



BEECH HILL NEWS



Friday 16th December 2022

It has been another busy term and I am sure all the children are looking forward to the two-week break. The children have demonstrated excellent behaviour and resilience throughout this term; we are all really pleased that so many of them will be enjoying the merit treat at the end of this week. On Friday the children will take part in Overgate Hospice's Reindeer Run. A massive thank you to all the parents who have contributed.

We have had some fantastic events taking place in school this term and it has been lovely to see so many of our parents in school supporting their children by attending the events. The Year 1 Phonics Picnic and Year 4 Times Table events were really popular. This week, the children have also enjoyed class Christmas parties and the staff pantomime as their merit treat, which is always a popular event in school. Reception class had a super time on their annual trip to the Victoria Theatre.

The highlight of this year so far has been our recognition as the first school in Calderdale to achieve the 'Sanctuary School Award'. We have had lots of positive publicity acknowledging our commitment to welcoming people who are asylum seekers or refugees. We are extremely proud of our children who, through being kind and caring, help their class mates settle in.

<https://calderdale.cityofsanctuary.org/2022/11/17/beece-hill-school-first-school-of-sanctuary-in-calderdale>

School closes at 1.10pm on Friday 16th December and we will reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023. The children will all receive holiday homework and we would really appreciate your support in ensuring the children continue to engage in learning during the break. Please also encourage children in Year 2 upwards to practise their times tables by playing TTRockstars.

A big well done to all the children who have maintained 99 or 100% attendance this term. This is a fantastic achievement and they will all be receiving a reward for this from Mrs Farhat, our attendance officer. As a result of parents' hard work and commitment towards ensuring children attend every day, we have managed to get our attendance in line with the national average at 96%.

We have a number of support staff leaving this term. They are: Mrs Yaqub, Mrs Barker and Mrs Blahuta. Mrs Cumiskey in the kitchen will also be leaving us. We wish them all well in their future endeavours. Miss Mason is leaving us for a short while to go and work at our partner school, Dean Field. She will be replaced by Miss Hardaker. We also have Miss Williams working in Year 4/5 and Mr Bowling who will be joining the Nursery team.

Please do not message the class teachers on Seesaw as I would like them to be able to switch off completely over the Christmas break.

I would like to finish with thanking you all for your continued support. I have had a number of parents calling me this week and sending really positive messages about the school and the staff. Please take care of yourselves, stay safe and enjoy the break with your family.

I look forward to seeing the children return in the New Year.

Mrs Hussain



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INVESTORS
IN FAMILIES

INVESTORS IN PUPILS

Healthy School

WYP—Halifax

Our Early Years had a very exciting visit this week - the children listened attentively about the role of the police and enjoyed dressing up!

Thank you so much to Alec and Sam from WYP-Halifax for coming in to see us.



Beech Hill Values Awards for Tolerance and Respect

The following children have been awarded the school value award this term for showing great **Tolerance and Respect**.

Well done. Keep up the hard work!

Rajan Bugjisha
Zoya Yasir
Ismail Mazhar
Kaya Goddard
Nitika Kodali
Sahasra Mandula
Haidar Ali Samir
Adam Khan



Ayesha Nazir
Michaela Zoltakova
Vivaan Moon
Zahid Afzal
Amaima Waqas
Charlotte Shamsavar
Maryam Abdelmuntalib
Abdul Malik



"The first step toward tolerance is respect and the first step toward respect is knowledge."

Winter Water Safety

Following the tragic news story about a number of children who have sadly lost their lives after falling into a frozen lake, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue have asked that we share the following resource with our families:

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety>

Please take the time to read the information and talk to your children about the importance of winter water safety.

Thank you.

Bob-Sleigh

Year 3 had a little visitor on Tuesday!

Bob-Sleigh was walking on the ceiling! He wrapped the teacher's desks up and had left some codes for the children to crack! They found candy canes in their exercise books!

The children were thrilled!



Calderdale Kurling Tournament

Last Wednesday, two teams from Beech Hill School competed in the Calderdale Kurling Tournament which was held at Calderdale College.

Battling against 17 other teams, the competition was played out in good sporting spirit with our children supporting one another throughout the competition. Having breezed through the group matches, the luck of the draw pipped both our teams against one another in the quarter finals - unfortunately only one team could progress from here on. Nevertheless, it was a successful event for both our teams considering they'd never played kurling before. In the end, one team finished as quarter finalists, with the other squad winning their third-place playoff to finish as bronze medallists.

Well done to everyone involved.

In other sporting news, we had a group of young people take part in a Bowling Festival which was held in the alleys of Electric Bowl, Halifax. It was an incredibly fun event with a competitive edge - one which was enjoyed by all the children - for some the best day ever!



Right of the week



This week we are looking at article 39 which means that all children have the right to help if they've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

At Beech Hill we have a caring and nurturing approach to our teaching and day-to-day running of the school. All members of staff have the children's needs as a priority and we make sure that we do all that we can to make sure the children are safe and happy. We have trained first aiders across the school so if there are any accidents, children are immediately taken care of. We have a team of Learning Mentors that work with specific children who may need that extra bit of support or intervention. Furthermore, we are lucky to have a trained School Counsellor who supports children that bit further. Children are able to self-refer themselves to Miss Moxon if they would like to. We are already seeing the positive impact that this is having on children in the school.

A big thank you to all the staff at Beech Hill for doing everything that they can to ensure our children are safe and happy.



Dinner Menu w/c Tuesday 3rd January

| BEECH HILL SCHOOL | | <h1 style="margin: 0;">School Meals Menu - Week 1</h1> | | | | BEECH HILL SCHOOL | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | | | |
| Hot Meal Option | Chicken Nuggets 4, 5 | Homemade Keema Curry | Fishcakes (2, 5) Parsley Sauce (5, 10) | Battered Chicken Steaks 1, 3, 4, 5, 10 | Pizza 5, 8, 10 | | | |
| | Quorn Big Mac and Cheese 4, 5, 10, 12 | Samosas (5) Homemade Onion Bhajis (10, 12) Savoury Rice | Homemade Macaroni Cheese (5, 10) Garlic Bread (4, 5, 10) | Homemade Cheese and Onion Quiche 5, 10, 12 | Homemade Kidney Bean Curry Naan Bread (5) | | | |
| Vegetables | Fries Beans Veg Sticks | Wedges (8) Broccoli Carrots | Potato Cubes (5) Peas Sweetcorn | Curly Fries (5) Spaghetti Carrots | Ziggy Fries Beans | | | |
| Served Daily | Jacket Potatoes with various fillings (Homemade Chicken Tikka, Bolognaise and Chilli. Tuna, Cheese, Beans) Salad Bar Sandwiches/Subs/Wraps Allergies for the daily items available on request | | | | | | | |
| Dessert | Pancakes and Syrup 5, 10, 12 | Marble Sponge (5, 10, 12) Custard (8, 10) | Iced Cake 5, 10, 12 | Choc-Chip Sponge 5, 10, 12 Chocolate Custard 5, 10 | Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12 | | | |
| | Chocolate Ice Cream 10 | Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12 | Cornflake Buns 5, 10 | Jelly | Vanilla Ice Cream 10 | | | |

If you require an allergy list please email kitchen@beechhillschool.co.uk

National Online Safety - Weekly Information

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy; it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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