



# BEECH HILL NEWS

Friday 5th September



## Attendance

Dear parents/carers

At Beech Hill, we truly believe school is unmissable so pupils can engage, learn and develop as young people socially, emotionally and mentally. Having a consistent routine of excellent school attendance supports all of the above. We are committed to ensuring that children receive an education that they are entitled to. In order to make this happen, we have exceptionally high standards when it comes to attendance and punctuality and fully expect parents/ carers to support the school in making sure that all children arrive in school every day and on time at 8.35am as the gates will be closed at 8.50am.

The DfE has updated its framework around attendance. Please read below and use the link for any further reading. "Under the national rules, all schools are required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

**In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.**

**If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500."** <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/19/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

Missing days in school has a detrimental impact on your child's learning and can lead to them not fulfilling their potential. Children must be in school for 190 days per year. Missing just 5 days (1 week) means your child misses 30 lessons. This is 30 lessons of a sequenced curriculum across their subjects where your child will not have acquired the knowledge and skills.

However, we know that sometimes your child cannot come to school because they are really unwell; that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear, however, that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend -for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [is my child too ill for school? NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health/a-z/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

If your child is unwell, please contact the school office on **01422 345004** before 9.00am providing a reason for absence. If you are planning a trip away in term time, please speak to Mrs Farhat before filling in an absence request form.

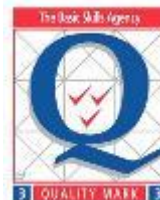
Yours faithfully

*S Bowling S Cockcroft*

**Mrs S Bowling and Mrs S Cockcroft**  
Co-Headteachers

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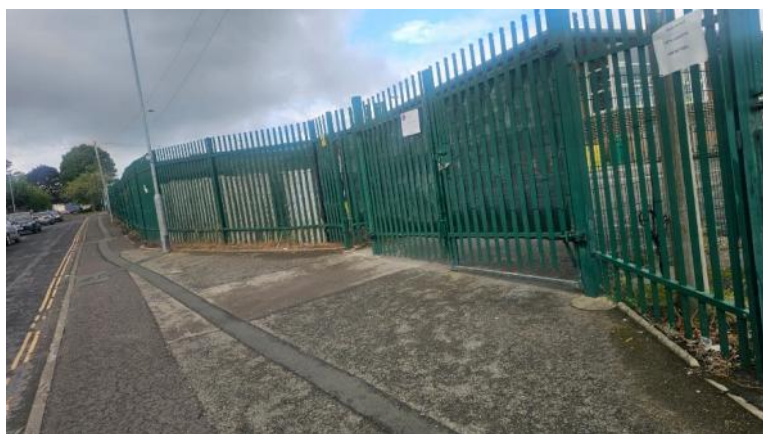




School starts at 8:35am every day; please ensure you are dropping your child off on time. Being late on a regular basis or having poor attendance has a negative impact on your child's learning.

To keep our school secure and with the safety of the children in mind, the main school gates off Mount Pleasant Avenue and the gates at the bottom of the Reception playground (see below) will be closed at **8.45am** and families will not be allowed to enter through these gates after 8.45am. This will enable us to secure the school allowing our children to safely move around the school grounds. If you arrive after 8.45am, please enter through the office.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Important Dates

**Tue 9th Sep - Y5 Parent Meeting (am)**  
**Y6 London Parents Meeting (pm)**

**Wed 10th Sep - Y6 Parent Meeting (am)**

**Tue 16th Sep - Reception Parent Meeting**

## Wed 17th Sep - Y6 London Trip

## Thu 25th Sep - Nursery Parents Meeting

**Fri 26th Sep - MacMillan Coffee Morning**

**Fri 3rd Oct - PINS Parent Workshop**

## 6th/7th/8th Oct - Y1 Local Area Walk

**w/c 6th Oct - Y5/6 Bikeability**

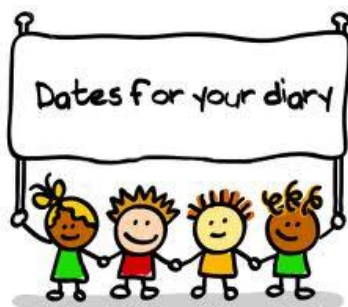
Fri 10th Oct - Hello Yellow Day

## Tue 14th Oct - Y2 Bikeability

## 15th/16th Oct - Y1 Parent Lunches

## Wed 22nd Oct - Y2 Bikeability

**Fri 24th Oct - Values Assembly (Honesty)**



## Beech Hill Values

At Beech Hill, we focus on 8 different core values throughout the year. These values are something that we feel our pupils need to learn and demonstrate, in all aspects of life.

