

Parents and

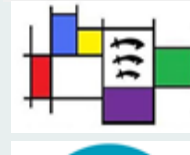


BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST



Parent
and
Carers
Newsletter

December 2025



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.

CEO CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

End of Term Festive and New Year Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of term and the festive season, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your incredible support throughout this term and the year. Your engagement and commitment have made a significant difference in the lives of our children.

I am delighted to say that our pupils have been fantastic! They have made a wonderful start to the academic year, and it has been a joy to see them thrive and grow in their learning environments. Your encouragement at home plays a vital role in their success, and we truly appreciate everything you do.

I would also like to warmly welcome the parents and carers of Downham as we look forward to them officially joining our Trust on 1st January 2026. This is an exciting time for us all, and we are eager to work together to create even more opportunities for our children.

As we head into the festive break, I wish you and your families a joyful and restful Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

Best wishes,

Sean Tobin
CEO, Berlesduna Academy Trust

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

NEWS ACROSS THE TRUST

This term we have seen the Poetry Slam take place at Cherry Tree and the KS2 Maths competition take place at Fairhouse.

The Poetry Slam was a celebration event. This year's theme was 'play.' Each school phase performed a poem of their choice in line with the chosen theme.

The KS2 Maths competition was a huge success, 4 pupils from each school took part in the event. The winners of this event were Downham with 69 points, second place was Canewdon with 66 points and third place was Cherry Tree with 62 points.

First, second and third placed pupils each received a medal, and the winners also received a trophy for their school.





During this term, a member of our team celebrated

30 years of service!

We would like to say a huge thank you to:

Lorraine Dorsey

(Trust Finance Manager)

for your continued hard work and dedication over the past 30 years

Thank you so much!

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

Miss Cutts (St Nicholas)

Miss Goldsmith (Cherry Tree)

Mrs Bradford (Fairhouse)

Mrs Hardy (Fairhouse)

Miss Jaconelli (Whitmore)

Miss McLeod (Whitmore)

Miss Mallon (Trust/Merrylands)

Mrs Jeeves (Merrylands)

Mrs Elkarib (Merrylands)

Miss Akerman (Canewdon)

Miss Anderson (Canewdon)

Mr Finch (St Nicholas)

Miss Drummond (Willows)

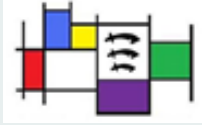
We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your hard work and would like to wish you all the best for your future.

Berlesduna Academy Trust continue working with South Essex Alliance Multi-Academy Trust to support their development.

Pupil Voice—"In our school, we learn about important British values that help us understand how to be good citizens. These values include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance.

Learning about these values is not only interesting but also helps us grow as individuals. Each term, we explore different subjects that connect to these values. For example, in the autumn term, we studied history and learned about how democracy works in our country. We had a fun project where we created our own class parliament.

Each of us took on different roles, like the Prime Minister and the Members of Parliament. This activity taught me how important it is to listen to everyone's opinions and make decisions together. "



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.

This academic year our school kitchen has been, once again, awarded a 5-star hygiene certificate following their inspection.



26th Sept: We held a pink and green day for the McMillan trust. Staff and children had to wear something green and pink to school. The school raised over £500!

1st October: Our year 6 children visited Duxford air museum. They had a fantastic time and learnt lots of interesting information to support their learning. They even spoke with real life veterans!



7th October: Our year 4's held their harvest festivals. Our families across the school were very generous and we were able to donate food to the local foodbanks.

22nd October 2025 We had a wonderful time at our Sparkle Disco! The children thoroughly enjoyed dancing, singing, and showing off their best moves. It was a fun-filled event that brought lots of smiles and sparkling moments



17th November The children from years 2-6 participated in a Little Musketeer Workshop. Little Musketeers is a club inspired by fencing. We had Olympian and 4 times British champion, James Beevers, in our school running the workshop!

19th November Year 2 trip to Braintree Museum. The children had a wonderful time learning about all things Victorian!

1st December – Walk online show. We were very lucky to have been invited to the 2 Johns online workshop. This was an educational event designed to teach students about online safety.

Now we are getting festive and Christmassy with lots of activities taking place: Breakfast with Santa, Yr2 and Yr1 Christmas productions, Reception Carols and a Mince Pie with parents, the Winter Fair and Enterprise event, an Elfridges sale, carols in the amphitheatre for KS2 children and parents and Christmas dinner and class parties – we are all going to be ready for a break at the end of this busy term!

