

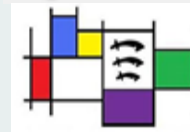


**BERLESDUNA**  
ACADEMY TRUST

Parent  
and  
Carers  
End of Year Newsletter

July 2025

*Our core values of  
“aspiration”, “family” and  
“success” guide us on our  
journey of school  
improvement.*



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well as we gear up for the exciting start of the 2025-26 academic year!

I wanted to take a moment to share some of the positive strides we've made over the past year and what's coming up next. I'm happy to say that we've made significant progress in recruiting and keeping talented staff across our schools. This has been crucial to ensuring we have a strong team in place to provide the best education for our children.

Your support has been absolutely key in driving up standards, and I can't thank you enough for that. The fantastic results from Ofsted inspections at Merrylands, Willows, and Whitmore prove just how dedicated everyone is to creating an outstanding learning environment.

This year has also brought some great improvements across the Trust for all Key Stages. I'm especially pleased with the strong Key Stage 2 results from The Willows and Fairhouse, which are helping us get closer to national standards across the Trust. This is a direct reflection of the hard work put in by our pupils and staff, and I couldn't feel prouder of our achievements together.

On top of that, we're thrilled about the green lights for St Mary's SEMH provision and Downham Primary, which open up exciting possibilities for growth and development. Our reviews into inclusion and safeguarding have laid a solid foundation, ensuring that every pupil feels safe and valued—it really is essential for their learning.

One of the highlights of the past year has definitely been our Trust competitions and pupil voice initiatives. They've created amazing opportunities for pupils from different schools to come together, have fun, and collaborate. This sense of community and pride in our schools is truly important as we continue nurturing a vibrant educational atmosphere.

As we look to the future, we are aware of the challenges on the horizon, including the financial situation for our schools, the rising number of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and the persistent attendance issues. Tackling these will require our collective focus, but the feedback from the Pupil Survey shows that our pupils feel happy and safe, which is a great sign that we're on the right path.

In the next academic year, our central leadership team will be pushing schools to really look at the impact of our improvement strategies, especially for our SEND pupils. Sharing best practices among staff is crucial so that we can keep developing our teaching expertise and enhancing the quality of education across the board.

Improving pupil attendance, particularly for those who have been persistently absent, will remain a top priority. We'll be working on our monitoring systems to respond promptly to any emerging needs. Plus, we're committed to achieving greater consistency in our foundation subjects and assessments to streamline our approach across the Trust.

Lastly, I'm excited about embracing AI to support our staff's wellbeing and workload, as well as to enhance the quality of education we provide. This technology will really help in streamlining our processes and enriching our pupils' experiences in the classroom.

Thanks again for all your support and commitment. Together, I'm confident that we can make the upcoming academic year a fantastic one for everyone!

Best Wishes,

Sean Tobin  
CEO, Berlesduna Trust

## NEWS ACROSS THE TRUST



This term we have continued with our Trust events and have seen the Orienteering, Football and Netball tournament and Swimming Gala take place. These events are always a huge success and it is a pleasure to see the pupils proudly represent their schools.

The Orienteering event sees 6 pupils from each school team up and work alongside other pupils from each school within the Trust. The aim is for the teams to work together to solve various clues as quickly as they can.

We also saw the annual Football and Netball Tournament take place. The winners of the Football and Netball Tournament were:

Whitmore (Netball), Merrylands (Football) and Willows (Girls Football).

The swimming gala saw pupils competing in various swimming races. The overall winners of this event were The Willows, with The Willows winning the Lower Key Stage 2 events and Whitmore winning the Upper Key Stage 2 events.

We will continue with the Trust events in the next academic year.

In other news, the Pupil Voice took place last month. Pupils from each school across the Trust visited St Mary's school and enjoyed a morning of 'Celebration of Outdoor Learning and Connection' Pupils partnered up with peers from other schools within the Trust and took part in various outdoor activities.

We are pleased to share that Downham Primary school will officially be joining the Trust. We have been supporting Downham Primary School for well over a year now and we look forward to them officially joining Berlesduna Academy Trust later on in the year.



During the next academic year, we look forward to rolling out the Trust Timetables Rockstars battles..... Who will be top of the rocks??!!

The vision of the Berlesduna Academy Trust is to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all pupils, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background.

*A strong partnership of schools, collaborating and sharing each other's strengths to make a positive difference*



**Unfortunately for us, we have some members of staff leaving the Trust at the end of this academic year:**

**Canewdon:**

**Mrs Haggerty**

**Cherry Tree:**

**Ms Stone– Riley, Miss Tyler-Jenkins, Miss Farmer, Miss Stewart and Mr Heminway.**

**Downham:**

**Mr Poulson, Mrs Farley and Mrs Maloney**

**Fairhouse:**

**Mrs LoBue, Miss Ray, Mrs Kyei and Mr Smead**

**Felmore:**

**Mrs Bromhead, Mrs Domien, Mrs Kimberley, Miss Mabey and Miss Dawes**

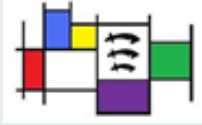
**Merrylands:**

**Mrs Jarvis, Mrs Cubberley and Miss Shaw**

**Berlesduna Central Team:**

**Peter Pigram, Shelly Gardener, Katie Razor and Linda Oliffe**

**We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your hard work and would like to wish you all the best for your future.**



## Felmore Primary School Vision:

Felmore Primary School (a proud member of Berlesduna Academy Trust) is an inspirational and positive learning environment for all, which provides exceptional educational opportunities.