Each half term, we reward children for demonstrating excellence in a particular value. We encourage you to help your children to demonstrate these values at home and in the wider community.

We also invite you to let us know ways that your children have demonstrated the different values.

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

## Honesty

## Tolerance and Respect

## Determination and Perseverance

## Appreciation

## Friendship

## Kindness



This half term's value is:

## Honesty

## New Books

This is a selection of the books we have received following the successful fundraising from our book fair last academic year. They have been shared across all year groups in school.

Thank you, once again, for your amazing support.







## Beech Hill School

"Learning Without Limits"

## SEND Newsletter Autumn Term 1 - 2025

If you have any concerns regarding your child's educational needs please speak to the class teacher in the first instance or make an appointment to speak to them with the year group SENDCo.



Miss Walker is the SENDCo for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.



Miss Waddington is the SENDCo for EYFS, Years 1 and 2.



### Family Hubs

Calderdale

Calderdale's Family Hub and Start for Life Services focus on bringing services together to improve access, improve connections between families, professionals, services and providers, and put relationships at the heart of family support.

There are five Family Hub areas in Calderdale which join up locally in the planning and delivery of family services from conception to young people up to 19 years or up to 25 years for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

To find out where your nearest Family Hub is, please click on the link [Family Hubs Calderdale](#)

Please click on the link below to find out more about the amount of support available to children, young people and their families with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Calderdale.

[Click here for Calderdale's Local Offer](#)



**Did you know that we have a whole section on our school website dedicated to Special Educational Needs?** Our website offers guidance and support on a whole range of SEND related topics. There is even a section that has top tips and resources that you can download to use at home. Click here to take a look - [Beech Hill School Website - Special Educational Needs](#)



Links: [Family Hubs - Calderdale](#) [Calderdale Local Offer](#)  
[Beech Hill School Website - Special Educational Needs](#)

## Dingley's Promise

Back in 2023, we were the first school in Calderdale to achieve the Dingley's Promise Mark of Achievement Award.

Due to our ongoing commitment to Dingley's training and inclusive ethos, we have been reaccredited. Well done to all the staff from nursery, reception and other areas of the school who have continued to show dedication with this to ensure that we are providing truly inclusive provision for all.

To find out more about Dingley's Promise, please use this link: [dingley.org.uk](https://dingley.org.uk)



## School Council

Over the next couple of weeks we will be holding our school council elections. We would like your child to start bringing in their posters, speeches, or any other creative way they wish to explain to their classmates why they should be elected as their school councillor.

We will be holding elections w/c 15<sup>th</sup> September and we will announce the winners in Gold Book on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Good luck to all the children - we look forward to welcoming our new school council in the near future.



Moved address?  
New email address?  
Have a new mobile phone?

It is extremely important that the details we hold for parents are up-to-date.

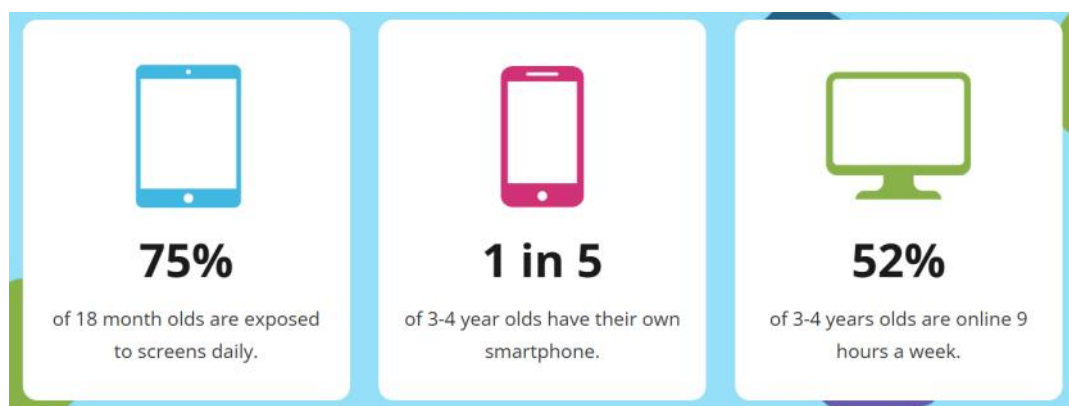
We need to be able to contact parents at all times so please ensure that the information we hold for you is correct.

