



Beech Class

Autumn 2022



To all of our new Y5 children and parents, welcome to Beech Class, and for our Y6s—welcome back! I hope you have all had a lovely summer.

Our theme this term is 'Let's Explore', and most of our learning will be linked to this.

In English we will read and write for a range of purposes and audiences and writing will link to our theme where possible. We will explore adventure stories, poetry, diaries and information texts linked to our theme. We will develop our understanding of texts and ways we can interpret these as well as using great examples of writing we read as a model to help us to develop our own writing. We will become word gatherers who will collect new words and phrases which we can then use to help us to extend our vocabulary and will use what we learn about grammar and punctuation in order to achieve particular effects in our writing.

In maths we will be developing our understanding of numbers and the number system, focusing on place value, reading, writing and ordering and rounding larger numbers and negative numbers. We will develop and refine mental and written methods for all four operations and will explore which are most suitable, depending on the calculation and size of numbers. We will consider different ways of checking our work for accuracy such as rounding, estimation, and the use of the inverse operation. We will end this term with a focus on fractions, applying all of our knowledge about place value and the four operations to enable us to order fractions, find fractions of quantities or shapes and calculate fractions, using all four operations.

In geography we will be developing our understanding of maps linked to our theme. We will develop an understanding of maps, including atlases and OS symbols and maps and will learn different ways of describing journeys and location using grid references, coordinates and compass directions.

In history, we will focus on the Mayans and will explore reasons for their success, against the odds, as well as exploring evidence to consider our own views about possible reasons for the end of their empire. We will use our work in geography to help us to look at how they were able to grow their empire as well as to track their decline.

Our science will focus on Earth and Space. We will consider different beliefs about the solar system through history and why Galileo's theory was considered so radical. We will learn about the movement of Earth and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system. We will explore shadow clocks and sundials and investigate the movement of the moon around the Earth, finding out about night and day. We will consider the movement of the Earth around the sun and the Earth's tilt and what role this has in the seasons. We will then use our findings across all of our learning to prove Galileo's theory.

In DT we will be investigating mechanical systems such as linkages, levers, gears, pulleys and cams to make Christmas-themed moving toys for younger children. We will develop our skills in choosing and using different cams and ways to cut, measure and join materials and will evaluate our own and others' finished products against the initial design brief.

Our art will focus on collage and will link to our theme work. We will be finding out about artists who use collage techniques in their work and using this as inspiration for our own.

In ICT, we will learn how to collaborate with others online using email and moderated online blogs. We will develop our use of search technologies and will consider how we use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly, identifying ways to report concerns.

RE this half term will focus on ways in which stories might be used as guidance. Before half term we will focus on Hinduism and will look at what 'truths' guide Hindus and will explore the festival of Holi. After half term, we will focus on Christianity where we will also be looking at guidance that Christians take from Bible stories and how these 'truths' guide Christians, concentrating on stories which focus on forgiveness.

Swimming is on Wednesday mornings. Children who have long hair that would cover their eyes when wet must wear a swimming cap and need to bring one in their kit.

Our other PE session will be invasion games to begin with and will be on Wednesday afternoons. Mrs Hunter-Dale will continue working with us every other week. Please ensure all children have shorts and jogging bottoms and trainers in school. We will be outside as much as possible so a jumper would be a good idea as the weather gets colder. All earrings must be removed for PE and swimming and children need to be able to do this themselves. All items of PE kit need to be named, and PE Kit bags need to be named on the outside to prevent children having to search through each other's to find their own.

Homework for Y5/6 is given to provide opportunities for children to develop self-study skills, independence and work on individual targets.

Reading: 15-30 mins per night. Children to independently record this in their reading record. I would ask that parents check this weekly for messages and to discuss reading with their children. If children are on reading scheme books, they can still fill in their reading record and read independently, but I would ask parents to also hear them read as often as possible in order to help them to make progress. I always encourage children to read at night as part of a good bedtime routine and a nice way to end the day, but of course, children are welcome to read as much and as often as possible.

Maths Learning Journey targets: 5-10 minutes per night. Can be done anytime, anywhere as they are mental maths targets. Children just need to write the date and target in their books so I can see what they are working on but can also use their books to practise targets. On occasion, I might give them something to work on in their books.

Spellings: 5 mins each night.

Children have a yellow book which will contain words they are currently learning which are often individual to each child—corrections from work, frequent misconceptions etc. Their blue books will contain spelling patterns we are working on that week. They need to work on their own targets for spelling each night to practise patterns.

Homework is the same throughout school with the only difference in Beech Class being the expectation that children become more independent in managing this in readiness for High School. With that in mind, if there is any confusion or problems with homework then please do encourage your child to attempt to sort this themselves in the first instance by coming to talk to me. Please encourage your children to develop good habits of checking bags for homework each night, completing tasks set and getting things ready for the morning.

As we say each year, please do not bring large bags as they do not fit in the cloakroom. Book-bags are ideal as they fit in trays. Water bottles are essential and need to go home to be cleaned each night. Please do not bring anything unnecessary into school—this includes stationary and pencil cases.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come in and see me.
Thank you
Mrs Starr

