



BEECH HILL NEWS



Friday 13th February



Mount Pleasant Avenue

Please may we, once again, remind all parents that Mount Pleasant Avenue is a **pedestrian and cycle zone only** at the following times:

Mon-Fri

8:20-9:05am

12:45-3:25pm

Unless you are a permit holder, cars **must not** enter .

This week there was an issue which resulted in disgruntled parents beeping their horns and shouting at each other in the street. This is unacceptable and we urge parents to follow the rules and find an alternative place to park at drop off and pick up times.

Thank you to all our families who respect this.

Earrings

If your child wears earrings for school, please ensure that they are only wearing small studs.

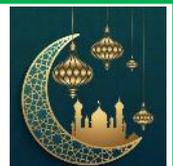


Dangly earrings, hoops or anything bigger than a small stud could be potentially dangerous.

Any child found to be wearing inappropriate earrings will be asked to remove them and they will be handed back to parents at the end of the school day.

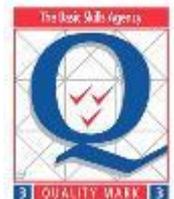
Eid Ul Fitr

School will be **closed** to all children on Friday 20th March; this is in line with our holiday dates which advised that there was a day's holiday set aside for Eid Ul Fitr.



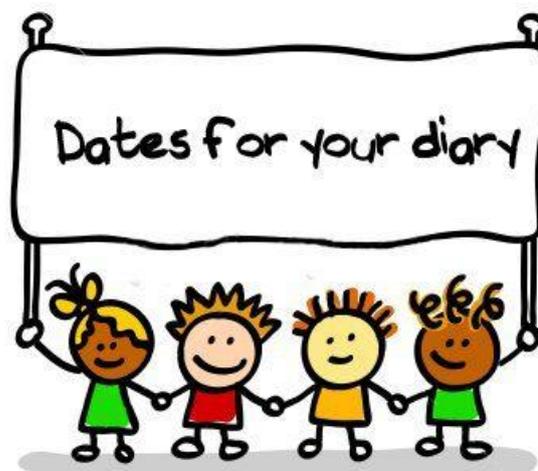
We would like to thank all our parents for their understanding when we had to unexpectedly close on Monday this week due to an issue with the water supply in school.

Beech Hill School
Mount Pleasant Avenue
Halifax
HX1 5TN
Tel: 01422 345004
Website: www.beechhillschool.co.uk
Email: admin@beechhillschool.co.uk



Important Dates

Mon 2nd Mar - Y3 Stay and Read
Tue 3rd Mar - Y2 Stay and Read
Cross Country Finals
Wed 4th Mar - Y1 Stay and Read
Eid Family Learning Event
Thu 5th Mar - Reception Stay and Read
Fri 6th Mar - World Book Day
w/c 16th Mar - Sign Language Week
Wed 18th Mar - Global Recycling Day
Tue 24th Mar - Parents' Evening Online
Wed 25th Mar - Y1 Spring Performance
Parents' Evening Face to Face
Thu 26th Mar - School Photos
Fri 27th Mar - Values Assembly
Mon 30th Mar - Nursery Teddy Bears' Picnic



House Points

The following children have received their **bronze** award for achieving **50** house points:

Maaz K
Keyan A H
Habiba B
Aarav D
Hirrah F
Maleeha W
Maleeha W
Darin S
Eshaal F
Ayesha N
Sabah N
Adam P
Aila A

Abdul R
Leonardo S
Samara T
Harris Ur-R
Asad B
Ismaeel C
Mazeeda G
Callum G
Raees H
Morgan N
Amelia N
Lola R
Anayah Ur-R

Haleema U
Charlie S
Aizah R
Thiago Q
Zainab K
Maria K
Musa I
Haider H
Vanisa H
Hashim A
Anayah Ur-R
Alina H
Annayah Y

House Points

The following children have received their **silver** award for achieving **100** house points:

Roland S
Rania A
Fatima H
Musa D-D
Raqeeb H
Sumayah Noor M
Aahil N
Ameeq S
Eesa H
Muneebah K
Moeen S
Amina A
Lawrence P

House Points

The following children have received their **gold** award for achieving **200** house points:

Mahira A
Zayan A
Arslaan B



The following children have received their TT Rockstars Gone Green Certificates:

Year 4
Mahira A

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:

Appreciation

Iftar Under the Stars
BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY
THE MOST ANTICIPATED EVENT OF THE YEAR

SCAN ME
TO BOOK TICKETS

£2.50 PER TICKET

March | SATURDAY | 7 | 2026
THE HALIFAX ACADEMY
GIBBET STREET, HX2 0BA
1 PM TIL IFTAR

INDOOR GAMES
JALEBI STAND
WHIPPY ICECREAM
BOUNCY CASTLE • BASKET BALL
HANGING BAR • NERF GUN CHALLENGE
& MUCH MORE

INDOOR STALLS
ARTS & CRAFTS
FOOD • ARCHERY
DESSERTS • CANDY • POPCORN
PENALTY SHOOTOUT • AXE THROW

TO BOOK STALLS

SPONSORSHIP & GENERAL ENQUIRIES 07833 445538 | STALL ENQUIRIES 0799912882

School Photographs

The photographers are coming in to school on Thursday 26th March to do whole school photographs.