If you have moved house recently or you have changed your contact number, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support!

## Less Screen Time, More Play Time - 50 Things to Do Before You're Five!

In today's digital world, screens are everywhere. Too much screen time is having a detrimental effect on young children's development. There is a campaign that is **raising awareness of the screen time crisis** and its impact on **child development**. They are **encouraging parents** of young children to put down both theirs and their children's screens and **play more!**



The '**Less Screen Time, More Play Time**' focuses on reducing screen time for children under five by encouraging parents to engage in play. **50 Things to Do Before You're Five** is an ideal tool designed to promote practical suggestions for screen-free playful activities such as, puddle jumping, blowing bubbles and sharing stories. These low or no cost ideas are **perfect for families** to enjoy together **at home** or in their **local community!**

Join the movement **#LessScreenTimeMorePlayTime**

[50 things to do before you're five](#)



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TECHNOLOGY ATTACHMENT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital age, children are increasingly forming emotional and habitual attachments to their devices. With 96% regularly accessing the internet and nearly half engaging in live streaming or content sharing, their online presence is greater than ever. This guide explores the phenomenon of technology attachment in young people and offers expert advice on fostering healthier digital habits.

### WIRED FOR REWARD

Children's brains are particularly sensitive to reward-based stimulation, and some digital platforms, especially those offering quick-hit content like short-form videos, are designed to exploit this. The instant gratification of likes, comments, and rapid scene changes triggers dopamine releases, making these interactions highly addictive. Over time, this may contribute to changes in attention patterns and a reduced inclination towards activities that involve prolonged focus or delayed gratification, such as reading, problem-solving, or creative play.

### NIGHT-TIME TECH HABITS

Screen use late into the evening can disrupt natural sleep patterns by suppressing melatonin, the hormone that regulates sleep. Children engaging with stimulating content may experience delayed bedtimes, lower sleep quality, and increased fatigue during the day. Additionally, fear of missing out (FOMO) on online interactions can cause anxiety and resistance to logging off, creating a cycle of late-night engagement and tired mornings.

### SHAPED BY SCREENS

For many children, digital spaces have become a key arena for identity exploration and expression. Social media encourages them to curate their image carefully, with likes, comments, and shares serving as social validation. This environment can tie self-esteem to online feedback, making children vulnerable to comparison, self-doubt, and pressure to present a perfect version of themselves, even when it doesn't reflect reality.

### DIGITAL WORLD DANGERS

The internet can expose children to unfiltered content, some of which may be inappropriate, misleading, or harmful. Cyberbullying, exposure to idealised lifestyles, and online predators are all risks children face, often without fully understanding the consequences. Misinformation can shape distorted worldviews, while constant comparison to others can erode self-confidence. Without guidance, children may internalise these digital dangers, impacting their emotional and mental health.

### DIGITAL DEPENDENCY BUILDS

Devices often become digital comfort blankets. In moments of boredom, anxiety, or loneliness, children may instinctively reach for screens to self-soothe. This reliance on digital distraction limits their ability to develop healthy coping mechanisms, such as mindfulness, conversation or physical activity. As the habit builds, their dependency may displace real-world experiences and emotional resilience.

