

Beech Newsletter Spring 2016

Dear Parents,

May I start by wishing you all a happy New Year. For those of you who managed to have time off, I hope you had a relaxing break, managing to avoid the winter bugs and enjoy a wonderful Christmas.

The Autumn term was extremely pleasing. Beyond the occasional and short-lived teary start to the day, the class have settled nicely into a routine and most children have made a huge amount of progress. This was commented on by our recent visit from the Ofsted who were really impressed by our beautiful looking class books. Your children are a pleasure to teach. They gel together very nicely and are very caring towards each other.

I always try to make the most of our time in school and challenge children to achieve their very best. Work is differentiated to suit a range of abilities and children are given clear steps/ targets to improve. Please continue to let me know how your child is getting on- messages in homework books/ reading records are always helpful.

On most mornings/ evenings I am available for a quick catch-up at the door. 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
8/1/16

Reading

There is a simple system for **changing reading books.**

Please make a note in the Reading Record indicating that the book has been finished. Your child then places it in the 'Change Your Reading Book' box first thing in the morning.

We will always try to send a new one home on the same day.

I monitor children's progress through the reading scheme on a regular basis. However, with the school day being so busy there is not always time to hear your child read in school other than during the guided reading sessions. Please try to listen to them as frequently as possible at home.

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 should be **returned by Wednesday**. You are welcome to give me any feedback on this arrangement.

Spellings

These are sent home every Friday and **tested the following Thursday**

Favourite exchange of this term so far...

(During an English lesson as I was going around helping the children)

Child: Mr Smith, would you mind just sitting in that chair there to block the sun which is shining into my eyes?!?

Mr Smith: Err... well. I would love to but I've got to help some children with their maths!

PE

PE is on Monday

PE will be a mixture of gymnastics and dance which takes place in the hall. Indoor kits will be needed (white T-shirt, black shorts, black pumps.) Children can do PE in bare feet if they prefer.

Games is on a Tuesday

Outdoor kits can be any colour and should be appropriate for the weather conditions.

Spring Term Curriculum

	Maths	English
Week 1	Counting, addition and place value	I'm not Cute
Week 2	Addition and subtraction	I'm not Cute
Week 3	Counting, addition and money	Instructions
Week 4	Weight and time	Information texts
Week 5	Multiplication and division	Information texts

PE	Dance	Technology	Making a pizza pin wheel
Games	Hockey	Science	Plants and trees
ICT	Internet research Beebots	Music	Can I explore different sounds?
Art	Van Gogh	RE/PSHE	Who do we look up to?
Topic	Florence Nightingale		

PHONICS

Phonics is taught in class on a daily basis. Most children are now on Letters and Sounds phase 5. Once completed, all of the 44 phonemes (sounds) will have been taught.

Some interventions will continue to run for those who have gaps in their understanding. These will take place in small groups

I am happy to provide more information about this if you would like to come and see me.

LIBRARY

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

Thank you

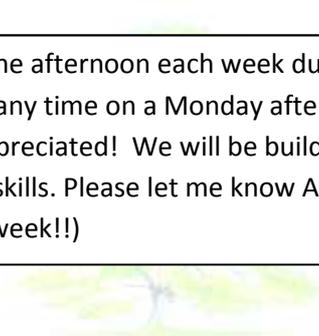
Thank you for the many lovely cards and presents that you sent in before Christmas. Lots of very kind people!



Volunteers

If any parent/ grandparent could give up an hour or two each week to come in and listen to some children read, your help would be greeted with great enthusiasm.

Let me know if you're interested!



I will be doing Forest Schools one afternoon each week during this term. Further details will follow but if anyone can spare any time on a Monday afternoon and would like to come and help, it would be very much appreciated! We will be building shelters, learning about nature and learning lots of teamwork skills. Please let me know ASAP if you are available to help (you don't have to commit to every week!!)

A Smith
January 2015