It is a place where self-belief and respect empower motivated learners to successfully navigate their present and future worlds.

We started a WOW walk to school challenge in June. This is an incentive to get children active on the way to school. Mrs Wastell has given out badges for June and we have had around 200 children that have earned them, we have seen an improvement with how the children are travelling to school from the data already.



Despite the sweltering heat, this year's Sports Day was a fantastic success. The children displayed boundless enthusiasm and impressive teamwork across all year groups, giving their best effort in every event, both on the track and in the field. It was wonderful to see everyone participating wholeheartedly in a variety of activities, including exciting new additions like the egg and spoon race, which was a clear favourite among the students. The day was a true celebration of sportsmanship, determination, and fun. We are also very proud of the children who represented Felmore at: the swimming gala and at District Sports, Our netball and football teams brought home two medals from their tournament against the other schools in the Trust.

Our Year 6 children have had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Suffolk!

**Monday:** We arrived safely and settled into our tents in beautiful surroundings. After a tasty dinner, we enjoyed games with our PGL group leader and got ready for the week of exciting activities ahead.

**Tuesday:** It was a fun-packed (and sun-packed!) day with canoeing, challenge courses, and the giant swing. The children supported each other brilliantly and even had time to explore the beach and enjoy Archery Tag before bed.

**Wednesday:** Despite an early morning rain shower, spirits were high. Children showed great bravery climbing, fire lighting, and tackling the trapeze. We ended the day with a campfire and marshmallows, plus a bit of stargazing – a real highlight!

**Thursday:** A full day of abseiling, problem-solving, Jacob's Ladder, and a fabulous disco to end the evening. Congratulations to the cleanest tent group – rewarded with ice creams! Everyone has had a brilliant time, made memories, and achieved personal goals. We're so proud of them.

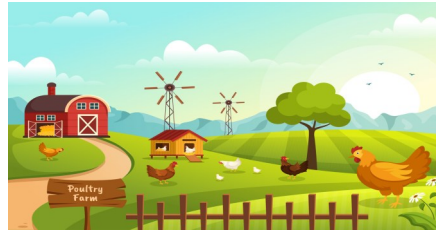
While some of our Year 6s were off on residential, the rest of us stayed local - and had an absolutely amazing week full of laughter, adventure, and unforgettable moments right here in Essex! We kicked off the week with a sunny picnic in the park, soaking up the fresh air and enjoying a good old kickabout on the field. From there, things only got more exciting! One of the highlights had to be our trip to Adventure Island, where we faced our fears, cheered each other on, and braved every ride we could - some of us even surprised ourselves! Later in the week, we hit the lanes at Hollywood Bowl, followed by some splash-tastic fun at the pool. And of course, we couldn't resist a go in the arcades—hundreds of tickets won and plenty of prizes claimed! Back at school, the excitement continued with some very special guests. Baloo the Police Dog made quite the impression, and we were lucky to spend time with both the Mental Health Support Team and the brilliant Cynophobia Family Support Dogs, who brought calm, cuddles, and confidence. From start to finish, the week was packed with fun, friendship, and plenty of laughs. The children were an absolute credit to the school - showing maturity, enthusiasm, and a fantastic sense of humour throughout. We couldn't be prouder! We are so proud of our choir, who were absolutely amazing at the Music Festival in the Towngate theatre. They threw themselves into their performance and sang their hearts out.



Helping Young People Reclaim the Internet

We have been lucky enough to have been working with the Breck Foundation. They are an organisation set up by a Mum, whose son was sadly killed following Online Grooming. Children from Reception to 6 have had sessions and there were parent sessions too.

We wish Mrs Bromhead all the best with her next adventure adopting two little girls, she will be missed dearly while she is off, but we know she will make an amazing mummy. We are sad to see a few members of staff leave at the end of term, Mrs Kimberley, Miss Mabey, Mrs Domien and Miss Dawes. We wish them the best of luck in their next adventures. We have a teacher, Mr Sear, and one of our Breakfast club team getting married in August, we wish them a lifetime of happiness.



We have enjoyed a number of experiences this term, from Trust competitions, a Y3 trip to Hyde Hall, a Y5 trip to Barleylands and a Y2 trip to the RAF Museum.

Y5 also took part in a Road Safety session around the periphery of the school, as they become more independent in their travels.



Y4 performed 'The Bee Musical' for parents, whilst Y5 performed 'This is Me' and Y6 performed 'Treachery at Traitors' Quay'. All of these performances raised money for their year group charities as they collected donations at the end.

Y4 enjoyed taking part in a number of physical challenges in a 'Wise Up!' workshop on our school field and all of KS2 enjoyed their Sports Day, which was well received by families who came to support them.



This term, we say goodbye and best wishes to Miss Tyler-Jenkins as she awaits the birth of her baby girl. We look forward to welcoming her back after her Maternity Leave. We also say goodbye to Miss Farmer and Miss Stewart who will be following alternative paths in teaching and Mr.

Heminway, who will be taking up a teaching post in a different Borough.

After 12yrs of service to the school, we also say farewell to our Headteacher, Ms. Stone-Riley. She has led the school through 3 OFSTED Inspections and has been a beacon of dignity and respect for staff, pupils and families. We wish her all the best as she embarks on the future.



