



BEECH HILL NEWS

Friday 24th February 2023



Requests for absence in term-time

Since September 2022, we have seen a large increase in the amount of 'Leave of Absence' requests from parents during term-time. School attendance is currently 95% which is below the national average. Most of the time, these requests have had a 'Leave of Absence Form' completed, but on a few occasions, they haven't.

A 'Leave of Absence Form' (available from the school office) must be completed if your child will miss school due to any reason other than illness; i.e. visiting family, holidays, weddings, moving home etc. These forms must be completed and returned to the Attendance Officer at least two weeks before the absence. If they are not received in advance, the request will not be authorised.

- Where a child has poor attendance or persistent lateness. The expected national average attendance for children is 96% so children below this will not be granted an authorised absence.
- If the request is in the first 1/2 term of school - September or October.
- If children are in years 2 and 6 due to examinations (SATS tests)
- If children are in year 1 due to KS1 Phonics Check
- If children are in year 4 due to Multiplication Times Table Check
- If children have previously been on an extended holiday or had previous leave of absence requests
- Where the reason provided is not deemed to be exceptional circumstances i.e. visiting relatives, attending weddings, going on holiday or similar occasions to these.

Information published by the Department for Education 1994 clearly states "Under the Education (Schools and Further Education) Regulations 1981 the school has a **discretionary** power for leave to be granted for a holiday during term time." **"No parent can demand leave of absence for the purposes of a holiday as a right."**

Please be aware that in some circumstances, additional evidence may be requested for the leave of absence to be authorised. This includes, but is not limited to; copies of travel documentation, medical notes and completed work pack.

For children to make good progress, they are expected to be in school regularly. Taking a pupil out of school during term time disrupts their learning and it may cause them to fall behind and not achieve their full potential.

When a leave of absence request is unauthorised, this will result in this time being marked as unauthorised on your child's school record and that unauthorised absences could be referred to the Education Welfare Service and a penalty notice may be issued.

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INVESTORS
IN FAMILIES

INVESTORS IN PUPILS

Healthy School

Beech Hill Values

This year at Beech Hill, we will be focusing on 8 core values.

These values are something that we feel our pupils need to learn and demonstrate throughout all aspects of life.

Each half term, we will have a focus value and we will be rewarding children for demonstrating excellence in each value. We encourage you to help your children to demonstrate these values at home and in the wider community. We also welcome you to let us know different ways that your children have demonstrated the different values.

Please see below for each half term's focus value.

Autumn 1 - **Honesty**

Autumn 2 - **Tolerance and Respect**

Spring 1 - **Determination and Perseverance**

Spring 2 - **Appreciation**

Summer 1- **Friendship**

Summer 2 - **Kindness**

This half term's value is: **Appreciation**



Tuesday 28th February

Please be aware that the second Teachers' strike day on Tuesday 28th February will not affect Beech Hill.

School will remain **open**, so please bring your children in as normal on this day.



School Photographs

The photographers will be coming into school on **Friday 17th March**.

Individual and sibling photos will be taken throughout the school day.

Any family members that would like to be included in their child's school photo (i.e. mum, dad, grandma, grandad or siblings) can come to the school office with their child at 8am, where a member of staff will greet them.

If your child attends two or three year old nursery in an afternoon and you would like them to have a school photo, please bring them to the school office at 9am. You would need to bring your child back in the afternoon for their normal nursery session.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.



Right of the Week

This week we are looking at article 22 which looks at children who are refugees.

At Beech Hill, we have had the privilege of welcoming a number of children who are refugees from a range of different countries. We were recently rewarded with the Sanctuary School Award for our commitment to supporting families who are refugees and ensuring they are given the best quality of education here at Beech Hill School.

Our year 6 student Qambar, delivered a motivating and inspiration speech during the assembly recounting his journey to Beech Hill and how he feels safe, supported and happy at school. Our school ethos of 'Learning without Limits' is at the forefront of everything we do at school. Teachers ensure that all lessons are adapted accordingly to meet the needs of each child. We look forward to welcoming more children who are refugees to the school in the future.





TT Rockstars Winners - Most Improved Accuracy

Year 2 - Abubakr Naveed (Switzerland)

Year 3 - Samara Tariq (Jordan)

Year 4 - Jasmina Vozenilkova (Australia)

Year 5 - Alexander Greenwood (Denmark)

Year 6 - Ali-Asgher Ali (Egypt)

Most Accurate Class This Week - Denmark

House Points

These children have all been awarded a **bronze** certificate for receiving **50** House Points.

Abdul Hani Ranjha
Ameeq Sultan
Samara Tariq

Adam Parvez
Harris Ur-Rehman
Eric Pekeja

Well done. Keep up the hard work!

These children have all been awarded a **silver** certificate for receiving **100** House Points.

Mohammed Ayaan

Well done. Keep up the hard work!

Year 2 SATs Meeting

Please join us and find out all about the Year 2 SATs that your child will be taking part in during May 2023. The meeting will take place in school.