Staffing News

We have welcomed two new members of staff to Felmore.

Ms Brooker - Our Year 4 teacher

Mrs Wilkinson – Our Catering Manager

At Cherry Tree, we have had lots of successes this half-term.



We have made changes to lunchtimes, which has seen EYFS children join the KS1 playground and they are loving the chance to play with the older children.

We have introduced celebration assemblies, where we celebrate attendance, individual successes, TT rockstars and home reads.



We have introduced the role of year 6 prefects, who have been really successful in supporting the school at lunchtime. They do a variety of roles, including helping in the hall and on the playground.



The school has voted on new names for the classes - which we will reveal next half-term - but the theme will be 'countries'.



We have managed to set up a brand-new library in the school. It is open at lunchtimes and classes have visited during the day as well.

The PTA have been brilliant in raising funds and seeking out grants for the school. Including the addition of some new equipment in our EYFS outdoor environment.



The staff have worked hard to change our displays to a neutral colour and freshen up the corridor displays.

We have seen some new additions to our staff team, including an SEMH team. We also say goodbye to Katy Goldsmith this half term, and wish her well in her 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.

Fairhouse Primary School has been busy this term.

Firstly, we have successfully appointed a new Deputy Headteacher. We are delighted to announce that Mrs Danielle Argent will be joining us from 1st January 2026.

Over the last 18 months, Fairhouse have been working with the EEF on a trial for the Primary Science Quality Mark. We are delighted to have been awarded this mark in recognition of the hard work that goes on here in relation to science.



In addition to this, we have also nominated by Essex Music Service to be awarded the Music Mark of recognition for our music curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities.



These marks of recognition support our strong curriculum and it is great to achieve external recognition for our work.



This term, we have been busy running both level 2 and level 3 Bikeability courses across year 5 pupils. We had 30 children take part at different levels and are pleased to announce that all passed at either level 1 or level 2.

This term, we have held parent workshops for Reception and for year 1 parents. We have also held Christmas assemblies for all year groups to help spread some festive cheer! We are very pleased with the feedback from parents.



Our Choir were invited to perform some Christmas carols at Eastgate this year. Our Choir visited Easgate shopping Center to share their gorgeous singing voices and lift people's spirits. Well done to our fabulous choir.

Also this term, we have been busy supporting St. Luke's Hospice through our Elf run. This is a very popular event and helps raise lots of money for St. Luke's hospice. Last year we raised around £3000 and we hope to be somewhere near that again this year. A HUGE thank you to our wonderful community for supporting us with this event.



Finally, this year, Fairhouse Primary have used our fundraising money to support all children with a fantastic pantomime experience. We had a visiting pantomime come in for our key stage 1 children and we heavily subsidised a trip to the Towngate Theatre to see Sleeping Beauty for our key stage 2 children. These events were hugely popular amongst the children (and staff) and everyone had a wonderful time. This is all thanks to the wonderful fundraising that our school community supports.

The Football league attended The Small School's football tournament at The Deanes School in Benfleet alongside other pupils from local schools



The homeless charity HARP came to speak to the children in assembly and thanked them for all their kind harvest food donations and explained how the food was going to help homeless families.



Pupils attended the Lloyd Burton's Festival at Deans Secondary School alongside other pupils from different schools.



St Nicholas Choir sang at the annual Rayleigh Christmas Light switch on event hosted by Rayleigh Town Council.

A trip was organised for the school to attend The Towngate Theatre in Basildon to see Sleeping Beauty. Everyone had the best time!



St Nicholas Church of England Primary were invited to be part of the Christmas Tree Festival 'TreeFest25'. Pupils went along to Holy Trinity Church to decorate our tree.



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.

The Year 3/4 boys played their first match together as a team away at Greenstead. For some of the children, it was their first time travelling away and representing the school. The boys started off brilliantly, putting the opposition under a lot of pressure. Noah opened the scoring and went on to score two goals. Svet scored a wonderful free kick and finished the match with four goals. The rest of the team worked hard, defended well, and added plenty more goals. The final result was 9-0 to The Willows!



The girls football team played their very first match as a new team this week. Phoenix won 3-0, but the girls showed courage and determination. The girls fought until we ran out of light so had to blow the final whistle early!

Year 1 did three fantastic Christmas performances to parents. The whole crowd was blown away by the singing and use of technology! Well done to all the staff and children!



Pippa in Year 3 came runner up in a Christmas card competition run by our local MP Richard Holden. Her design will be on the back of the cards that he sends out this year.