## Cherry Tree Visions and Values:

Caring, Thriving, Preparing, Succeeding

At Cherry Tree our school aims are that our school will be a place which:

Provides a happy, secure, environment in which everyone thrives.

Prepares our children to be successful, lifelong learners who feel able to achieve their potential.

Develops our children's emotional well-being so that they have a sense of pride in themselves, their peers, their learning and our school.

Widens our children's horizons with a broad curriculum and a range of activities and opportunities. Cares for the feelings and beliefs of others, promotes good manners, courtesy and self-discipline at all times.

Supports our children on their journeys to becoming resilient and responsible citizens with a strong moral purpose.

Works in partnership with our families, developing positive links with our local community and the wider world.

We summarise our aims and our vision in our mission statement: Caring, Thriving, Preparing, Succeeding.



## Fairhouse Aims, Values and Ethos

**Courage**  
**Responsibility**  
**Respect**  
**Kindness**

Our aim is to work together to inspire every child to reach their full potential in a safe, happy, caring and committed environment and to make a positive difference to the lives of each and every one of our pupils, both academically and personally. We are ambitious, passionate and determined to achieve success in every aspect of school life. The staff, the governing body and the Trust work together to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all our pupils, regardless of their social, cultural or economic background.

One of our Year 4 pupils made the world cup final dance event hosted in Spain. What an experience to represent your country at an international event!



All of our EYFS children completed the 'ride your bike' scheme, run by Dr Bike.

Our school council have been trying to raise funds for a new bike rack at school. After contacting lots of different charities, we made contact with Basildon Round Table. They came to visit us and our head girl and boy write letters requesting funding. Their hard work paid off as we received £1000 from Basildon Round table. With their donations, alongside fundraising from Friends of Fairhouse, we have been able to install a new secure bike rack near our entrance area.

We have had a successful year of fundraising in school this year through our discos, Christmas events, raffles etc. We have been able to use this money to heavily subsidise some Christmas performances for December 2025.



Our fundraising has meant that we have been able to replenish our key stage 2 reading book stock with new material to keep our children suitably engaged in great books.

We have a wonderfully refurbished toilet block in our upstairs key stage 2 area.

We have been luckily selected for a £5000 grant from RHS. There is a project alongside this that will involve our children. We are only just getting started with this so more news will follow next term.



Our choir has very recently performed at the Towngate Theatre as part of the Basildon Junior music festival. We even had two pupils (Freya and Samia) who performed some solo parts.

This term we held a very successful enterprise week. The children had visits from a number of adults to demonstrate their roles in the field of work. Year 3 raised money through their own sweet stall.

We have just held a successful summer event with a number of external stalls and entertainment facilities. There was a great turn out and the children and families have had a wonderful time.

We also held a DT day with a selected group of pupils in order to enter a competition. One of our pupils (Angelo) made it through to the Young Farmer's competition in Chelmsford with their entry.



This term we say goodbye to Mrs LoBue and Miss Ray, who are both relocating with their families. We wish them both every success in her new homes and new schools.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Kyei who has been with us covering Mrs Strachan's maternity leave. We wish her the best for her onward journey.

In addition, we say goodbye to Mr Smead as he takes up his initial teacher training position in another school. We wish him the best of luck.

Finally, we say goodbye to Mr Davie who has been the deputy headteacher at Fairhouse for just over 5 years. He is taking up his new position as Head of School at Cherry Tree Primary School. We wish him every success and we know we will still get to see him from time to time.

We would like to send best wishes and the best of luck to all our leavers and thank them for their time and commitment to our Fairhouse community over the years.

Years 2 & 3 in Swan Class enjoyed their school Trip to the Museum of Power in Maldon. It had a wealth of historic subjects. It included the story of water, Forces and magnets, electricity, light and sound. The children also enjoyed a trip on a miniature railway.



Years 5 & 6 in Eagle Class went along to the Imperial War Museum in Duxford. They carried out many interactive experiences and got to walk in the footsteps of the men and women who served during the war. They saw iconic aircrafts and historic objects during their visit.



St Nicholas Primary School commemorated VE Day by wearing red, white and blue, having a picnic outside and participating in many activities during the school day.



Our football team played at Roots Hall, Southend United Football Stadium. They made it to the finals and showed fantastic sportsmanship. Well done to Donnie who was awarded Player of the Tournament.

Years 4 & 5 in Parrot Class went to Wat Tyler Park in Basildon and enjoyed spending a day outdoors with many interacting activities by exploring the environment & wildlife.



Reception Class enjoyed their visit at Clay Cottage getting creative with clay moulding. They have painted their money box creations and will enjoy showing their family.

In June, Years 4, 5 & 6 performed at The Cliffs Pavilion in Southend-on-Sea alongside approx. 61 other schools. They worked hard with their rehearsals practicing an array of songs and performing live for their parents. Money was raised for local charities.

Year 6 Leavers were invited to a service at Chelmsford Cathedral. They attended alongside other school and participated in many activities



## St Nicholas Core Values

Our school community identified three core, Christian, values that we believe should underpin every aspect of our work, play and relationships. They are at the heart of everything we do and our commitment to providing the very best for the pupils in our care.

Our Core Values are:

### **Respect:**

Every member of our school community aims to demonstrate politeness, honour and care towards others, ourselves, the environment and our world.

