



Beechwood Primary School

Think for yourself, care for others

Curriculum Update Issue 93- Spring 1 2023

Happy New Year!

Welcome back everyone for an exciting new term at Beechwood. We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break and are ready to go for a busy and fun new term.

We have lots of things going on across school this term, year 2 will be going on their residential to Delamere, parents are invited to view their children's books in our learning journey's and we are all excited to be able to have our school sleepover for the first time in since 2020!



Dates for your diary

16th January: Year 6 parent's evening 3.30-5pm

16th January: Year 2 residential meeting 5pm

12th-20th January: Learning Journeys (see below for details)

25th-26th January: Year 2 residential

8th February: Mandela Assembly

10th February: Annual PTA School sleepover

17th February: School closes for February half term

27th February: School reopens

27th February: Halton Primary Arts Network performance- year 6

Spring Term Learning Journey

To allow you to keep up to date with your child's progress, we will be hosting another round of Learning Journeys. You will be able to sit with your child as they look through their books and show you all their wonderful work and tell you about the pieces they are most proud of. These will take place in January on the below dates from 9am to 9.30.

12th Picasso (Rec)

13th Rosen (Y1)

16th Attenborough (Y2)

17th Pankhurst (Y3)

18th Hawking (Y4)

19th Malala (Y5)

20th Mandela (Y6)

Class Assemblies

So far this year, we have had some amazing Class Assemblies and it has been a joy to see the children shine on stage. Below are the dates for the remaining Class Assemblies for the rest of the year. Each assembly will be from 9am- 9.30am

08.02.23: Mandela

22.02.23: Malala

24.05.23: Hawking

15.06.23: Rosen

05.07.23: Picasso

Water Bottles

A reminder that all the children in school should have their Beechwood water bottles with them every day. Bottles should be filled with water and named. Thank you!

Instruments

This is a polite reminder that for children in Years 4, 5 and 6, their instruments should be brought to school on a Wednesday so that they are ready for their lesson the next day.



Music Ambassador School

We are proud to announce that we have yet again been named as a Music Ambassador School, meaning that we continue to provide outstanding provision in across all key stages.



Home Reading

We cannot express enough the importance of your child reading at home; it sets them up for life-long learning, enjoyment and creativity! As we have previously explained, children are expected to read at least 3 times a week in EYFS and KS1 and 5 times a week in KS2. Reading Diaries will be checked each week and rewards will be given for those children reading the right amount.

Please sign your child's reading diary, which needs to be in school each day. You can use this diary to add little comments on how well your child read.

Please ensure your child reads for at least 20 minutes in each sitting: reading stamina needs to be built up so that the children can read 90 (KS1), 110 (Y3/4) and 140 (Y5/6) words per minute.

As your child becomes more independent in their reading, it is still important to hear them read so that you can check for fluency, accuracy and understanding of new words and their ability to read with expression. Asking them which new words they have found in this book and what it means is a good way to check their understanding.

Finally, thank you for understanding why we need books bags rather than rucksacks or backpacks.

As you may already know, we often play calm music through the school day to help children with the busy transitions. To further enhance the children's music education, we have decided to take this to the next level by introducing a composer of the term, the children will listen to their music in morning and listen to key facts about them. Our composer for spring 1 is... Vivaldi!



Picasso Class

Find out what we are learning in Spring 1...

