

Dear Beech Class Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the Summer Holidays and welcome (back) to Beech Class. I am sure, like many of you, we weren't quite sure what would be happening given recent events, so I feel very happy writing this and welcoming you all back to school!

Many thanks to the current year four parents for our lovely gifts at the end of last term! We are always bowled over by generosity and they are very much appreciated – thank you from the whole team! For some of you, it has been such a long time since you were regularly in school and I'm sure that there are many mixed feelings and emotions buzzing around. Well, we are here to reassure you that we are so excited and pleased to have you all in Brilliant Beech Class and can't wait to get going with lots of fantastic learning experiences!

Adults in Beech

We are very pleased to welcome the lovely Mrs Rogers to the Beech Class teaching team. She will teach all day on Mondays and also on Friday afternoons in Beech class.

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

Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Pearmaine will be our amazing Teaching Assistants.

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

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!



Learning

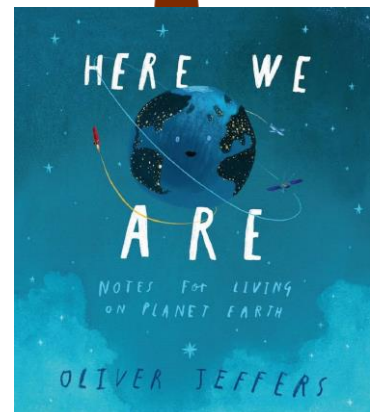
Our first Learning Experience for the first half term is a whole school learning experience and will be based around the wonderful book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. Our main aim this half term is to ensure that every child feels safe, secure and happy in themselves and at school. We will spend a lot of time establishing where the children are in regards to their reading, writing and maths to ensure that we can help them to move forward with their learning.

Home Learning Books

There are 2 books which will come home every day with your child. A home learning/target book for reading and spellings - this is divided into 2 sections:

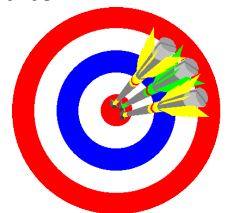
Front – spelling lists, activities and spelling assessments

Back – to record personal reading done at home



Please ensure that these books are in school every day, and that you support your child to

- Practise and learn their spellings
- Read as often as possible (minimum – 3 times per week please!)
- Work on their times tables and maths matters challenges.



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/groups of 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 MONDAY in the form of a dictation. The children will be read 3 or 4 sentences out loud that contain these learnt words. This may seem daunting at first, but the children soon get to grips with it we promise!

Maths

In Beech class we put a lot of emphasis 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.

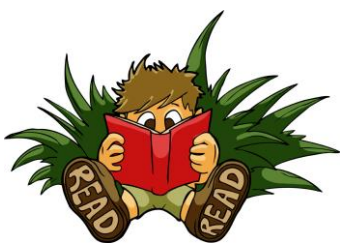
For Year 4 pupils, the statutory times tables assessment in June also relies heavily on keyboard skills, so we will be using computers and tablets, so that the children can work out the answer to a question AND type it quickly! You can support at home by practising all the mental methods and by doing activities which use the number keys along the top of the computer keyboard. There are lots of apps out there to support the learning of times tables: 'Hit the Button' is free and very useful for practising fluency of number facts.

Reasoning and Problem Solving

Mrs Rogers will also 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 every time, but we would like your support in keeping us informed that they are reading and that they understand their books. So please chat to them about their reading, and a quick adult signature and a date in their home learning/target books is enough to let us know and to update our reading record.

The 'reads' will be counted on a Thursday, 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! (The children will explain what this is - 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 for longer, heading towards chapter books in Beech Class, with a focus on reading stamina and comprehension 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 children'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:	
TIMES TABLES	
MATHS MATTERS CHALLENGE	
SPELLING	
READING	



Important Dates

- Beech Class parents' information session via Zoom Wednesday 16th September 4:30-5pm. A code, password and more information will be sent out nearer the time.

Please ensure PE kits, trainers and wellies are in school **all the time**. (PE will be on a Monday and Friday.) If your child would like to play football at play-times they will need a pair of tracksuit trousers to wear when the ground becomes muddier.

We are encouraging the children to bring in and take home (every day ideally!) their own water bottle. They will be able to fill this up from the tap in the classroom when needed.

Wednesday afternoon from 3-3:15pm is the time I am free if you have any concerns. Obviously, we are restricting visitors into classrooms, but please don't hesitate to pop and see me on the playground if you have any queries or questions. Alternatively, you can email me via the school office if you prefer.

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 Rogers, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Pearmaine