### **Responsibility:**

Every member of our community aims to demonstrate good judgement and the ability to act correctly and make decisions on our own. We try to understand and demonstrate our understanding of the fact that actions have consequences.

### **Integrity:**

Every member of our school community aims to consistently demonstrate honesty and tries hard to do what is morally right. We tell the truth, own up to our mistakes and we know the importance of giving praise and receiving praise.



## The Willows Core Values

### OUR CORE VALUES:

**RESPECT,  
RESPONSIBILITY,  
COURAGE,  
HOPE,  
JUSTICE,  
COMPASSION,  
INTEGRITY,  
WISDOM**

At The Willows, we are proud of our friendly and family atmosphere where we get to know each child whilst fostering a sense of community responsibility.

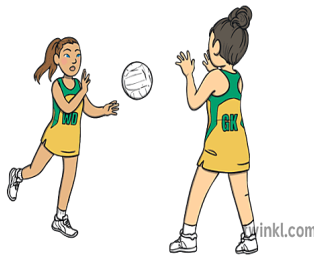
Our school values underpin everything we do, providing a safe, supportive and encouraging environment in which we recognise each unique individual. We set high standards of achievement and behaviour whilst ensuring that the children's school days are enjoyable.

Year one entered the Young Writers senses poetry competition and all of our entries have been selected to be printed in the national poetry book. We can't wait to put our copy in the school library for everyone to read!

The school had training with Greg Bottrill - author of 'Can I go play Now?' and creator of Drawing Club. The EYFS team are very excited to continue implementing the very successful drawing club scheme in Reception.



### In sporting news:



Year 5 Netball came 6<sup>th</sup> in the Lee Chapel Tournament

Year 6 Netball came 7<sup>th</sup> in the Lee Chapel Tournament

Year 4 and 6 attended Quad Kids and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> place

### Berlesduna Football and Netball Tournament:

Girls Football 1<sup>st</sup> place,

Boys Football 2<sup>nd</sup> place,

Netball 2<sup>nd</sup> place



### Basildon District Girls Football Semi-Final v Millhouse -

5-1 win and through to the Final

### Year 5 and 6 District sports -

Year 5 Boys Long Jump - 2<sup>nd</sup>,

Year 6 Girls Long Jump 1<sup>st</sup>,

Year 6 Boys Throwing - 2<sup>nd</sup>,

Year 6 Girls 800m 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Year 4 Rapid Fire Cricket - 3<sup>rd</sup> place



### Berlesduna Swimming Gala -

12 individual medals, 1<sup>st</sup> in UKS2 Relay, 3<sup>rd</sup> in LKS2 relay, UKS2 1<sup>st</sup> place, LKS2 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Willows Overall Champions

### Basildon District Girls Football Final v St Anne Line

We won and are now champions of the district!

The Summer term has come to a close and the children at Canewdon Primary School have enjoyed lots of activities.



Our Reception and Year 1 class visited 'Call of the Wild' zoo and had a fantastic time looking at the animals in their enclosures and seeing some up close!!



The whole school commemorated VE Day in May with a picnic lunch, music and games and a song for the parents to hear at the end of the day.



We had a couple of educational walks around our lovely village. In May Parrot Class went on a geographical walk to explore environmental changes. The students had fun sketching landmarks and planning how these areas could be improved. In June Robin Class had a walk to the Canewdon Lock-Up and Stocks which date back from about 1775.



Our Year 3 and Year 4 children visited Chelmsford Cathedral as part of the RE curriculum. They found the trip very interesting. They learnt about the key features of a cathedral and a church and had a chance to look at artwork and explore the colours of the robes.

There was a second visit to the Cathedral in June for the Year 6 Leavers Event which celebrated their achievements during their time at Primary School.

Our Year 6 students also went to Tower Bridge. Here they saw the workings of the bridge and had an opportunity to walk across the glass section and look at the people and traffic below.



Last month selected students attended the Junior Music Festival which is held at the Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff on Sea. Parents came to see the final performance in the evening. It was a great success.

We also took selected students to Garons Leisure Centre for this year's District Sports Day. The school received 41 points plus 6 individual medals and one group event medal.



The last class trip of the year was Parrot Class. They visited Southend Museum and Planetarium. They learnt about the Anglo-Saxon era which included a trail, activities and information about the Princely Burial found in Prittlewell.

We will finish this academic year with the Summer Disco which is run by the PTA and the Year 6 events which include a trip to Adventure Island and a leavers production and assembly.

Mrs Haggerty will be leaving us at the end of the term after just under 21 years working at the School as an LSA. She will be sorely missed but we would like to wish her all the very best as she starts her well earned retirement.

We would also like to wish all our Year 6 students all the very best of luck as they venture on to the next stage of their educational journey in their new schools.



## Canewdon Core Values

Our school community identified three core, Christian, values that we believe should underpin every aspect of our work, play and relationships. They are at the heart of everything we do and our commitment to providing the very best for the pupils in our care.

Our Core Values are:

### **Respect:**

Every member of our school community aims to demonstrate politeness, honour and care towards others, ourselves, the environment and our world.

### **Responsibility:**

Every member of our community aims to demonstrate good judgement and the ability to act correctly and make decisions on our own. We try to understand and demonstrate our understanding of the fact that actions have consequences.

