



BEECH HILL NEWS

Friday 3rd July



Opal Stay and Play

On Friday 19th June, we were delighted to welcome some of you into school so you could see how our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Primary Programme has progressed over the last year!



It was wonderful to share the exciting developments that have transformed our outdoor spaces and to see our children and their families enjoying the wide range of play opportunities that are now available. During the visit, parents were able to observe first-hand how the programme has encouraged creativity, teamwork, problem-solving and imagination through child-led play.

Since introducing OPAL, the children have embraced the new resources and areas with great enthusiasm, making the most of opportunities to build, create and explore. It has been fantastic to see their confidence, communication skills and resilience grow as a result of these experiences. We are really grateful that we have been able to share these opportunities with you too!

We would like to thank all of the families who attended and for your continued support. A special thank you also goes to everyone who has donated resources and helped us develop our play spaces. We are excited to continue expanding our OPAL provision and look forward to sharing more updates with you in the next academic year!

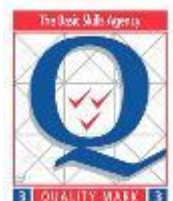
Year 5 Bradford Literature Festival

Over the last two weeks, the children in year 5 have had the opportunity to attend the Bradford Literature Festival. They participated in workshops led by four different authors and illustrators, who shared why they chose their careers, what inspires their work and offered valuable advice on the creative writing process. The illustrators also demonstrated how they bring stories to life through their artwork, and the children had the opportunity to draw alongside them and learn some of their techniques.

Across the three trips, the children explored topics including Ancient Greece, life under the sea and poetry. They represented Beech Hill excellently, engaging enthusiastically in every session and showing exemplary behaviour throughout. It was fantastic to see their imaginations hard at work as they created their own stories, developed their ideas with confidence and embraced the creativity of each workshop.

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House Points

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

Mahum H
Maaz K

House Points

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

Areeba S

House Points

The following children have received their platinum award for achieving 300 house points:

Janvika J S

OPAL Golden Welly Awards

Last week's Golden Welly winners were:

Lower School

Esa A for tidying the bikes and helmets away without being asked to do so.

Upper School

Adam K for being helpful at the end of playtime tidying equipment away that he wasn't using.



Attendance Update

(from 22.06.2026 to 26.06.2026)

Class	%
Halifax 1	95%
Halifax 2	88%
Halifax 3	95.88%
Northern Ireland	99.2%
Scotland	92.31%
Wales	96.4%
France	93.55%
Switzerland	93.55%
Canada	95.67%
Mexico	95.52%
Egypt	90%
Nigeria	87.96%
South Africa	95.88%
China	93%
Japan	94.98%
Singapore	95.17%
Australia	98.62%
New Zealand	91%
Total	94.2%



Vision Zero Annual Event - Halifax

You are invited to a free, family-friendly road safety event taking place at People's Park in Halifax on Thursday 13th August.

The event will run from 10am to 4pm and includes interactive stalls, emergency service vehicles, cycling support and much more.

The event has been arranged by the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership as part of their work to reduce all road deaths and serious injuries in the county to zero by 2040.

<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/events/vision-zero-annual-event-halifax/>



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire



BEECH HILL SCHOOL

Mount Pleasant Avenue
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Tel: 01422 345004



19th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share some very welcomed news. From September 2026, the Government will introduce substantial changes to Free School Meals. Under the new national criteria, **all families in receipt of Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals**, regardless of earning levels. This means that more students will become eligible.

From September 2026, all children can get free school meals, if:

- they attend an eligible school;
- and their household gets Universal Credit.

There will be two types of free school meals based on benefits:

- **Targeted** - This is the same as now.

It applies to pupils from households on Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less. As well as free meals, these pupils will still bring pupil premium and other disadvantage funding to their school.

- **Expanded** - This is a new category.

It is for pupils whose households get Universal Credit, but earn more than £7,400 a year. These pupils will be entitled to free school meals only.

Please do not miss out on support that you may be entitled to for your child. You can apply at [Calderdale Council Free School Meals Portal](#). You will need your national insurance number.

If your child is in either Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they are entitled to **Universal Infant Free School Meals – this has not changed**. However, you may also be entitled to either the Targeted or Expanded FSM.

If you have any questions, or would like help with your application, please contact the school office.

Yours faithfully,

S. Bowling *S. Cockcroft*

Mrs S Bowling and Mrs S Cockcroft
Co-Headteachers

Please follow the link below to apply:

<https://new.calderdale.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals>

Weekly Online Safety Information

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

MANAGING DIGITAL BOUNDARIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

Screens are part of everyday life, but they should not take over early childhood routines. For under-fives, healthy digital habits are built through simple, steady boundaries that protect sleep, play, connection, and development. Current UK guidance advises avoiding screen time for children under two – except for shared activities such as video calls – while children aged two to five should ideally have no more than one hour a day.

1 ASK A GROWN-UP FIRST

For under-fives, autonomy is important, but not when it comes to choosing digital content. Establish an 'ask a grown-up first' rule early, whether at home or in an early years setting. Adults should choose the video, app, or game, therefore helping children avoid unsuitable content and understand that devices are tools to be guided, not toys to control.

2 PROTECT SLEEP BUFFERS

Screens can make it harder for young children to wind down, especially when content is bright, noisy, or fast paced. Aim for a screen-free hour before sleep or start with 30 minutes if that feels more realistic. Use this time for calming routines such as stories, bath time, quiet play, or cuddles, helping children recognise that bedtime is approaching.