Morning meeting- Wednesday 22nd March 8:45-9:00am

Afternoon meeting- Wednesday 22nd March 2:45-3:00pm

Please sign up using Parent Pay. If you need any support, please contact the school office.



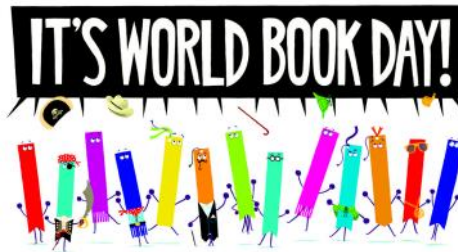
All welcome



Please don't worry if you can't attend as we will put the presentation and additional information on Seesaw.

World Book Day

Don't forget to sign up for a stay and read session on Parent Pay and get your fancy dress outfit ready for Thursday 2nd March!



These sessions will take place in the hall where a selection of books and seating areas will be available to share a book with your child. There will be light refreshments available for you to enjoy while you read. If you would like to take part, please sign up on Parent Pay. The cost is £1 and limited to two adults per child. We kindly request that younger siblings do not attend with their parents to ensure the smooth running of the event. The date and times of the sessions are listed below and are limited to 50 places per session.

- Year 1 - Stay and Read Session Monday 27th February - 8.45am until 9.30am
- Year 2 - Stay and Read Session Tuesday 28th February - 8.45am until 9.30am
- Year 3 - Stay and Read Session Wednesday 1st March - 8.45am until 9.30am
- Year 4 - Stay and Read Session Wednesday 1st March - 2.15pm until 3pm
- Year 5 - Stay and Read Session Friday 3rd March - 8.45am until 9.30am
- Year 6 - Stay and Read Session Friday 3rd March - 8.45am until 9.30am

Thank you in advance for your continued support and we look forward to reading with you!

"Always show appreciation. What's taken for granted will eventually be taken away. Then you end up missing most what you least appreciated."



Beech Hill School

February Half Term Family Challenge



World Book Day is soon approaching so we thought this half term you could spend time making book related memories! This challenge will run all the way up to World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March where we will be having a celebratory day to showcase all the creations that you make! This is completely voluntary and there is no expectation to complete the challenge. If you choose to take part, we would love to see and hear all about what you have been doing so please upload your challenges to Seesaw or bring them to school on or before Thursday 2nd March.

Reading Den

Create a reading den at home or in your garden to read your favourite stories. Take some pictures and share your den with your friends on Seesaw!



Book Jar or Box



Capture your favourite book in a box or a jar! This could include your favourite scene, how you imagine a place or character to look or simply recreating the illustrations in 3D!

Wooden Spoon Book Character

Transform a wooden spoon into your favourite book character!



Book Recommendation

Write a book recommendation for your friends and teachers. Be sure to tell them enough information to persuade them to read it but don't give any spoilers!



Year 2 Parent Lunches

The week before half term, we welcomed year 2 parents to have lunch with their child. We had such a fantastic turnout over the two days and the children absolutely loved having their parents in school to share a wonderful experience.

We received lots of positive feedback from our parents such as:

"I saw my daughter's face when we arrived, these moments are unforgettable... Definitely spending time as a family was the best part!"

"Was lovely to join my child having his lunch. I was impressed with the lunchtime staff and how smoothly lunchtime went. Thank you for giving parents the opportunity."

"The warmth and comfort to be able to be sat with your child in their educational setting along with their teachers and peers, absolutely fantastic. It was an honour to be part of this parent-child interaction."

We are looking forward to welcoming other year groups' families into school for their lunch in the near future.

Thank you all for supporting your child and making memories.



Dinner Menu w/c Monday 27th February

2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Nuggets 4, 5	Homemade Paninis Chicken Tikka 5, 12 Tuna Melt 2, 5, 10, 12	Full English Breakfast Sausage 5 Or Quorn Sausage 5	Roast Chicken Dinner Gravy	Pizza 5, 8, 10
	Mac 'n' Cheese Croquettes 5, 10	Homemade Cheese and Onion Quiche 5, 10, 12	Omelette 10, 12 Hash Brown 5, 8, 10, 12	Spring Rolls 1, 4, 5, 8 Homemade Savoury Rice	Vege Burger 5
Vegetables	Criss-Cuts 5 Beans Veg Sticks	Potato Puffs Peas Carrots	Beans Tomatoes	Roast Potatoes Broccoli Mixed Veg	Potato Cubes 5 Beans
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings (Chicken Tikka, Bolognaise, Chilli, Tuna, Cheese, Beans) Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches/Subs/Wraps				
Dessert	Jam Doughnuts 4, 5, 10, 12, 14	Marble Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 8, 10	Pancakes 5, 10, 12 Syrup	Ginger Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 8, 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12
	Chocolate Swirls 10	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Jelly	Meringue with Fruit and Cream 4, 10, 12	Vanilla Ice Cream 10

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

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 apps 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

SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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