English	<p>This term in English we will be reading <i>How to Catch a Star</i> by Oliver Jeffers and innovating the story to make it our own. Within this unit we will continue learning how to implement our phonics knowledge when writing whilst focusing on letter formation and letter size. We will then look at non-fiction and look at instruction writing and using our learning to create a set of instructions.</p> <p>Key Vocab: First, Next, Last.</p>
Maths	<p>In maths we will continue our number of the week. We look at all aspects surrounding numbers up to 10 such as, number bonds, shapes, one more than and one less than. As a whole class we will be continuing our knowledge and skills at subitizing up to 5.</p> <p>Key Vocab: More than, Less than, add, takeaway, equals, sides, corners.</p>
Topic	<p>In History this half term we will be looking at Toys. It's a popular topic in EYFS and we will be engaging in lots of discussions, sharing our own thoughts and experiences on toys we have today. We will also be looking at toys from the past and making comparisons on the similarities and differences between toys today and toys from in the past.</p> <p>Key Vocab: Today, in the past, similar, different</p>
Science	<p>In science this half term we will be looking at space, 'Beyond Earth'. We have our provision area accessible and will be looking at what we may find in outer space including the planets.</p> <p>Key Vocab: Earth, Planets, Space, Stars, Sun, Moon</p>
RE	<p>Our topic in RE this half term is Special Times. We will be focusing on what is special to us and sharing our personal experiences and comparing our experiences to what others may find special to them. We will be looking at different religions and looking at what objects they may find to be special, particularly Christianity and Islam.</p> <p>Key Vocab: Personal, Christians, Muslims, Bible, Quran</p>
PE	<p>In P.E this half term we are dancing! We continue to develop our gross motor skills by creating movements, shapes, beats and routines based on toys. We will be listening to poems and creating our own routines made up of our own ideas. We will be sharing our own routines with our peers each week.</p> <p>Key Vocab: Beats, movements, space, transition</p>
RSE	<p>In RSE we will look at ourselves as a valued individual and what makes us unique, including our family. We will also look at friendship and what makes a kind friend.</p>
ART	<p>In art this half term we will be completing art pieces based on our class story <i>How to Catch a Star</i>. We will be making rockets and a mixed material piece based on our innovated story! We will also be making art work based on our Topic - toys. Exciting!</p>

Rosen Class

Find out what we are learning in Spring 1...

English	This half term we begin with Goldilocks and the three bears. We will be learning the text with actions before we innovate the story to make it our own. If you would like to support your child with this, you can ask them to retell the story to you along with the actions.
Maths	This half term we will be carrying on our work on addition and subtraction and then we are going to move onto shapes and patterns. The way we work will continue to be very practical to support the children's learning and we will also be focusing on our reasoning skills further.
Topic	This half term we begin with Royalty. We will be answering some core questions: What is a monarch? The life of the Queen, What is the Kings role? What is a coronation and what is a jubilee?
Science	This term we are focusing on everyday materials. We will be exploring everyday items made from differing materials and comparing them. We will look at this is a very practical way, and the learning will be very hands on.
RE	This term we are learning about the Muslim belief in Allah as creator. The focus is to encourage the children to consider Allah's role in creating and sustaining the world, and humankind's response to Allah. We will think about and reflect on our own responsibility towards creation and looking after the planet.
PE	Our focus this half term is Gymnastics, working on wide, narrow and curled shapes and developing our rolling and balancing techniques. The children will perform a sequence of moves with a partner to include a narrow, wide and curled shape. The children will control their moves and move elegantly from one move to the next.
RSE	This half term's RSE curriculum focuses on Families and Relationships. We will be exploring how families can be different and the characteristics and impact of positive friendships. We will be learning that issues can be overcome, people show feelings differently and that stereotyping is unfair.
Art	This half term we will be exploring colour mixing through paint play, using a range of tools to paint on different surfaces and creating paintings inspired by Clarice Cliff and Jasper Johns. We will also be creating some wonderful pieces of artwork for our display that will be in the Shopping City.