3 CO-VIEW AND CHAT

Screen time is safer and more meaningful when adults are involved. Sit with children, even briefly, and talk about what they're watching. Ask simple questions like, "What can you see?" or "How does that character feel?" This turns passive viewing into shared interaction, supports language development, and helps adults spot adverts, unsuitable content, or confusing messages.

4 KEEP DEVICES HIDDEN

Young children are more likely to ask for screens when they can see or reach them. Keep devices out of sight when they're not being used, and consider casting content to a shared screen instead of handing over a phone or tablet to a child. This reduces private scrolling, supports shared viewing, and helps adults stay in control of what appears next.

5 PLAN THE TRANSITION

The hardest part of screen time is often stopping. Before the screen goes off, tell the child what's coming next and offer two acceptable choices, such as blocks or drawing. This gives them a sense of agency without removing the boundary. A planned next activity prevents a sudden gap, which can quickly become frustration or distress.

6 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children notice adult habits long before they understand adult explanations. If they're expected to put their screens away, they need to see adults doing the same thing during meals, play, and conversations. Create a shared 'phone home', such as a basket or shelf, to show that technology has a place in daily life but does not need constant attention.

7 MAKE SCREENS PREDICTABLE

Young children do not always understand minutes, but they quickly learn patterns. When screen time happens at a regular point in the day, it becomes a routine rather than a negotiation. Use the same start and finish signals each time, such as a timer, goodbye wave, or tidy-away moment, so children know what to expect next.

8 CREATE SCREEN ZONES

Physical boundaries help children understand digital boundaries. Keep screens out of bedrooms to protect their sleep and away from tables to preserve mealtime connections. Choose one agreed 'yes space', such as a shared living room area or supervised classroom corner. This makes limits feel less personal and more like a clear family or setting routine.

9 USE SIMPLE SCRIPTS

Transitions are easier when children hear the same calm language each time. Use short, repeatable phrases such as, "First tidy, then tablet," or "When the timer beeps, we stop." Avoid long explanations during emotional moments. Simple scripts reduce negotiation, help adults stay consistent, and give children clear expectations they can gradually understand and follow.

10 PRIORITISE SLOW CONTENT

Not all screen time feels the same to a young child's brain. Fast-paced clips, loud sounds, and rapid scene changes can make it harder for some children to settle down afterwards. Choose slower content with simple stories, gentle voices, and natural pauses. Think of digital content like food, with more calm, nourishing choices than fast-paced, digital 'sugar rushes'.

Meet Our Expert

Neha Agarwal is the founder of Cyber Ved Kids, an innovative educational initiative that transforms complex cybersecurity concepts into engaging, age-appropriate adventures for children aged 3-10. With her unique background leading cybersecurity services for corporates and serving as an expert panel advisor on Internet Matters, Neha brings corporate-grade cybersecurity expertise to the early years world.



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See full reference list on our website

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JOIN THE FUN THIS SUMMER AND ENJOY A HEALTHY HOLIDAY!

Healthy Holidays Calderdale returns July 2026 for a Summer of Fun!



The Healthy Holidays Calderdale Programme returns this Summer with thousands of places available for young people to access during the 2026 school holidays.

A diverse programme of activities will be available with something new for all. From performing arts, wheelchair basketball, rap workshops, cook clubs, bushcraft, bikeability, canoeing and so much more, young people will be kept entertained this Summer. Everyone attending will receive a healthy and nutritious meal.

Places are free for school aged children Reception to Year 11 who are eligible for benefits related free school meals. There may also be sessions for fee-paying children who are not eligible for free school meals.

Places will be available to book from mid June 2026.



"The program has been a fantastic support for our family. It has provided my children with nutritious meals and healthy activities that keep them active and social during the break"
Parent of children attending Healthy Holidays Programme

"It has been great to have both children attend and actually enjoy it. They have wanted to come back every day and have engaged in some great activities. As a single parent it has been beneficial to me to have the time to get things done."
Parent of children attending Healthy Holidays Programme



You will need to create an account on our central booking system Eequ if this is your first time booking through our new system. There are also fee-paying places available for those not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

To book scan the QR code or visit: eequ.org/healthyholidayscalderdale



Facebook: @HealthyHolidaysCalderdale

Twitter: @HAFCalderdale

Website: www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/community-and-living/healthy-holidays-calderdale

Email: healthyholidays@calderdale.gov.uk

Call: 01422 288001

No Internet? Visit a local Calderdale Library and they will support you in registering your children onto available activities.



Dinner Menu from Monday 6th July

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 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



Gold Book Nominations



Northern Ireland - Gabriel F for persevering during assessment week and working so hard to improve his scores. I am so proud of him!

Wales - Shanzay A for being an all round superstar. She is a kind, polite and helpful girl who is a pleasure to teach!

France - Ayat O for creating a beautiful sculpture using clay.

Canada - Varo H & Ayaan Y for trying really hard in their maths assessments this week!

Mexico - Kaif H & Zarar A for a great week in class, persevering with assessments and giving it 100%.

Nigeria - Morgan N for his hard work during assessment week!

South Africa - Makbel G for his amazing effort and outcomes during assessment week.

China - Momina M for her hard work throughout her tests this week!!

Japan - Malezha H for showing consistent resilience throughout the year resulting in wonderful progress. It has been a pleasure to see her flourish and grow in confidence.

Japan - Alonz S for his outstanding work ethic and positive attitude towards learning. He is a highly proficient mathematician. His determination for learning makes him a wonderful role model.

Singapore - Ayaaz A for his excellent maths assessment results.

Australia - Sahara I for being so positive and well-behaved this half term. She is trying so hard in lessons and in show rehearsals. Her art collagraph of biome is fantastic because she took so much time working carefully.

