

Dear Beech Class Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the Summer Holidays and welcome (back) to Beech Class. We hope that you have had a super summer and are now looking forward to an exciting time ahead in our class. We have lots of fantastic learning experiences ahead for the children, including: forest school; a theatre trip; a visit to a museum in London and much, much more!

### 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 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!

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



### Weekly Timetable

I have attached a timetable of what a 'typical' week will look like in Beech Class. There will obviously be times when certain lessons maybe moved around, or timings changed, but hopefully this will be the backbone of the structure of our working week for the majority of the time.

### Learning Journeys

This year, we have changed our teaching approach slightly. The main change is that our topics will be taught over shorter periods of time (mainly 2-3 weeks, though sometimes they may only be a week!) Literacy (reading and writing) will be woven in amongst whatever the focus of the topic might be. The topics may be based on a book, or a period in history or an artist, some may have a STEM focus. Maths lessons will be taught discreetly, though will link to the topic where appropriate.

Below is the list of topics for this term:

- Could it be magic?
- H.O.U.S.E. work
- Walk Like An Egyptian
- The Butterfly Lion
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- Christmas In The Papers

### Home Learning Books

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

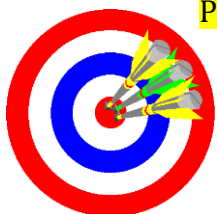
**Front – Literacy/Maths target and spelling lists**

**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 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 or Maths 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. This may seem daunting at first, but the children soon get to grips with it I promise!

## 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, in their Maths Matters books\*, 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, in their Maths Matters books\*, 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 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.

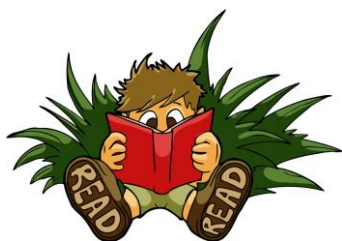
**\*Please ensure the Maths Matters books are in school every day!**

## Reasoning and Problem Solving

Mrs Totman will so 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 – maths matters - Times tables	
SPELLING	
WRITING	
READING	



#### Important Dates

- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 8:45 – Beech Class parents' information session
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Parents' Evenings
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 8:45 - Beech Class assembly

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 very excited to be part of Beech Class and we are very much looking forward to working together to ensure we are all brilliant!!

Best wishes

Mrs Johnson, Mrs Totman, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Pearmaine