Attenborough Class

Find out what we are learning about in Spring 1

English	To start the term off the children will read a range of traditional tales before creating their own version of a traditional tale. There will be lots of opportunities for independent writing this term. A big focus this term will be on the children's handwriting and spellings. In reading, we will continue to work on how to find information in the text and answer comprehension questions. To help your children at home, please encourage them to read and learn their spellings each week.
Maths	This term the children will continue to work on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They will begin to apply their skills to a range of word problems. For example, I went to the shop and bought 4 boxes of 2 apples. How many apples do I have? These problems can link to their 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
Topic	In History the children will be learning about The Great Fire of London learning about fire safety and the impact The Great Fire of London had on housing. In Geography this term we will focus upon Map reading. We will investigate human and physical features on a world map, identify the five oceans and learn top present data in a bar chart.
Science	We will begin this term by looking at the properties of a variety of materials and investigating if they are suitable to be used for specific tasks. We will then focus on our Living Things and Their habitats unit focusing on the different conditions different animals need to keep safe.
RE	We will begin the year by exploring the purpose of and some of the practices associated with Hindu worship. The children will then use their transferable skills to learn about, Islam examining Islamic beliefs and practices linked to prayer.
Computing	In Computing this half term the children will be introduced to the term 'Algorithm'. We will explore what this means and how we use algorithms daily.
PE	This term year 2 will focus on Dance and will choreograph their own class performance. We will then practice skills of running, jumping and throwing in our Athletics unit
RSE	<p>Citizenship :Through this unit children will learn that everyone in school has a responsibility to maintain the school environment, recognise that different rules apply in different situations and learn about the importance of voicing their opinion on things that matter.</p> <p>Safety and the changing body: This unit will look at the impact of road safety, medicines how to stay safe online and will begin to introduce the children to the correct vocabulary for body parts.</p>
Art	This half term we will explore primary and secondary colours. We will then develop our knowledge of a collage and try different arrangements of materials including overlapping shapes.

Pankhurst Class

Find out what we are learning in Spring 1...

English	This half term we will begin with developing our knowledge of instruction writing. The children will be learning instructions for How to trap a troll. They will use all the knowledge they have learnt to write instructions for How to trap a dragon. During the teaching the children will be working on developing their knowledge of contractions. Remember to practise your weekly spellings that will be tested each Tuesday.
Maths	This half term we will begin by recapping our methods of further multiplication and division. We will then move onto looking at lengths and converting from cm to m. Our final unit this half term will be working on our knowledge of fractions. The children will begin to learn how to add fractions and how to make equivalent fractions. Please keep practising your times tables and using Times Table Rockstars at home as this will benefit you during our fractions work too.
Topic	Topic this half term is all about The Tudors. They will begin by developing their understanding of timelines and different eras in British history. The children will be learning about the monarchy of the Tudor era and more specifically about Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. The children will learn the reason for Henry VIII forming the church of England and details about his many wives.
Science	This half term we will learn about Rocks in science. We will look at different rocks and compare their appearances. The children will learn about how fossils are formed and how soil is made from rocks and other organic matter too.
RE	In RE, we are finding out about the religion of Islam, we will be specifically looking at the prophet Muhammed and why he is an example for Muslims. We will be finding out about different Islamic beliefs and using Islamic stories and teaching to find out why Muhammed is a role model for Muslims.
Computing	The children will be using their digital literacy skills to develop their own book trailer. The children will be encouraged to think about their camera angles, transitions and use of text/voice too to create an engaging book trailer for one of the books provided.
PE	This half term we will be participating in gymnastics. We will start the half term looking at travelling and movements around the floor. The children will then progress to transferring these skills onto the apparatus. As the weeks progress, we will develop turns, spins and rolls which will end in us performing a range of movements in a group.
RSE	This half term, year 3 will learn about the rights of children in the UK and around the world, as well as important charities which help children to receive their rights. They will also explore local democracy.

Hawking Class

Find out what we are learning in Spring 1...

English	During this term, the children will start to look at fantasy stories. The children will be describing a Magician's Shop before creating their own shops to write about independently. The children will focus on using metaphors, similes and prepositions in their writing. When looking at non-fiction the children will learn how to write an explanation.
Maths	When returning after Christmas, the children will focus on ensuring their multiplication and division of three-digit numbers is secure. They will continue to work on this all year through morning challenges and homework. We will then cover our fractions, graphs and time units before half term.
Topic	This half term, we are studying a history topic about the Tudors. They will begin by creating a timeline of key events during the Tudor era and the monarchs that reigned. The children will then learn in more depth about Henry VIII and Elizabeth I and their impact on Britain.
Science	In Science, the children will be covering State of Matter investigating solids, liquids and gases.
RE	Throughout Spring, we will be learning about the religion of Islam. We will be looking closely at how their holy book, the Qur'an was introduced as well as why it is important to Muslims. We will use different sources to find out how Muslims show respect to their holy book.
Computing	The children will be using their digital literacy skills to develop their own book trailer. The children will be encouraged to think about their camera angles, transitions and use of text/voice too to create an engaging book trailer for one of the books provided.
PE	In, PE year 4/5 will be focusing on netball skills. The children will learn techniques before applying it to a competitive game. The children will continue to go swimming each week focusing on increasing the distance they swim and the stroke that they can use.
RSE	This half term, Year 4 will be learning about human rights and diverse communities.