Our choir have performed at Mundy House, The Eastgate Shopping Centre and have performed a Christmas concert for the parents. Mr C's band club did their annual Christmas hootenanny to parents!



Mrs Palmer received a glowing report for her first forest school sessions and is well on the way to establishing a strong forest school provision in the Willows!

We have had some very successful trips including our Butterfly Room doing their very first trip to the local café where they had a doughnut and drink!



Leaving us this term is one of our MDAs, Chloe Drummond, who has moved out of the area. Good luck Chloe



It has been such a busy start to the new academic year. In September we welcomed HARP (Southend's Homeless Charity) to the school for an assembly, and our Worship Council Pupils helped representatives from HARP to collect the Harvest donations.



Selected students took part in the Castle Point & Rochford Small Schools Football Tournament. They competed against ten other schools. The whole team played extremely well and had a fantastic time.

In October we had assemblies from Essex County Fire & Rescue Services on subjects covering Halloween & Firework Safety, Water Safety and for our older students Cyber Safety. The assemblies are very informative and give the children opportunities to ask questions.



We had a wonderful Remembrance Day display by the entrance of the school. The whole school held a two minute silence for Remembrance day and leading up to 11th November, poppies were sold to the classes by the Head Boy and Head Girl.

Parrot Class were involved in a Royal Ballet Workshop this term. The children watched a live stream of dancers and copied their movements.



Robin Class took part in the Lloyd Burton Festival which was held at the Deanes Tennis Centre. It was a great opportunity for the children to experience multi-skills activities to promote confidence, team building and life skills.

Our choir has been very busy this term. They sang at the Cliffs Pavilion on 4th December then at the annual Rochford Christmas light switch on that took place on 7th December followed by the Canewdon residents Christmas buffet in the village hall on 12th December. A big thank you to Miss Hughes for making this possible.

A fantastic time for pupils from Canewdon School when they went to The Towngate Theatre in Basildon to see the Sleeping Beauty Pantomime. Thank you to the PTA to help fund this lovely afternoon.



Children all enjoyed taking part in the Christmas plays and Christingle this term and are now looking forward to a well deserved rest!



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

As we approach the end of a busy and exciting term, we wanted to share some highlights and celebrate the fantastic efforts of our pupils..



Learning Highlights All children have been working incredibly hard on their reading and writing, showing fantastic progress and enthusiasm for developing these essential skills. Alongside this, the whole school has been using TT Rockstars to boost times tables knowledge, while KS2 pupils have also been using Numbots and introduced Number

Sense into their daily maths lessons. These activities have helped strengthen fluency, confidence, and enjoyment in both literacy and numeracy. All the hard work of children and staff was recognised in a very successful Trust review. Well done everyone.

Enriching Experiences This term has been filled with exciting opportunities, both in school and online. Pupils took part in a wide range of visits and workshops, including the RockSteady music assembly featuring big band instruments, the Schools Ministry Assembly celebrating diverse Christian beliefs, an Early Years dental talk, KS2 knife crime awareness, LKS2 home safety, and road safety sessions for EYFS and Year 5/6. They also showcased their talents in the Trust Poetry Slam, Pupil Voice activities, the Trust Maths Challenge, and the Trust Spelling Bee competition.



We were proud to host important sessions such as NSPCC's Speak Out. Stay Safe, Online Conductive Music, and the Walk Online Roadshow, which focused on online safety. Virtual learning added even more variety, with pupils joining My Future My Basildon sessions, Musical Mondays live concerts, a Royal Opera House live lesson, and interactive online assemblies. These experiences have enriched creativity, strengthened safety awareness, and inspired future aspirations.



Special Trip Children in Years 2–6 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Brentwood Centre to watch an orchestra perform music by the famous composer John Williams. The performance included well-loved theme tunes from Harry Potter and Home Alone, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Christmas Excitement The whole school is feeling festive! Pupils have been busy making decorations and preparing for the holiday season. We are all looking forward to the School Pantomime – Sleeping Beauty in the last week of term, and our Christmas Performance of The Magical Christmas Journey, which promises to be a wonderful celebration of talent and teamwork. We also look forward to welcoming the local community, along with our families, to enjoy this special performance together. Children will also be busy creating their stalls for the Christmas Bazaar, each featuring something to eat, something to sell, and something to play—a fantastic way to showcase creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Supporting Charities This term, our school community has shown incredible kindness by supporting important causes, including Jeans for Genes, Children in Need, and donating food for the local homeless shelter. Thank you for your generosity—it truly makes a difference.