Singles and sibling photographs (including morning nursery) will be taken during school time. Afternoon nursery children need to come in at 9am to have their photographs taken and will then return home before coming back for their normal afternoon session.

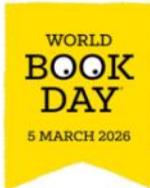
If extended families would like to have their photos taken with the children, they will need to come to the school office at 8.00am. Photos for extended families need to be booked via the Beech Hill booking system. They will be on a first come, first served basis.

The booking system for extended family photos will go live on at **8am on Wednesday 4th March.**



World Book Day 2026 – A Week of Reading Celebrations!

World Book Day is coming up and we are excited to share a full week of reading-themed activities for our children! Please take a few moments to read through the plans below so you don't miss out on any of the fun.



Dress Up or Pyjama Day – Friday 6th March

On this day, children are invited to come to school either:

- Dressed as a **favourite book character**, or
- Wearing their **pyjamas**

Children are also encouraged to bring their **favourite bedtime story** to share with their class. We can't wait to see all the creative costumes — and cosy pyjamas!

Stay and Read Sessions

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to join us for special **Stay and Read** sessions during the week. This is a wonderful opportunity to share a book with your child in school and celebrate the joy of reading together. Please sign up for a session on our school booking system. <https://beechhill.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Session Dates & Times (8:45am–9:30am):

1. **Monday 2nd March** – Year 3-6
2. **Tuesday 3rd March** – Year 2
3. **Wednesday 4th March** – Year 1
4. **Thursday 5th March** – Reception

Family Challenge – World Book Day Edition

Our **February Half-Term Family Challenge** is World Book Day themed!

- There are **£5 book token prizes** available.
- Entries will be used to help decorate our school libraries.

We strongly encourage families to take part — get creative and enjoy the challenge together!

Scholastic Book Fair (10th – 17th March)

We are pleased to announce that a **Scholastic Book Fair** will be visiting our school from **10th–17th March**. This is a fantastic opportunity to refresh home bookshelves while supporting our school.

Further details about **World Book Day activities and competitions** will be sent out closer to the time.



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



Ages 0-4

A menu of fun, affordable ideas for play and learning with your 0-4 year old. Get daily inspiration from these simple and engaging activities that preschoolers love!

Download the Before You're Five mobile app using the following links:



Dinner Menu from Monday 2nd March

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

2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Burger 5, 12 (served in a bun 5, 14 with lettuce & Mayo 12)	Butter Chicken 10 Rice	Fish Bites 2, 5	Roast Chicken Dinner Gravy	Pizza 5, 10 (various toppings - margherita/vegetable/spicy beef)
	Quorn Dippers 5	Vegan Hot Dog 4, 5, 8 bun 5, 14	Macaroni Cheese 5, 10 Dough Balls 5	Quorn Sausage 5	Vegetable Biryani
Vegetables	Chips Beans	Potato Puffs Peas Broccoli	Wedges Peas & Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes Broccoli Carrots	Chips Beans
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches Fresh Fruit, Yoghurts & Fruit Cocktail				
Dessert	Selection of Fresh Fruit or Choobs 10	Sponge and Custard 5, 10, 12	Iced Cake 5, 10, 12	Sponge and Custard 5, 10, 12	Chocolate Milkshake 10 & Cookie 5, 10, 12
	Assorted Ice Cream 10	Raspberry Jelly	Meringue Nests 10, 12	Angel Delight 10	Assorted Ice Cream 10

Weekly Online Safety Update

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account, their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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Gold Book Nominations



Pellon Lane - Adam Y for his work on number recognition this week and his fantastic behaviour. He has been working so hard and is being a good role model. Well done!

Halifax 1 - Eisa M for showing super concentration and perseverance in his writing.

Northern Ireland - Lmar A for always trying hard in everything she does and impressing all the teachers in Northern Ireland with the progress she is making. We are all so proud of her!

Wales - Haashim R for an amazing effort in all his accelerated reader quizzes. He always shows perseverance and determination when completing them. Keep it up!

Denmark - Hakeem M for settling back into school with improved behaviour this week.

France - Meghaswi C for making an excellent prediction using the Talking Tub about our new story - The Treasure Hunt.

Switzerland - Alyaan H for some imaginative predictions about our new book.

Canada - Abdussamad S for being a fantastic mathematician when using short division!

Mexico - Husnaa Z for being such a fantastic supporting partner in class.

Nigeria - Arslaan B for displaying a strong attitude to learning in all areas of his learning and for being a role model on our trip to Cromwell Bottom!

South Africa - Mhd Ayyan A for making valuable contributions in lessons and showing a good attitude to his learning.

China - Simona H for her perseverance in maths.

China - Keyan A H for his can do attitude and being a pleasure to teach.

Japan - Hazard R & Ayaan N for their effort and team work to complete their fieldwork presentation in Geography.

Australia - Ameenq S for trying his best to improve his writing and for his incredible aptitude in maths.

New Zealand - Mhd Ayaan for showing a fantastic attitude to learning in geography this week.

WELL DONE!