Malala Class

Find out what we are learning in Spring 1...

English	This term we will begin with a non-fiction unit. We will be looking at persuasive news editorials, exploring different persuasive writing features. We will be learning the text 'Dragons Must Go' and will innovate it with our own versions.
Maths	We will begin this term by looking at fractions as numbers, measures, and operators. We will begin to extend our knowledge of fractions. Exploring the key words of denominator and numerator. We will deepen our knowledge of how to find equivalent fractions and simplify them whilst also looking at common denomination to allow us to add and subtract fractions. We will then use these skills to help us to tackle word problems.
Topic	During History lessons, this half-term, the children will be answering 'Who were the Tudor Monarchs?' We will be researching and exploring why Henry VIII formed the Church of England, the reasons to why he had six wives and what the significant changes were during the Tudor rule.
Science	In Science, we are going to be investigating forces including gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction. The children will observe and explain how gravity causes an unsupported object to fall towards the Earth. They will research the relative effects of the gravitational pull on other planets. Children will also carry out a range of activities to identify the effects of friction, air resistance, and water resistance, considering ways of reducing water resistance through streamlining.
RE	Our question in RE this half-term is 'Why is the Qur'an important to Muslims?' We are going to explore Islamic beliefs about how the Qur'an is the word of God. The children will be able to explain why Muhammad (pbuh) is called the seal of the prophets and will be able to recall the night of power and explain how and why Muslims remember it.
Computing	Our topic in Computing this half-term, we are going to explore Data Handling through data collection from space via the Mars Rover. The children will learn that the Mars Rover is a robot used to collect data from space, they will know what numbers using binary codes look like and how messages can be sent through this format.
PE	In PE, year 5 will be focusing on netball skills. The children will learn techniques before applying it to a competitive game.
RSE	During RSE this half-term, will be exploring the unit of Citizenship. We will be able to explain what happens to someone if they break the law, we will know that parliament is made up of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarchs and that parliament is where MPs debate issues, propose laws and amend existing laws.
Art	In Art this half-term, Year 5 will be studying Portraits through painting and mixed media. We will look how artists use colour to create atmosphere or to represent feelings in a piece of artwork. The children will use different marks and lines to create specific effects.

Mandela Class

Find out what we are learning in Spring 1...

English	This half term we will be learning how to write a diary entry using the appropriate Year 6 writing features. In addition, we will be moving onto to a fiction unit based around Shakespeare.
Maths	In maths the children are learning to add, subtract, divide and multiply decimals and learning how to change them into fractions and percentages. We will then begin our unit on measurement.
Topic	Our topic this half term is History. We will be looking at how warfare has changed over time and what impact the Battle of Britain has had on modern day life. Using their knowledge of the warfare, the children will then write a diary entry.
Science	In Science, the children will be exploring the human body and circulatory system. We will be scientifically investigating how our blood circulates around the body and provide the vital oxygen we need for our bodies to function.
RE	In RE, the children will be continuing exploring the question 'Is life like a Journey?' through the Islam faith where they will learn about the 5 Pillars of Islam.
Computing	In Computing, the children will write, record, and edit radio plays set during WWII, look back in time at how computers have evolved and design a computer of the future.
PE	In PE, the children will be learning complete a unit on dance in WW2. They will learn the technical language, timing, and execution techniques before creating their own WW2 inspired dance.
RSE	This half term, the children will be learning: to resolve conflict, through negotiation and compromise; about respect, understanding that everyone deserves to be respected and about grief.