Special Activities We have celebrated together through our Harvest Assembly, created beautiful artwork during our Fireworks Art Afternoon, and reflected on remembrance during our Remembrance Activity Afternoon, where pupils made a wreath for the local epitaph to honour those who served.



Community and Parent Engagement It has been wonderful to see so many parents during Parent Consultation meetings and to welcome families to class assemblies this term. Your support makes a huge difference, and we look forward to continuing this partnership in the new year.

Looking Ahead Next term promises even more exciting opportunities for learning and development. Please remember that good attendance is vital for your child's progress—everyday counts! Let's work together to ensure pupils are in school, ready to learn, every day.

Festive Greeting From all of us at Crays Hill Primary School, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued support—have a joyful holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you in January.



Forest School

After working closely with Basildon Council for some time, Whitmore Primary School and Nursery has successfully secured a lease for a beautiful piece of disused woodland.

This fantastic space will be transformed into our very own forest school area, providing our children with an incredible outdoor learning environment.

Some of our pupils have already had the opportunity to explore this special area, and their excitement is palpable! They cannot wait to spend more time there, discovering the wonders of the natural world and experiencing all the fun and learning opportunities that outdoor education has to offer.



Forest school experiences will allow our children to develop confidence, independence, and a deeper connection with nature whilst learning valuable skills in a hands-on, engaging way. From building dens and exploring wildlife to developing problem-solving abilities and teamwork, this new space will enrich our curriculum and provide memorable learning experiences for years to come.

Christmas Cards

This term, our children were given the exciting opportunity to design a Christmas card for Richard Holden MP, Member of Parliament for Basildon and Billericay, to use as his official constituency Christmas card. We were thrilled and incredibly proud when Taliah from Year 6 was selected as the runner-up, with her beautiful design featuring on the reverse of his cards. This is a wonderful achievement that showcases the exceptional creativity and talent of our pupils. To make the occasion even more special, Mr Holden visited our school to personally thank



all the children who submitted designs. It was a memorable experience for everyone involved, and we couldn't be prouder of Taliah and all our young artists who took part in this special project.

Tesco Tokens

Thanks to the wonderful support of the local community through the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme, we've secured £1,500 towards an exciting project to install an outdoor gym for our KS2 children.



Over recent weeks, many people have been choosing Whitmore Primary School and Nursery as their preferred beneficiary when collecting tokens at Tesco, and we're incredibly grateful for this backing. This generous contribution brings us significantly closer to our goal of installing the outdoor gym equipment this summer.

The new facility will provide our KS2 children with enhanced opportunities for physical activity, helping to promote fitness, wellbeing, and healthy habits during break times and PE lessons.



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 a very busy Autumn term at Merrylands. In September, the children had the opportunity to participate in a Pro-Strike fundraising event where they had to kick a ball three times and their fastest time was recorded for their sponsorship form. The children thoroughly enjoy the event and the funds raised will be used to purchase new playground equipment.



Also, in September, the children Year 6 visited the Isle of Wight for their residential trip. The children were an absolute credit to the school and enjoyed many different activities including the D-Day Museum, a boat cruise, fossil hunting, visiting Carisbrooke Castle as well as Robin Hill Country Park.

In October, the children in Year 5 took part in a Road Safety Speed Watch Session provided by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership. During the session, the Police Officer identified drivers who exceeded the national speed limit on the roads surrounding the school. With the help of school staff and the Road Safety crew, students had the chance to question drivers about the dangers and consequences of speeding.



During this month, we also held a Harvest Appeal. A total of 125.5kg of food was donated to the Basildon Foodbank.



In November, the children focused on the 'Power of Good' through Anti-Bullying Week. The children completed a range of activities related to respect, kindness and standing up to bullying. We also marked Armistice Day by creating class poppy wreaths and observing the 2minutes silence at 11am on 11th November. The poppy wreaths were displayed on the school fence allowing them to be shared with the whole community.



In December, the KS2 choir went to visit Oaklands Care Home to sing to the residents. The children spent time talking to the residents about their lives and interests. The residents of the care home clapped, sang and joined in with the singing festivities and were very grateful for the time the children spent with them.

As we approached the end of term, Nursery, Reception and Year 1 participated in their Christmas performances to parents/carers while the children in Year 2 entertained the shoppers at Basildon Eastgate Shopping Centre with their festive singing. Other end of term highlights included Christmas dinner and the pantomime.



After such a busy term, we hope everyone enjoys the winter break.