### **Integrity:**

Every member of our school community aims to consistently demonstrate honesty and tries hard to do what is morally right. We tell the truth, own up to our mistakes and we know the importance of giving praise and receiving praise.



## Crays Hill Vision, Aims and Values

*Learning, safety and  
respect for all.*

### Our Aims

For children to operate as independent learners and thinkers

To inspire a love for learning

To provide a relevant curriculum for all

For children to value themselves

To foster a sense of belonging to a community

### Our Values

Respect for ourselves and others

Respect for property

Truthfulness

Responsibility for own actions

Being polite and considerate

No bad language

No bullying

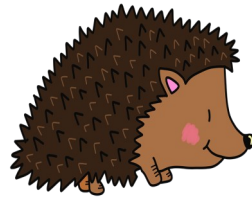
No racism

### What a Fantastic Term We've Had!

As we reach the end of a sunny and exciting summer term, we wanted to share just some of the brilliant learning and memorable experiences we've enjoyed across the school!

#### Whole School Highlights

Our whole school trip to **Barleylands Farm** was a huge hit! We learned all about farming and where our food comes from. Another favourite moment was our **Summer Fete**, packed with fun, games. We wrapped up the term with a joyful Bouncy castle and **party day** and a sunny **picnic on the field**—the perfect way to celebrate our hard work.

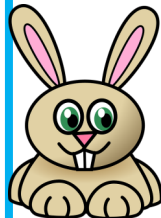


#### Hedgehog Class

Hedgehog Class have had a summer to remember! We've been learning all about the seaside, enjoying wonderful stories in our Drawing Club like *What the Ladybird Heard at the Seaside*, *Winnie the Witch*, and *The Singing Mermaid*. In science, we became budding marine biologists—spotting sea creatures such as crabs, lobsters, jellyfish, and anemones. A special highlight was our energetic sports day, alongside a thrilling Kung Fu workshop and a fun-filled rugby day!

#### Squirrel Class

Squirrels showed their strength and teamwork during our Kung Fu demonstration this term. We've been taking on a reading challenge too—some of us even brought in chapter books from home! What a fantastic way to build our love of reading.

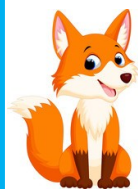


#### Rabbit Class

Rabbit Class travelled through time this term as we learned about homes from different historical periods. We were especially fascinated by Victorian houses and even examined real household objects from that era—what a fascinating glimpse into the past!

#### Otter Class

Otters have had a busy term diving into the water cycle in geography and learning all about life in Victorian times. We created characters inspired by the legendary Sir Quentin Blake, and explored forces and magnets in science—what a curious and creative bunch!



#### Fox Class

Foxes have had a fantastic term too! We explored animal life cycles, carried out fascinating science experiments, and even learned some basic first aid in PSHE. Our focus on athletics skills had us all geared up and ready for sports day fun!

#### Farewell, Year 6 Badgers

As we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 Badgers, we reflect on their fantastic achievements. They've enjoyed musical fun with P-Trumpets, unforgettable trips, and special moments at the Essex Food and Farming Festival. We're proud of everything they've done and wish them all the best on their next adventure.



### Thank You & Have a Wonderful Summer!

Thank you to all our families and staff for your support this term.

We wish you a relaxing and sunny break—see you in September!



## Gold School Games Mark – Sporting Excellence!

We are thrilled to announce that Whitmore has secured the **Gold School Games Mark** this year! This award recognises the commitment of getting children active and involved in sport. Thank you to the staff, pupils and families for making sport and physical activity a vital part of school life. We are so proud of everyone who has represented Whitmore in sports events and activities this year - well done!

## Ofsted Success – A Warm and Nurturing School

Following our recent Ofsted inspection, we are pleased to share that the report celebrated Whitmore as a school with many strengths. Inspectors commented that we are: “A warm and nurturing school [where] pupils are exceedingly polite, kind and respectful.” This fantastic feedback is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our pupils, staff and community.



## Reception Bike-Riding with Hadleigh Cycles

This term, we partnered with **Hadleigh Cycles** to provide our Reception children with the exciting opportunity to learn to ride bikes. The sessions were a huge success – our children loved every minute, and by the end

of the second day, we were so proud to see so many confidently whizzing around the playground! Well done to all our budding cyclists.



## Whitmore Core Values

Honesty  
Perseverance  
Respect  
Positivity  
Friendship

At the heart of our school community is the well-being and education of all of our pupils.

We are passionate about providing quality experiences and maximising knowledge, skill and enjoyment for the children from our curriculum.

We strive to ensure that all children are making good progress, whatever their starting point.



## Merrylands

### School Values and Ethos

### Growth Through Learning

At Merrylands Primary School and Nursery, we believe passionately in the importance of recognising every child as a unique individual.

We nurture the growth of the whole child academically, socially, emotionally, morally and physically, celebrating all achievements in a safe, caring and creative environment.

We believe a happy child will be a successful child and work to ensure every child enjoys school and achieves.

The Core Values at Merrylands underpin all that we believe in:

- Respect
- Kindness
- Perseverance

It has been another busy term at Merrylands starting with a visit from St. George on St. George's Day in April through to the Year 6 Isle of Wight residential trip and end of year celebrations in July.



In May we celebrated VE day with a celebratory picnic and a range of activities which were carefully designed to maximise and honour the people from the UK and around the world who fought for almost 6 years in World War II. The school was a sea of red, white and blue with the children in non-uniform and decorations both inside and outside the school.

