorkie Pud & Gravy

Veggie Plait, Yorkie Pud & Gravy

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Egg Baguette

Jam Filled Doughnut

Thursday

Creamy Chicken Fajita Pasta Bake

Creamy Quorn Fajita Pasta Bake

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Ham Wrap

Bread & Butter Pudding Muffin

Friday

Fish Fingers

Veggie Fingers

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Chicken Bap

Fruity Friday

Fairhouse Weekly Attendance Table

Sea Otters	98.7%
Galapagos Penguins	98.1%
Macaws	97.8%
Jaguars	95.7%
Gorillas	95.6%
Vaquitas	94.4%
Saolas	93.4%
Sea Turtles	92.2%
Hedgehogs	91.7%
Rhinos	91.7%
Tigers	91%
Belugas	90.8%
Elephants	89.5%
Pandas	88.8%



Well done to **Macaws** (KS1) and **Sea Otters** (KS2) who have earned the company of our attendance bears Fred and Freda in class next week. Also to **Sea Otters** and **Galapagos Penguins** who have earned a spin on the attendance prize wheel for achieving over **98%** attendance this week. Well done!

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

Class	Child	Core Value
Galapagos Penguins	Ralphie	Responsibility
Sea Turtles	Donald	Kindness
Gorillas	Maya-Andreea	Kindness
Saolas	Ayesha	Kindness
Belugas	Sarah	Responsibility
Sea Otters	Isla	Kindness
Jaguars	Louise	Responsibility
Vaquitas	Linken	Responsibility
Macaws	David	Kindness
Rhinos	Teddie	Responsibility
Hedgehogs	Amie	Responsibility
Tigers	Teddy	Responsibility
Elephants	Luca	Kindness
Pandas	Sadie	Responsibility

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday, 10th November 2026
Flu Immunisations

Friday, 13th November 2026
Children In Need

Monday, 16th & Tuesday, 17th November 2026
Year 5 Bikeability Course 2

Tuesday, 17th & Wednesday, 18th November 2026
Parents Evening

Wednesday, 18th November 2026
Oral Health Presentation - Reception and Year 3

Thursday, 19th November 2026
New Intake 2027 Tour 1.30pm

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

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



A big

THANK YOU





The Fairhouse Primary School

27/10/2026

for supporting Basildon Foodbank. Your 20.20kg food and toiletries donation make a BIG difference to local people in crisis.

Basildon foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK-wide foodbank network. Basildon Foodbank is operated by RCCG Majesty Connections

Foodbank
Together with Trussell

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 15 December
CHERRY TREE – NURSERY MANAGER closing date 10 November
FAIRHOUSE – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 8 January
MERRYLANDS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 27 November
ST NICHOLAS – CLEANER closing date 16 November
WILLOWS – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 27 November

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