At the beginning of November, we welcomed Sheila, our Mindfulness and Wellbeing Mentor, into school to deliver a session for our parents. The workshop was very well received and enabled parents to feel empowered to support their children by promoting mindfulness and wellbeing techniques at home.



We are delighted to share that our Children in Need activities were a great success, with the school community raising £22.00 for this incredibly important cause.

At St Mary's we have been celebrating **Anti-Bullying Week**, a time when our whole school community comes together to reflect on kindness, respect, and the difference each of us can make. This year's theme, "**Power for Good**," has been at the heart of all our activities.



Our school community came together for a thoughtful and moving Remembrance assembly led by Rev. Jacqui, centred on the theme "**Remember and Rejoice**." Across the school, pupils showed great maturity and empathy, recognising that Remembrance is not only about looking back, but also about thinking forward—how we can help build a kinder, fairer and more peaceful future.

St Mary's took part in Road Safety Week, a national campaign that encourages everyone to think more carefully about how we use our roads. Throughout the week, the children learned all about the importance of staying safe whether they are walking, cycling, scooting, or travelling in a car.



We enjoyed a vibrant and meaningful Cultural Celebration Day, giving our pupils the opportunity to explore and celebrate the rich diversity of faiths and traditions within our school and the wider world.

On World Kindness Day, our village was filled with thoughtful gestures and warm hearts. Hidden envelopes of kindness were placed around the village sparking smiles throughout the day from the residents of Eastham care home and their dedicated staff.

The whole school enjoyed a fantastic trip to Billericay Theatre to watch a lively performance of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. From the moment the curtain rose, the children were captivated by the colourful sets, energetic music, and brilliant acting.

We are so proud of one of our year 5 pupils, Albie South who became the **ACU British Youth Grass Track Championship** earning St Mary's a donation of £100.00 in the process. Albie has competed all over the country this season dominating races and finally earning his title at the British Youth Grass Track Championships.



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.

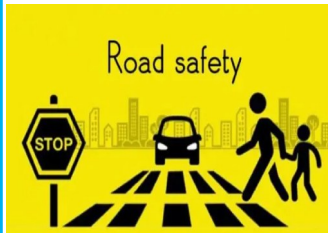
Children are taught about the **24 different character strengths** that make up their personality. They understand that we all possess these strengths, but in different degrees, resulting in a truly unique character strength profile.

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

This term at Downham has been filled with achievement, celebration and rich learning experiences.



We were delighted to receive a successful SIAMS inspection and to see our new Worship Group contributing to school life, including representing us at the Remembrance Day service.



Pupils took part in a wide range of workshops, from ECFRS safety sessions and NSPCC Speak Out and Stay Safe to Road Safety, Bikeability, Forest School activities and creative work with artist Matt Mackman.



Classes enjoyed memorable trips including the British Museum, Essex Fire Museum, a whole-school pantomime visit and EYFS & KS1 posting Christmas letters at the village post box.



Sporting success included cross-country events with 40 participants and strong performances in football tournaments, with the girls' team finishing second.



Our choir performed at the Royal Albert Hall and pupils shone in nativities, concerts and Christmas performances, as well as the Berlesduna Poetry Slam and our Christmas Choir on Tour.

The school community also showed tremendous kindness through large donations for the Billericay Food Bank, Blythwood shoeboxes, and raising over £300 for Children in Need. PTA events, including the Scarecrow Competition, discos and Christmas fete, added to the fun.



It has been a vibrant and successful term for everyone at Downham.

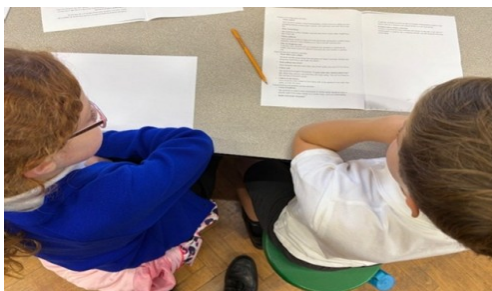
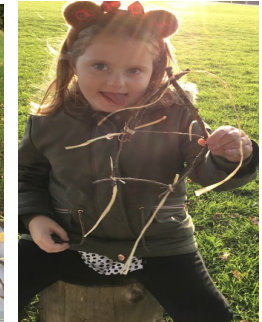


Social Stories

Canewdon pupils enjoying the assembly from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service



Whitmore pupils enjoying their new outside area



**Pupil Voice Meeting
—
Pupils discussed British Values**



Merry
Christmas!

