



Dear Parents/Carers

This week has been a busy but wonderful end to the Autumn Term. The Christmas Fayre had a fantastic turnout despite the cold weather. Santa was extremely popular and so was the delicious food prepared by our PTA and supportive parents. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas fayre the best ever! We managed to raise an over a £1000 which will be match funded by Barclays Bank Halifax.

Christmas Performances

Year 1 and Foundation stage have spent the last few weeks preparing their Christmas performances. I am sure parents who watch them perform will have enjoyed them as much as I did.

Homework

Following the results of the questionnaire and discussion with parents at the Parents' forum during Parents' week we have amended our Homework policy. The full policy can now be found on the website in the Parents' information section. Below are some key parts of the policy.

The nature and amount of homework:

We follow the government guidelines for homework. The emphasis is on how homework helps them to learn, rather than whether it takes a certain amount of time. The guidelines for primary school children are:

- Year 1 and 2: one hour per week
- Year 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
- Year 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day.

Homework is given on a Friday allowing children to complete it over the weekend.



Holiday Homework

During the holiday a reasonable amount of homework will be given allowing the children to spend quality time with their families and engage in other activities such as our Family Challenge.

A learning log will be sent home on a regular basis for children to carry out their own research. Parents are encouraged to support their child with completing this project by visiting the local library or finding information on the internet.

1 week holiday

2 pieces of maths- practise or revision of the previous work covered (10-15 minutes task)

1 learning log project

Reading book

2 weeks holiday

3 pieces of maths work- practise or revision of previous work covered (10-15 minutes task)

1 learning log project

Reading book /reading activity

In addition optional homework will be given to pupils whose parents request. Teachers are not expected to mark this work.

Homework Club

Homework clubs are run on a Friday afternoon for all year groups and children are able to access support from adults and their peers during these sessions to help them complete their homework.

Teachers will be sending home holiday homework for the children to complete in their 2 weeks break. Please make sure your child completes their work and returns it to school. In addition there are lots of links to education sites from our school website at

www.beechhillschool.co.uk



4G PITCH

This has been an eventful term and we received news a few weeks ago that the Football Association have approved our £500,000 bid for a flood-lit 4G all-weather football pitch with cricket nets. This is fantastic for the school and local community and work will start on the pitch in January and hopefully weather permitting it will be completed by April 2016. If you have a football team and would like to use the pitch please contact, Mr Chris Foster on 01422 345004.

Good Morning Britain Competition Winners

As many of you may already know, this term we won the GMB Antibullying competition. The school's video was shown at all the Odeon Cinemas across the country and we were invited to attend a Premiere at the Leicester Square Odeon in London. This was a fantastic event for all the children involved and a fantastic achievement for the school. As a result of this, we were also invited to attend an event in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince William and Shahzaib Butt was asked to perform his monologue in front of the Prince in Birmingham. So well done, to all the children and staff involved in creating the video. It really did put Beech Hill on the national map and all the people who visited school during the making of this video were really impressed with the school and complimented on what a wonderful school Beech Hill.

I would like to thank all the parents who supported us in creating the fantastic atmosphere on the day Good Morning Britain visited school. For more information, visit the link on the school website.



Goodbye

We will be saying goodbye to Mr Gilling, our site manager who will be retiring at the end of this term after working over 10 years at the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work. We will all miss him and wish him all the best for the future. In addition, Mrs Mustafa, who has also been at the school for 12 years will be leaving us to take up a teaching post in Qatar and we wish her well as she moves on to take up a new challenge. Mrs Deternova, will also be leaving us at the end of the term. We wish her well.

I'd also like to welcome Mrs Pether our deputy headteacher, who return after maternity leave. She will be teaching in year 2.

Parents' Coffee morning

I would like to thank parents for their support over this term especially our Coffee morning parents who have been attending ever week and making the sessions successful and worthwhile. Please feel free to drop in every Friday morning.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing you all back at school when we reopen on Monday 4th January 2016.

School closes at 1.10pm on Friday. There will be no after school clubs this week.

Yours faithfully