### FRIENDSHIPS & FILTERS

Technology transforms how young people socialise, often replacing face-to-face interaction with text-based or image-based communication. While messaging apps and social media enable connection, they may also limit emotional expression and the development of essential interpersonal skills, such as tone recognition, empathy, and reading body language. As a result, some children may become less confident with exchanges in person and more reliant on digital personas to navigate friendships.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### READ THE ROOM

Pay attention to behavioural changes that may signal unhealthy tech attachment. This includes mood swings, increased secrecy about online activity, withdrawal from family time or hobbies, and visible distress when separated from devices. These cues can indicate deeper emotional reliance or even exposure to distressing content. Early recognition allows for proactive support and meaningful conversation.

### SHAPE DIGITAL BOUNDARIES

Create a balanced digital environment with clear guidelines on when and how devices can be used. This includes screen-free zones (e.g. bedrooms, dining tables), app restrictions, and time limits. More importantly, involve children in these decisions and explain the reasoning behind them, even reflecting upon your own digital use so they can see it's something we all have to manage. Turning boundaries into a dialogue, not just directives, helps build trust and encourages self-regulation.

### DON'T WAIT, REACH OUT EARLY

If a child's relationship with technology starts affecting their emotional wellbeing, school performance, or social connections, don't hesitate to seek help. Open up discussions with teachers, pastoral staff, or digital wellbeing professionals. Early intervention is key, and a supportive network can provide tools, resources, and reassurance for both children and adults navigating this evolving digital landscape.

### SET THE STANDARD

Children often model the behaviour they see. When adults demonstrate healthy digital habits, such as prioritising face-to-face conversation, balancing screen time with other activities, and using devices with purpose, children are more likely to follow suit. Share your own positive uses of technology and invite children to do the same. This collaborative approach helps demystify tech use and encourages responsible engagement.

### Meet Our Expert

Philippa Wraithmell is an award-winning educator, author of *The Digital Ecosystem*, and founder of EdRupture and Digital Bridge. Digital Bridge supports the relationship between families and technology, empowering everyone to be balanced and digitally well. With over 15 years in digital education and wellbeing, she supports families, schools, and governments to build balanced and safe digital cultures.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®





Halifax Panthers are inviting you to our HOME COMING game!!

We've been on the road and now were back!!!

We would like to give you a **FREE JUNIOR TICKET** and **AN ADULT TICKET FOR £10** to our fixture against Widnes Vikings on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025!

The game kicks off at 3pm at The Shay Stadium, HX1 2YT and we would love to see you at the game and to hopefully see Halifax Panthers win, most importantly have fun, enjoy the live music entertainment and fun activities and be part of the **Panther Pack!**

To claim your **TICKETS** please email [kara@halifaxpanthers.co.uk](mailto:kara@halifaxpanthers.co.uk), and find out how to take advantage of this amazing offer!

If you require any additional tickets please don't hesitate to ask when ordering.

We can't wait to enjoy what should be a brilliant game of rugby league and fantastic pre-match entertainment!

tickets need to be claimed before 5pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Kind regards and pawsome high fives! 🐾🐾🐾

*Kara Colvin*

Community Development and Engagement Manager - Halifax Panthers

## Secondary School Admissions September 2026

If your child was born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015, then they will be due to start secondary school in September 2026.

**You can apply online from 23rd June 2025 to 31st October 2025.**

To apply and for more information about the admissions process, please follow the link below:

[Apply Online](#)



## **Dinner Menu from Monday 8th September**

If you require an allergy list please email [kitchen@beechhillschool.co.uk](mailto:kitchen@beechhillschool.co.uk)

2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Goujons 5	Homemade Lasagne 5, 10 Shredded Chicken 4, 5	Fish Fingers 2, 5	Homemade Chicken Curry Rice	Pizza 5, 10
	Tomato Pasta 5, 10	Vege Nuggets 5	Homemade Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese 5, 10	Quorn Dippers 5	Homemade Cheese & Onion Pie 5, 10, 12
Vegetables	Chips Beans Peas	g/f Waffle Fries Broccoli Mixed Veg	Chips Peas Sweetcorn	g/f Wedges Broccoli Carrots	Chips Beans Sweetcorn
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches Allergies for the daily items available on request				
Dessert	Jam Doughnuts 4, 5, 10, 14	Jam Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Cupcakes 5, 10, 12	Treacle Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12
	Ice Cream Cake 4, 5, 10, 12	Jelly	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Angel Delight 10	Ice Cream 10