



BEECH HILL NEWS



Friday 13th March

Congratulations!

We are delighted to inform you that Beech Hill has been successfully appointed by the Department for Education (following a rigorous assessment process) as a **Lead School within the Reception Network for Yorkshire and Humber.**

This recognition reflects the high-quality practice within our Early Years provision and the dedication and expertise of our staff. As a Lead School, we will play a key role in supporting and working collaboratively with other schools across the region to share best practice, contribute to professional development and help strengthen outcomes for children in Reception classes.

This appointment brings exciting opportunities for our school to further develop leadership capacity, raise our profile within the wider education community and continue to enhance the learning experiences we offer our pupils.

Congratulations to our Early Years team for this achievement which is based on our school providing sustained high quality provision and achieving strong outcomes over time.



verd de gris

Last Friday, a group of year 5 girls attended a special International Women's Day performance led by Sharon (verd de gris) and the One Voice Collective.

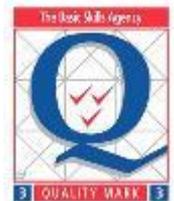
We really enjoyed listening to the women's poetry, hearing their stories and joining in with a few songs. It was a wonderful celebration of how strong women are when they are united. The girls were particularly impressed by the women's bravery, supportiveness, positivity and friendship. They were also pleased to meet Sharon who they thought was kindhearted and full of energy.

We are delighted that verd de gris have just been awarded a significant amount of funding from the National Lottery which means we will be able to work with them again which is very exciting!



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World Book Day 2026

What a Fantastic Week of Reading Celebrations!

We had a wonderful time celebrating reading throughout the week. Here's a look back at the highlights from our fantastic week! On Friday, children came to school dressed as their favourite book characters or in their cosiest pyjamas. They also enjoyed special assemblies where they had to guess the book by looking at small snippets of the front covers — a challenge that brought lots of friendly competition. Children were also treated to a special World Book Day dinner menu, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



WORLD BOOK DAY 6th March 2026 Beech Hill Kitchen's World Book Day Menu

For main course...



Benjamin Bunny's Vegetable Biryani

Percy the Park Keeper's Pizza

A selection of Smeds' and Smoos' Sandwiches

Salad bar; freshly picked from Mr. McGregor's Garden



For dessert...



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory's milkshake and cookie

The Ice Queen's ice cream



Family Challenge - World Book Day Edition

We loved seeing all the creative entries submitted for our Family Challenge. The effort and imagination that went into each project was incredible.

All winners and runners-up received a £5 book token to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair — a well-deserved reward for such thoughtful and creative work.

Many of the entries are now proudly displayed in our school libraries, adding a wonderful personal touch to our reading spaces.



Scholastic Book Fair

Our book fair has been a great success and a brilliant opportunity for families to discover new books while supporting the school. Thank you to everyone who visited — your contributions help us continue to enrich our school library. On Monday 16th we will continue to welcome year 5 and 6, after school, in the school hall with their adults from home.

World Book Day 2026 continued...

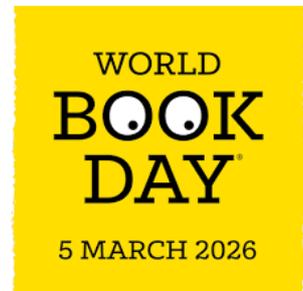
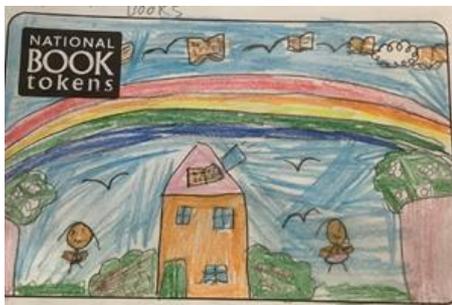
Stay and Read Sessions

Throughout the week, parents joined their children for our Stay and Read sessions. Children loved sharing stories with their parents and also enjoyed listening to their teachers read some of their favourite books. These sessions were a wonderful way to celebrate reading together as a school community.



Book Token Competition

A huge well done to everyone who took part in our book token design competition! Just like the family challenge, **both winners and runners-up received a £5 book token** to spend at the school fair.



Gardening Club Blooms into Action!

Last Friday, our enthusiastic Gardening Club took a special trip to B&Q to choose a beautiful selection of flowers for our tyre planters. The children carefully selected a variety of vibrant bedding plants that will brighten up our playground as we move into the warmer months.

This week, the club members will be planting the flowers themselves and taking responsibility for nurturing them. They are excited not only to care for the plants but also to share their knowledge with the rest of the school.

This project will help transform our outdoor space into a colourful, aesthetically pleasing area for everyone to enjoy. We can't wait to see the playground come to life with the children's hard work and creativity!



Year 2 Trip to The Piece Hall

This week, the year 2 children went on a lovely visit to the Piece Hall. All the children walked sensibly down through Halifax. When we arrived, we had a short introduction and learnt some key facts. Then we went on 'A Cloth Hunt' around the Piece Hall which helped us to learn the process of making cloth. To end our session at the Piece Hall, we took part in a workshop where we got to complete each step of the process of making cloth. The children enjoyed the experience and will now apply the knowledge they have learnt into their work.

"The Piece Hall was built in 1779!" Keyyan H

"It is so big and beautiful!" Meghaswi C

"The Piece has 315 rooms where trading would happen!" Mujtaba S

All of the children behaved in an exemplary manner and were role models for the school. A huge well done to all the year 2 children who visited the Piece Hall.



