

Beechwood Bulletin

Beechwood Primary School

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Term 1, Issue 4



Wednesday 4th October 2023

Parental Feedback

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Family Learning session this week. It was wonderful to have so many of you in school with us.

Following our parent questionnaire last term and meeting with our Parent Council this week, I wanted to clarify a few points:

We understand that the majority of you like that we use a range of different methods to communicate with you e.g. text, email, paper, but would like more detail and more notice on events. Therefore we are endeavouring to have all school trips booked for the academic year by October half term, and give you as much notice as we can (at least two weeks) on all events especially those which require payment or items brought into school.

As you may be aware, all teachers are entitled to PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time each week, which means they spend time outside of the classroom to carry out these tasks. During these times, we always endeavour to ensure your child's class is covered by the same member of staff each week. In addition, some teachers have extra responsibilities which may mean they spend more time outside the classroom. On these days your child may not be dismissed at the end of the day by their class teacher, but instead by the member of staff covering the class. This is common practice across all schools and is not unique to Beechwood.

Whilst changes are sometimes unavoidable and there will be other times when class teachers may not be in class, timetabled PPA for this term is scheduled as follows:

Monday am: Year 3

Tuesday am: Foundation Stage

Wednesday am :Year 5, pm: Year 6

Thursday am: Year 4, pm: Year 1 and 2

I can also confirm Teaching Assistants working in each team are:

Foundation Stage: Miss Radburn

Key Stage One: Mrs Baskerville, Mrs Goodwin, Mrs Hancock and Mrs Hartley

Year 3 and 4: Miss Radburn, Ms Rabasse, Miss Mummery, Miss Baker and Miss Rowse

Year 5 and 6: Miss Randy, Miss Wright, Mrs Diment, Mrs Khaliq, Mrs Mummery, Mrs Blackaby and Mrs Haywood

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Miss S E Hunter, Headteacher



NOTICEBOARD

ATTENDANCE AWARD:

The class with the best attendance across the whole school last week was Kites with 98.4% attendance. Well done Kites!



PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY REMINDER

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Local Governing Body. If you are interested in becoming a governor or would like to find out more, please contact the office for further information.

THE BIG AMBITION

We have been asked by the School Commissioner to share details with parents/guardians of the [The Big Ambition](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition), a new campaign to hear directly from children, young people, and parents across the country about what they need to make their lives better. The survey can be completed here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition the would like children's voices to reflect the decisions that will affect them in years to come.

FLU—NASAL IMUNISATION REMINDER:

The school nurses will be visiting us on Thursday 19th October. Please complete the electronic consent form (one for each child) via Immunisation Consent <https://www.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> and insert your schools unique code: BK147023. This form should be submitted by 9am, one full school day before your session to ensure your child receives their vaccinations. If you experience any problems accessing the form, please telephone 0300 365 0077 and the team will be happy to help you. If you decide you do not want to vaccinate your child against flu, please select no consent, giving the reason. This will help us plan and improve the service.

SOCIAL MEDIA Please follow us online to keep up to date with all the school happenings!



Instagram: beechwoodprimary



Facebook: Beechwood Primary School
Beechwood PTA Woodley

Star Pupils—w/c 25/09/23

Butterflies— Iqra

Robins — Mykola

Rabbits— Chloe

Hedgehogs— Gabriel

Badgers— Elliot

Foxes— Prince

Woodpeckers — Georgia

Owls— Freddie

Kites— Imogen

Falcons— Lola

Hawks— Eva-Jane

Eagles— Nour

Well done to all of our Stars!

Attendance

Our minimum attendance target is 96.5%. Please help us to ensure your child receives the best education by attending school regularly and being on time.

Our whole school attendance for last week was 94.6% which is unfortunately below our target.

Over the last week at Beechwood.....

Foundation Stage visited Woodley precinct today and went on a scavenger hunt. They really enjoyed exploring and finding out about the local amenities. In maths sessions they have sorted groups of objects based on size, weight and capacity. In phonics the children are learning to recognise and write the sounds u, b and f and in literacy they are drawing and writing initial sounds based on the story "Rosie's walk".

Years 1 and 2 had a fantastic time at their Great Fire of London workshop on Monday. They learnt so much and loved having a go at all of the different shops. In English this week they have been writing the story of Toby and The Great Fire of London. Thank you to those of you who joined us at our Family Learning session. The children enjoyed finding out lots of facts about Samuel Pepys.

Year 3 have been looking at information texts in English, looking at how to write their own next week. In music, the children have been learning to follow a graphic score to play volcano inspired music. In maths the children have moved onto addition and subtraction and they enjoyed creating their own volcanic eruptions in their parent learning session.

Year 4 have been completing their characterisation pieces of writing on the third little pig. The children are challenging themselves to give the reader all the information about the pig's character and appearance - by showing them rather than telling them! In maths they are looking at adding and subtracting numbers with up to 4 digits. In science the children have been learning about keeping their teeth healthy. In R.E. they are learning about the giving of the 10 Commandments to Jews and asking whether they are still relevant important today. In art they are continuing with their Roman mosaics which, like the ancient Roman ones really do take a lot of focussed time and effort to get right!

Year 5 have been working hard this week, creating their own independent poetry in English and recapping on addition and subtraction in maths. During science, the children have been looking at the movement of the Earth and the Moon. The children have also learnt how to describe their family using the French language.

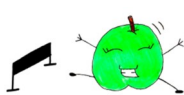
Year 6 have enjoyed the start of their narrative writing unit by immersing themselves in the figurative language within *The Midnight Guardians* by Ross Montgomery and also delving deeper into the books' characters. In maths, the children have been working on rules of divisibility and solving problems involving multiplication. They are in the process of designing games in computing, ensuring that they can incorporate scores and timers and are also enjoying learning how to play handball in PE.

