

Beech Newsletter Spring 2015

Dear Parents,

May I start by extending a warm welcome to Beech Class. For those of you who were able to take time off over the summer, I hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing break.

With such young children, returning to school can be a little traumatic – both for them and probably you too! However, the long summer holidays now seem like a distant memory and I am amazed at how well everyone has settled into their new environment. Unusually, there have been no tears and from what I have seen so far, the children seem very mature, independent and inquisitive. I am very excited about the year ahead.

This week, we have focussed on team building, organising routines and even having a go at a bit of morning Yoga. Our topic is based around 'transport' with an emphasis on the changes that have taken place in living memory. Already we have identified some of these changes as well as making good progress in English and maths. Next week, we will begin our science topic which is all about different materials. Life in Beech class is going to be busy!

On most mornings/ evenings I am available for a quick catch-up at the door. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you are unsure or concerned about anything. If you wish to talk in private or would like to discuss any matters which may arise during the year in more detail, please ring or speak to me to organise an appointment. Teaching works best in partnership with parents and I will always do my best to deal with any issues quickly.

Kind regards,

Andrew Smith

Reading

It would be very beneficial if you could set aside a few minutes each day to hear your child read.

With three little boys of my own, I know this can be a little stressful at times. However, it does have a big impact on their development. Ten minutes on most days will help enormously.

As soon as a book has been finished, sign the Reading Record and return it to school. There is a blue box to put it in at the front of the classroom. I will send a new book home on the same day.

Guided reading takes place every week in small groups. The focus will be on understanding texts. I will also monitor your child's progress through the reading scheme very closely.

Homework

Minute Maths

Children will be completing 'Minute Maths' several times a week. I will send copies home so that they can be practiced if you wish.

Any other homework will be sent out on a Friday and returned by Wednesday. You are welcome to give me any feedback regarding this arrangement.

Transport

Initially, we will be looking at cars, bikes and buses to see how they changed in terms of materials and design. We will also look at space travel with a study of Neil Armstrong.



PE

**PE is on a Monday
Games is on a Tuesday**

PE will be a mixture of gymnastics and dance which takes place in the hall. Indoor kits will be needed.

Rewards and Consequences

I try to create a positive classroom environment. Children are regularly rewarded with stars and in some cases certificates.

On the odd occasion when someone breaks our class rules (which are on display in the classroom) there is a consequence. The structure is as follows:

- 1/ Verbal warning
- 2/ Name on the board
- 3/Cross by name (Miss 5 minutes of playtime)
- 4/ Consequence slip sent home to be signed by parents.

I hope you will support me in making sure that everyone in the class feels happy and is able to exercise their right to learn.

Each Friday we have a whole school 'Celebration Assembly.' It would be nice if your child/ children could bring in any certificates, medals or evidence of recent achievements.

LIBRARY

We will be visiting the library every Tuesday afternoon. Children are free to choose any book they wish and exchange it each week.



FOREST SCHOOLS

Our class will be doing Forest Schools which will begin in the next couple of weeks. It will take place on the school field.

The philosophy of Forest Schools is based on building confidence through positive outdoor experiences. Children will develop new skills, participate in team building activities and access the curriculum in an outside setting.

I will send out further information nearer the time.

Please let me know if anyone would like to help out during the sessions.



A Smith
September 2015