In June the School Council visited the Houses of Parliament. The children enjoyed a tour of the building, learning about its history and had the opportunity to meet our local MP



Richard Holden. A few weeks later, the Eco-Warriors joined the Canvey Bay beach team to help keep the beach free of litter.



Children across the school have participated in a range of sporting events this term including competitions for rounders, pentathlon, cricket, district sports and tag rugby as well as the Berlesduna Trust orienteering competition and netball and football competition. A number of gold, silver and bronze medals were achieved at these events and we are really proud of all the participants.

The summer term has also included five sports days with events for children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, the ASC and the Nest. These events provided the opportunity for all children to be involved and were really well supported by parents, carers and relatives.



**CHOIR** Music has also been a highlight this term with both the Infant and Junior Basildon Music Festival. The KS1 choir performed for their parents at Lincewood Primary School alongside three other Basildon schools while the KS2 choir performed at the Towngate Theatre alongside seven other Basildon schools. The children at both events put on a fantastic performance and they should be really proud of their achievements.

After an action-packed term, we hope everyone has an enjoyable summer break.

We're excited to share a fantastic term of achievements and activities at STM! We welcomed a new Forest School lead, enhancing our outdoor learning provision. On World Teachers' Day, parents gave wonderful feedback, celebrated with a special display in our foyer. Congratulations to Mrs Richardson for achieving a 5-star food rating in our kitchen, and to Mrs Walker on her new Executive Head role at Downham.



Our pupils shone at the Trust Poetry Slam Competition at Cherry Tree, with Amelia, Daniel, George A, and Amelia representing us brilliantly. Essex County Fire & Rescue Service delivered vital assemblies on Halloween and Firework Safety, while the Safer Essex Road Safety Partnership reminded Year 5 about staying safe near roads. We also introduced a new electronic signing-in system to streamline school visits.

A big well done to Matilda, Isabelle, and Mia for confidently leading an assembly to promote their "Kindness Rocks" event, and representing STM at the Trust Pupil Voice project. Sheila, our mindfulness mentor, hosted a valuable parent workshop, and John Cousins from the Royal British Legion delivered a moving "Remember and Rejoice" assembly. Reverend Jacqui led Remembrance and Christingle services that deeply engaged our children and families.



Oak and Chestnut classes explored local history and war remembrance through trips and the War Memorial Exhibition. The children created stunning artwork inspired by Black History Month and Jean-Michel Basquiat with artist Matt Mackman. We also supported the community by donating to Eastham Care Home's Reverse Advent Calendar.



Other highlights included a fun and educational visit from PC Dan, visits from inspiring author Chris Connaught, and participation in the Essex PINS Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools, including immersive Autism Bus training.

Our children celebrated cultural diversity with Chinese New Year workshops, enjoyed the Tesco "My Happy Mind" project, and took part in exciting events like the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime, Red Nose Day alongside Holi celebrations, and VE Day festivities.

Safety and wellbeing remain a priority: Essex Fire and Rescue delivered water safety assemblies, Essex Police ran a Knife Intensification campaign for Year 6, and Cyber Safety talks helped prepare our older pupils for the digital world.



We also enjoyed Bikeability sessions, school trips to Stow Maries Aerodrome and Duxford, and a wonderful Sinfonia Orchestra performance.

Our pupils have shown exceptional spirit, enthusiasm, and kindness throughout these events — a true reflection of our school values and community strength.



## St Marys Core Values

### Vision, Ethos and Values

*'We believe, we achieve,  
we succeed in God's  
family.'*

**Thankfulness  
Compassion  
Community  
Truthfulness  
Courage  
Forgiveness**

St. Mary's C of E Primary School is a fully inclusive, caring school where all of God's children are welcomed, a place where pupils have access to a broad, balanced and bespoke curriculum. We aim to foster an environment of success where all children are offered opportunities to celebrate success, raise aspirations and develop their own character. Together we will build courageous, kind and thoughtful citizens of the future. Our vision is to provide children with a love of learning, social competence and the best possible tools to succeed personally, academically, spiritually, morally and socially in a fast paced, ever changing and technological 21st Century world. The caring, Christian ethos of the school is firmly based on our six core values which remind us all that we must consistently strive to achieve and exceed our potential.



## Downham Values and Ethos

### Care Consideration Courtesy

We **CARE** about each other as members of our school community and the world around us. We want to show God's love to everyone.

We **CONSIDER** our future and prepare for it today. We do our best. When we make mistakes, we take responsibility and try again. We know that God has good plans for us.

We show **COURTESY** to everyone. We are all made in God's image, unique but equal. We treat each other with respect.

Children are taught about the **24 different character strengths** that make up their personality. They understand that we all possess these strengths, but in different degrees, resulting in a truly unique character strength profile.

These character strengths have been carefully aligned with our school values "care, consideration and courtesy" and are recognised as part of our weekly celebration assembly

As we come to the end of another fantastic year at Downham, we are proud to reflect on the many achievements, special moments, and shared successes that have made this year so memorable. From inspiring performances and exciting enrichment to sporting triumphs, curriculum innovation, and community celebrations – it's been a year to remember!

A highlight for many was the Year 6 residential to Bawdsey Manor, Year 5 and 6 pupils dazzled on stage at the Towngate Theatre, Year 2 sang beautifully at Emmanuel Church, and the Easter production at William de Ferrers auditorium was outstanding.