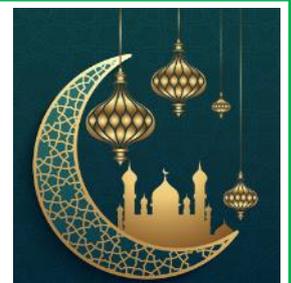
Attendance Update

(from 02.03.2026 to 06.03.2026)

| Class | % |
|------------------|--------------|
| Halifax 1 | 91.67% |
| Halifax 2 | 85.53% |
| Halifax 3 | 98.58% |
| Northern Ireland | 98.8% |
| Scotland | 96.67% |
| Wales | 94.4% |
| Denmark | 96.67% |
| France | 98% |
| Switzerland | 98.1% |
| Canada | 98.67% |
| Mexico | 95.61% |
| Egypt | 95.71% |
| Nigeria | 98.28% |
| South Africa | 99.26% |
| China | 100% |
| Japan | 97.67% |
| Singapore | 97% |
| Australia | 94.48% |
| New Zealand | 95.33% |
| Total | 96.5% |

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.



House Points

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

Haniya A
Simona H
Abubakr N
David O

Well done. Keep up the hard work!

JOIN THE FUN THIS SPRING AND ENJOY A HEALTHY HOLIDAY!

HEALTHY HOLIDAYS CALDERDALE SPRING PROGRAMME

This Spring, during the Easter school holidays, children and young people aged 5-16 eligible for benefits-related free school meals are invited to take part in a range of exciting and fun activities through the Healthy Holidays Calderdale Programme.

The scheme provides enriching activities, delicious nutritious meals, and a chance for young people to meet new friends in a safe and fun environment.



To book scan the QR code or visit healthyholidays.calderdale.gov.uk/

You will need to register your child on the booking system before booking your place directly through the provider. There may also be sessions available for fee-paying children who are not eligible for free school meals.



Book your place now to join the Healthy Holidays Calderdale fun, taking place this Spring across Calderdale.

To book scan the QR code or visit: healthyholidays.calderdale.gov.uk/

For more information on Healthy Holidays Calderdale and support in booking a place at a Spring holiday scheme, please contact:

Facebook: @HealthyHolidaysCalderdale
Twitter: @HAFCalderdale
Website: www.calderdale.gov.uk/healthyholidays
Email: healthyholidays@calderdale.gov.uk



Dinner Menu from Monday 16th March

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

| 1 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Hot Meal Option | Southern Fried Chicken Goujons 1, 5 | g/f Chicken Tikka Wraps 12 Shredded Chicken 4, 5 | Fish Fingers 2, 5 | Roast Chicken Dinner Gravy | Pizza 5, 10 (various toppings - margherita/vegetable/spicy beef) |
| | 1/4 Pounder Vege Burger 5 | Cheese & Onion Rolls 3, 5, 10, 12 | Vegetarian Bolognese Pasta Bake 5, 10 Dough Balls 5 | Quorn Sausage 5 | Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce 4 Rice |
| Vegetables | Chips Beans | Wedges Sweetcorn Carrots | Potato Puffs Peas & Sweetcorn | Roast Potatoes Broccoli Carrots | Wedges Beans |
| Served Daily | Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Selection of Sandwiches Salad Bar Fresh Fruit, Yoghurts & Fruit Cocktail | | | | |
| Dessert | Selection of Fresh Fruit or Choobs 10 | Sponge and Custard 5, 10, 12 | Cheesecake 5, 10 | Sponge and Custard 5, 10, 12 | Vanilla Milkshake 10 & Cookie 5, 10, 12 |
| | Assorted Ice Cream 10 | Strawberry Jelly | Golden Syrup Cornflake Buns 5 | 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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2025.

ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some tv shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

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

See full reference list on our website

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Gold Book Nominations



Mount Pleasant - Zakariyya A for working hard to develop his independence skills at home and in nursery. Well done, keep up the hard work!

Pellon Lane - Eesa N for growing in confidence this week, making friends and achieving some of his personal, social and emotional targets. We are so proud of him - he is becoming so independent. Well done!

Halifax 1 - Arham A for outstanding maths work including writing his 41 times tables down!

Northern Ireland - Hamza H for being an always child and an exceptional role model to all children in class Northern Ireland. He makes me proud everyday with his questioning in every lesson.

Scotland - Oscar T for a fantastic effort with his behaviour this week!

Wales - Alayna D for having an amazing week. She tries her best in everything she does even when it is difficult.

Denmark - Mujtaba S for his enthusiasm and sensible behaviour during our Piece Hall trip.

France - Sarim A for being intrigued to learn lots of new facts about the Piece Hall during our visit.

Switzerland - Zuhair A for his improved attitude to learning.

Canada - Eniola A for her fantastic fractions work this week!

Mexico - Tam D for her fantastic sentences about Grendal in English.

Egypt - Rafiha T for trying really hard learning her numbers. Rafiha is becoming more confident recognising the numbers and is working hard to count accurately. Well done!

Nigeria - Aila A for producing a great description of a Stone Age camp in English this week.

South Africa - Ismail M for being a brilliant mathematician when learning about fractions.

China - Haniya A for her brilliant fielding skills in rounders.

Japan - Aliha A for a concerted effort in her writing. She really thinks about the vocabulary choice and tone. I was extremely impressed with the atmosphere she created in the island description.

Singapore - Inaya O for her determination and perseverance in lessons. Inaya always tries her best with her work and contributes with enthusiasm to class discussion.

Australia - Hasnain M for his great enthusiasm in our English topic and producing a fantastic twisted ending.

New Zealand - Arwaa H for excellent effort this week in all areas including after school maths booster.

New Zealand - Ayaan S for staying off steps all week and trying really hard in all lessons.