

Dear Beech Class Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020 in Beech Class! We hope that you have had a lovely Christmas. Firstly, we would like to send out our thanks for the many thoughtful gifts that we received at the end of last term.

Probably the biggest change to this term will be swimming on a Thursday morning at the Westgate Leisure centre. Children will need a towel, swimming costume/shorts and goggles – ALL CLEARLY NAMED and in a waterproof bag.

Also after half term Beech Class will take part in a session of Forest School once a week – more information on this will follow. Children will need a complete change of clothes and wellies on these days. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing as it is essential that they stay as warm and dry as possible.

Adults in Beech

Mrs Totman will teach all day on a Monday.

I, (Mrs Johnson) will work in Beech Class from Tuesday morning to Friday lunchtime.

Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Pearmaine will be our Teaching Assistants.

On Thursday mornings, Mrs Moss will do times tables and spelling/handwriting activities.

On Fridays, Mr Johnson (sports coach) will take the children for an hour of PE in the afternoon.

Mrs Goacher will then take the children for the final hour of the week to do some work on 'metacognition' (how our brains work and how we learn.) We will explore how our 'learning behaviours' impact on how we learn.

Mr Coutts (governor) will read with some children on a Tuesday afternoon.

So, as you can see there are lots of lovely people who will be working hard to ensure that Beech Class is brilliant!

Jen Rogers has also kindly said she will continue to help in Beech class with French one afternoon a week, as well as first thing every morning.

If you have any time; or an area of expertise; or resources that you would like to share, then please let me know!

Learning Journeys

We are continuing with our Learning Journeys this term.

Topics this term will include:

- Famous People and their achievements
- Save Our Planet
- Internet Safety Week
- The Lost Words
- Plants
- Live and Kicking Week



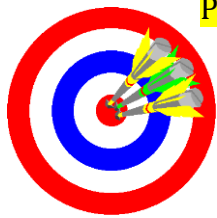
Home Learning Books

Each child will have a home learning book that is divided into 3 sections.

Front – Literacy/Maths target and spelling lists

Middle – to record personal reading done at home

Back – spelling assessments



Please ensure that this book is in school **every day**, and that you support your child to complete the **weekly** target work, learn their spellings, practise their maths matters challenge and to read as often as possible (minimum – 3 times per week please!) Literacy and Maths Targets –there will be activities to do based on either Literacy, Maths or Topic each week at the front of their home learning books.

Spellings

In the National Curriculum, spelling is split into two main areas.

1. Common exception words that don't always follow usual patterns or rules – there are approximately one hundred of these that the children are expected to learn by the time they leave Beech Class.
2. Spelling patterns and rules.

In Beech class we will teach and investigate a new rule/pattern/common exception words every week. There will be regular opportunities for the children to practise these rules and words every day.

Spellings will be assessed weekly in school on a THURSDAY in the form of a dictation. I will read the children 3 or 4 sentences that contain these learnt words. I'm so impressed with how quickly the year 3 children have got to grips with this and every child always gives it their best effort!

Maths

In Beech class we put a lot of weighting onto mental maths and useful associated strategies. In addition to this, we will all progress through the progression we call "Maths Matters." The results and these challenges will be sent home so you can support your child in their next steps. These skills are vital to progress in all areas of maths.



Times Tables

We will all use a variety of strategies to learn our times tables to 12x12. **These will be assessed each week on a Thursday.** Your child's scores and work will be sent home so that you can support them. We start with x2, x5, x10, moving onto x9, x11, x4, and then we tackle x3, x6, x7, and then we focus on quickly applying this knowledge (including x8 and x12) to division etc.

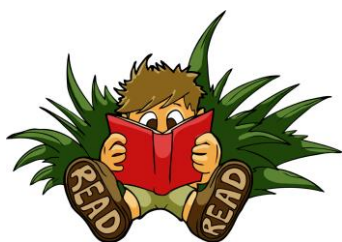
For Year 4 pupils, the statutory times tables assessment in June also relies heavily on keyboard skills, so we will be using computers and tablets, so that the children can work out the answer to a question AND type it quickly! You can support at home by practising all the mental methods and by using the numbers along the top/down the side of the computer keyboard. There are lots of apps out there to support the learning of times tables: all children have a SumDog login; Hit the Button is free and very useful for practising fluency of number facts and a new one that is free which follows the format of the times tables test – <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

Reasoning and Problem Solving

Mrs Totman will do some additional 'reasoning' and 'problem solving' with the children on a Monday. Being able to explain thinking in all subjects is key but is particularly vital in Maths.

Reading

As mentioned above, please help your child to read at least three times a week: the more they read the better they become! I do understand that many children now will be reading independently, maybe at night before they go to sleep, so there is not an expectation to listen to them read, but we would like your support in keeping us informed that they are reading – so a quick adult signature and a date in the middle of their target books is enough to let us know and to update our reading record. The reads will be counted and every 10 reads your child can move their name up our Dojo Reading Challenge rainbow and choose a small prize from the prize box! (One prize maximum per week though!)



When they reach 80 reads they can choose a brand new book to celebrate! We are happy for your child to bring in a book from home to read or to choose one from the selection at school. We are encouraging the children to be reading longer, chapter books in Beech Class with a focus on reading stamina being a priority.

None of these activities need to take long at all, but there is a lot of evidence to suggest that parental support is key to your child's learning. Parents play a crucial role in supporting your child's learning, and levels of parental engagement are consistently associated with a child's academic outcomes. Below I have created a tick list that may help you:

| This week have I supported my child in their: | |
|---|--|
| MATHS | |
| SPELLING | |
| WRITING | |
| READING | |



Important Dates

Parents Evenings – 17/18th MARCH 2020

Beech Class Assembly – WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2020

Please ensure PE kits, trainers and wellies are in school **all the time**. Wednesday afternoon from 3-3:15pm is the time I am free if you have any concerns, but please don't hesitate to pop and see me if you have any queries or questions.

We are all looking forward to another exciting term in Beech Class.

Best wishes

Mrs Johnson, Mrs Totman, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Pearmaine