Our Sports Week was an enormous success, The week included a range of sporting activities and challenges, and it was wonderful to see so many smiles and positive attitudes across the school.

We were proud to see two Year 3 pupils reach the Essex County Cross Country Finals, and we took part in a wide range of Trust-wide sports events, including football, netball, and swimming. Our SEND pupils enjoyed an inclusive pentathlon event organised by the local Sports Partnership. We also introduced the Shooting Stars football programme.

We were thrilled to come first in the KS1 Spelling Bee – a fantastic achievement! The introduction of Times Tables Rock Stars across the school has been a real hit, making maths fun, competitive, and engaging.



The year has been rich in enrichment opportunities. Our exciting curriculum came to life through Spanish Days, a visit from the fire service, educational trips to the British Museum, Beth Chatto Gardens, Barleylands and Colchester Castle, and even a surprise visit from some Ferraris, much to the delight of our pupils! Science Week was a huge success, we were also winners of the Berlesduna Science Competition, recognising the creativity and passion of our budding scientists.

Our Early Years provision has been transformed and was described by the School Improvement Partner as "outstanding." We now have a newly designed creative arts room supporting expressive and imaginative learning, purchased 30 brand new laptops, and launched a beautiful new school library.



A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA, who have worked incredibly hard throughout the year to raise funds and support school events.

This year we have placed a real emphasis on wellbeing, welcoming Sheila Moses, our mindfulness mentor, into school to support children in small groups, helping them develop self-awareness, calm, and resilience.

As with every year, we've also had some changes in our staff team. We are sad to say goodbye to Mr Poulson, who is leaving us – we thank him for his dedication and wish him every success in the future. We also send our best wishes to Mrs Walsh, who is heading off on maternity leave, and to Mrs Farley and Mrs Maloney, who are moving on – thank you both for all your contributions to Downham.

We are excited to announce that Miss Bailey will be joining us in September as our new Executive Deputy Headteacher, bringing experience and energy to our leadership team. We also warmly welcome Mrs Courtnell, who has joined the school office as our new School Business Manager – a fantastic addition to our team.

We've been delighted to welcome new pupils and families into our community this year and look forward to continuing our journey together into the new academic year.

This has truly been a year of growth, creativity, and success. From classrooms and concerts to sports fields and science, the achievements of our pupils and staff reflect the strength of our school community.

A heartfelt thank you to every member of our Downham family – pupils, parents, carers, staff, governors, and volunteers – for your hard work, commitment, and support throughout the year. We couldn't do it without you, and we are so proud of what we've accomplished together.

Here's to a wonderful summer and another exciting year ahead at Downham!

# Social Stories



**Year 6  
Canewdon  
pupils  
on Tower  
Bridge  
looking at  
the people  
and traffic  
below**

**St Nicholas Parrot Class enjoying  
the wildlife at Wat Tyler Park**



**Whitmore Reception children taking  
part in 'Learn to Ride' with  
Hadleigh Cycles**



**Pupil Voice  
Forrester  
School  
morning**



**Canewdon pupils enjoying their  
geographical walk to explore  
environmental changes**

# Things to look out for over the Summer Holidays

## PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2025

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

### ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

### ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

### ASK ITALIAN

Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays

### BEEFEATER

Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer

### BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main

### BILLS

Kids Eat Free weekdays, 21st July - 29th Sept

### BREWERS FAYRE

Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer

### BREWDOG

2 Kids eat free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August

### BURGER KING

From 28th July - 31st August, Kids Eat Free (via app)

### CHIQUITO

Kids eat FREE Daily Until August 31st

### DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

### FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids Eat Free from 14<sup>th</sup> July - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

### FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

### GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

### HARVESTER

Kids eat for £1, Mon - Fri via the App

### HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

### IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

### LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

### MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

### MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

### PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

### PREMIER INN & TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

### PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

### PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

### SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

### SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

### TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

### TESCO

Kids Eat FREE with a 60p spend until Aug 31st

### TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

### THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

### TOBY CARVERY

Kids eat for £1 all day (weekdays) until Aug 29th

### WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

### YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

### ZIZZI

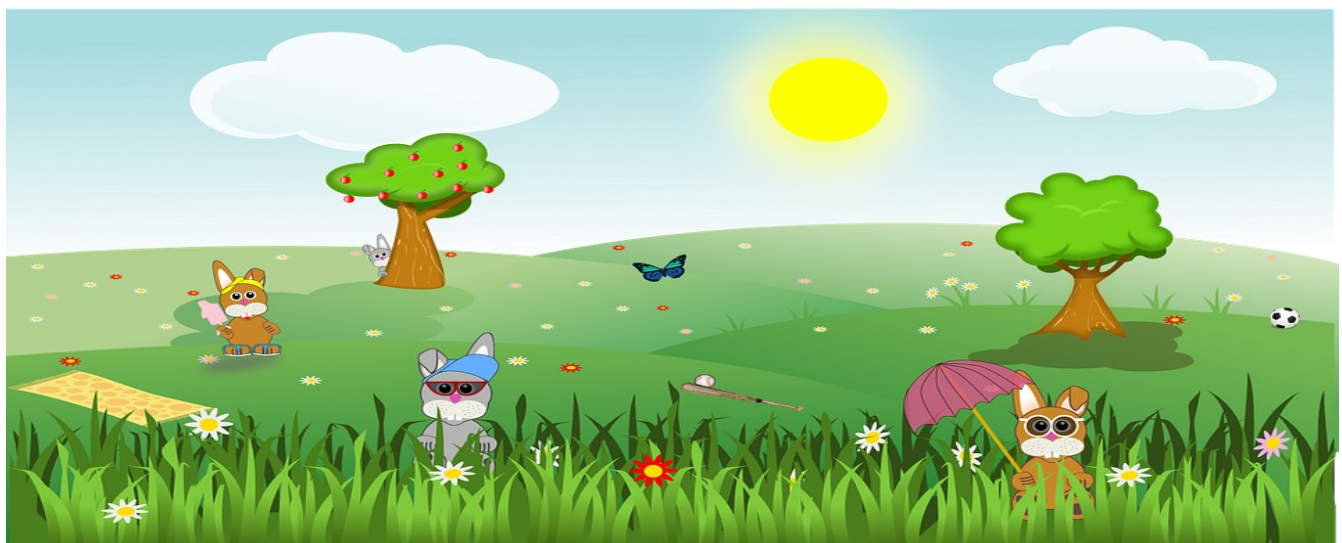
Kids eat free this summer holidays (ex Saturdays)



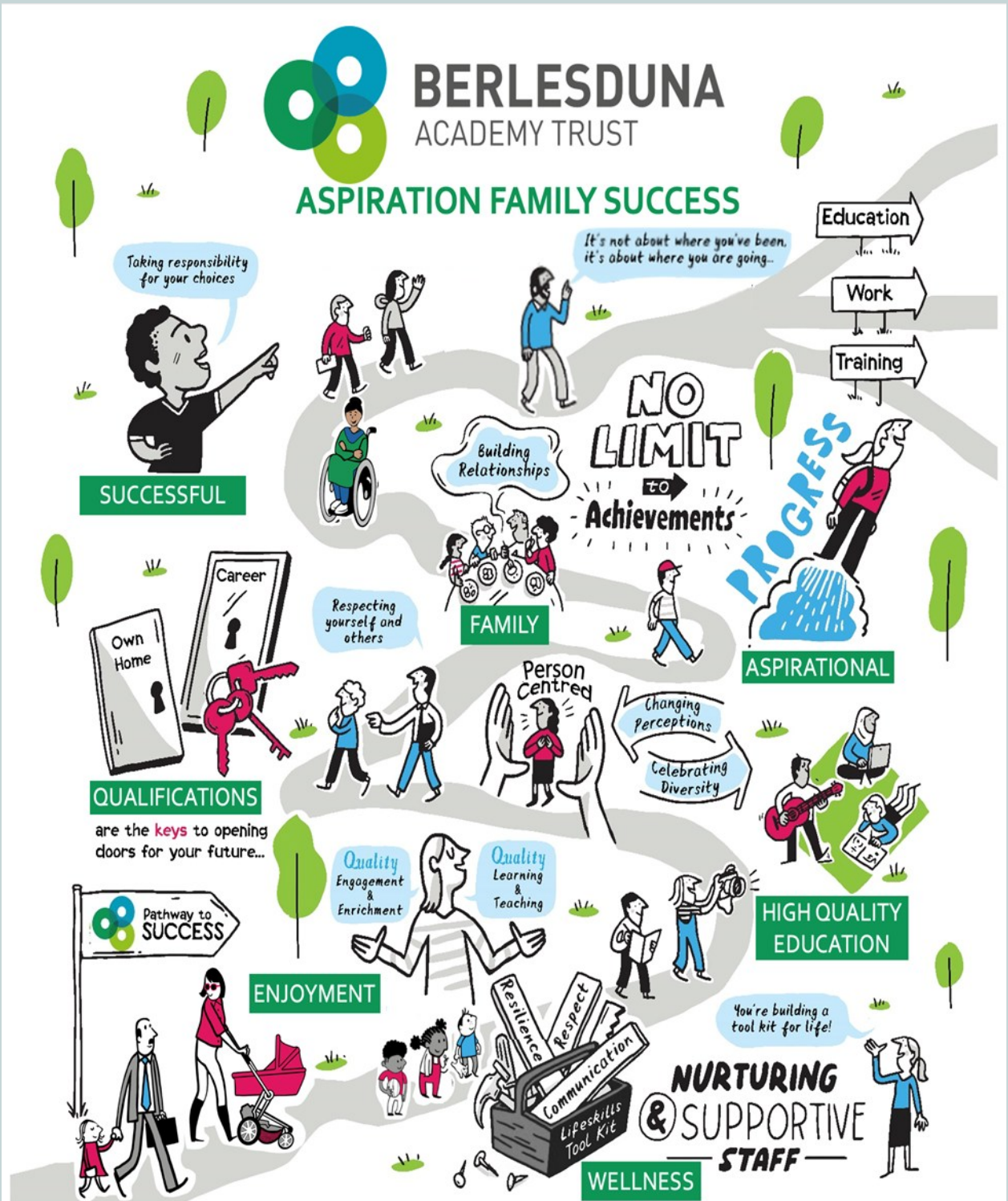
<https://www.activeessex.org/news-events/blog/summer-activities-and-days-out-in-essex-and-thurrock/>



<https://www.explore-essex.com/blog/best-summer-essex>



# TRUST VISION



Wishing you a wonderful Summer!