House Points

**Outstanding
Oranges**
181



**Amazing
Apples**
177



**Super
Strawberries**
166



**Brilliant
Bananas**
255



Congratulations to Brilliant Bananas for collecting the most house points this week

Dates for your diary:

Friday 6th October	— SEND Coffee Morning 9.45-10.30am
Tuesday 10th October	— Foundation and Key Stage 1 Harvest Festival @ Christ Church (see letter sent home 27th Sept)
Friday 13th October	— PTA Halloween Disco
Wednesday 18th October	— Open Morning for prospective parents (booking required) Owls Class Assembly @ 2.30pm
Thursday 19th October	— Flu Nasal Immunisations
Friday 20th October	— Wear it Pink (charity day)
Monday 23rd—Friday 27th Oct	— Half Term
Tuesday 7th November	— Open Morning for prospective parents (booking required)
Wednesday 8th November	— Individual School Photos Kites Class Assembly @ 2.30pm
Monday 13th November	— Parents Evening 3.30-6.00pm in school
Wednesday 15th November	— Parents Evening 5.30-7.00pm online
Friday 17th November	— Children in Need
Wednesday 22nd November	— Badgers Class Assembly @ 2.30pm
Thursday 23rd November	— Open Morning for prospective parents (booking required)
Wednesday 6th December	— Open Morning for prospective parents (booking required)
Friday 15th December	— End of Term



Can anyone break a world record?



Guinness World Records 2024

Baby Beaver



Pictured: Beavers.
Source: Canva.

A baby beaver has been spotted in the Bay Area of San Francisco, USA, for the first time in 160 years! Biologists saw a small animal on the trail cameras installed throughout the area. Initially, they were confused as to what the cameras had captured. 'Finally, it hit me in the head,' commented Bill Leikam, from the Urban Wildlife Research Project. 'Could that be a baby beaver?' The young mammal, which was too small to be an adult beaver, was detected at Matadero Creek near Palo Alto, south of San Francisco. It is believed by scientists that its parents have broken off from a group of beavers that were reintroduced nearby and have now started

a family. Scientists are excited that this means the small group of beavers will now grow in numbers, spread and build dams further afield. 'The beaver ponds in the uplands will also create habitat for all manner of birds, amphibians, bats, and will serve as an insect cafeteria for trout and salmon. That's why we refer to the beaver as a keystone species,' said Dr Rick Lanman, President of the Institute for Historical Ecology. A baby beaver is called a kit, they are born with their eyes open, already have fur and can swim after one day! North America's largest rodent grows quickly and can build dams and lodges with their parents at around one year old.

Picture News Pupil Journalist Competition!

At Picture News, we're passionate about sharing the news to help you learn more about the world, and unleash new ideas and interests. However, this time, we want to hear your stories!

Practise your journalism skills and tell us about something happening at your school, in your local community, or a cause or topic you care about. Maybe a school fair or fun run is happening, or you want to tell us about a local charity or community project. Whatever it is, we want to know!

Plus, the winning article will be published in this Paper!

Do you want to share your story with children across the country? Email your articles to help@picture-news.co.uk by Friday 20th October. Remember to add your name, age, and school. Any articles sent to us may be published, so you will need permission for the photos you include.

Happy writing!



Pictured: Writing. Source: Canva.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Replacement for palm oil?

Scientists from Queen Margaret University (QMU) in Edinburgh have announced they have produced a new ingredient that could potentially be used to replace palm oil. The food experts say that PALM-ALT, which has been tested as an alternative to palm oil in baked goods at the university, is healthier, containing 80% less saturated fat and 30% fewer calories, as well as being better for the environment. The researchers in Scotland say the 100% plant-based ingredient made from a by-product from the linseed industry, natural fibre, and rapeseed oil, is 70% better for the environment. Figures suggest that nearly 50% of all food and cosmetic products contain palm oil. This is because the oil, made from the fruits of trees called African oil palms, has no odour, taste or colour

therefore doesn't alter the flavour of the produce it is added to. However, it creates a smooth texture, whilst working as a natural preservative. Experts say the large demand for the ingredient has caused increased rainforest deforestation. Catriona Liddle, from the QMU team, said of palm oil, 'It's the holy grail to replace it and still have exactly the same end result in product - to taste the same and have the texture the same - and we've done that. We've put it through some special sensory testing to see if a panel can tell the difference between our product and traditional palm shortening, and they can't.' ***Do you think it's a good idea for scientists to look for more environmentally friendly alternatives for ingredients that we use a lot?***



Pictured: Catriona Liddle and Dr Julien Lonchamp, who led the research team at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh.
Source: Queen Margaret University X page.

Last week's topic: Is a school more than just a building?



Yes. A school is the people, the classrooms, the learning and much more.

Ricard

I believe that a school is the name for all the parts of it combined. A building on its own is just a building.

Philip

I think that the building is the school, without it you don't have where people meet together.

Rosie

Let us know what you think about this week's news?



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TAKEHOME



Can anyone break a world record?



In the news this week

The 2024 edition of the Guinness World Records has been released. This year, over 30,000 applicants submitted their achievements, but only 2,638 records were selected for the edition, which features more than 80% new and updated records. The annual collection of records has run since 1955, when it was first inspired by the question 'What's the fastest game bird in Europe?'. Its latest edition is themed around the Blue Planet, with a number of records celebrated, including those set by impressive marine creatures, adventurous sailors and record-breaking lakes, rivers and icescapes.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you know any world records?
- > If you were to attempt a world record, what do you think you would try to do and why?
- > What do you think the benefits would be of setting or breaking a world record?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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