



# BEECH HILL NEWS

Friday 27th March



## Beech Hill Schools New Sports Hall

We held an incredibly exciting event last Thursday when we finally opened our new sports hall at Beech Hill. Everybody enjoyed the momentous occasion and we were delighted to welcome British artistic gymnast Luke Whitehouse who represented Great Britain at the 2024 Summer Olympics and was a silver medalist on floor exercise at the 2025 World Championships as well as being a four time European Champion. He provided inspiring words for our children. Councillor Danielle Durrans also unveiled the plaque and spoke very highly of Beech Hill School and the Family of Learning Trust within her speech.



The journey to building this sports hall has been a long and exciting one. Back in 2010, our school had just over 300 pupils. Significant Improvements were made and this resulted in us growing into a thriving community of around 550 children. While this growth is something we were incredibly proud of, it brought new challenges. As a result, we added 16 new classes to accommodate our expanding pupil numbers, but our existing hall was no longer large enough to meet the needs of our school community. Assemblies and whole-school activities became something of a logistical challenge. Sports activities were limited by space, and opportunities for pupils to be active indoors were restricted. It became clear that if we wanted to continue providing the very best opportunities for our pupils, we needed a facility that truly reflected the size, energy, and ambition of our school. This made the vision of a new, purpose-built sports hall not just desirable, but essential.

We have not simply opened a new building. We have opened a space where pupils will learn, grow, compete, support one another, and develop confidence and resilience. It will be a place that encourages participation, teamwork, and a lifelong enjoyment of being active.

We would like to thank everyone who made this possible. To our governors, thank you for your vision and unwavering support. To our staff, your commitment to our pupils continues to inspire. To the finance team, your careful planning and management ensured this project stayed on track. To our Estates and Site team, Mr Boocock and Mr Shakeel, thank you for the hard work and effort working closely with Royds to ensure the building was not just completed on time but for highlighting and working through any issues. We must also say a very special thanks to our trustee, Tracey Milner, whose guidance and oversight throughout ensured the project ran smoothly and to the highest standard.

Congratulations to everyone involved, and thank you for helping make this vision a reality. It was very emotional to be able to all come together as a school community once again and we look forward to many more exciting events.

This is the Halifax Courier report on the event:  
<https://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/education/it-all-started-in-a-sports-hall-just-like-this-olympian-opens-primary-schools-new-sports-hall-6214150>



## Co-Headteachers End of Term Message

In addition to the hall opening, we have had many successes over the spring term.

We were very proud of our year 6 girls who reached the West Yorkshire cross country finals and also our pickleball team who finished second in the competition that they attended. There have been many visits around the local area for different year groups. Year 4 particularly enjoyed finding out about the wildlife at Cromwell Bottom near Brighouse. Gardening club had a great time going shopping to choose plants to spruce up the playground! We have also hosted some great experiences in school including VR headsets to travel to various locations around the world and our annual owl visit.

Thank you to all families who have attended events in school. These have included parent lunches for years 3 and 4, a phonics picnic and stay and read sessions in World Book Week. The year 1 spring performance was very impressive - credit to the children for their hard work and confidence. Our book fair was incredibly well attended (for the second year running!) and we are looking forward to buying new books with the money raised for school - thank you for your amazing support with this. It was wonderful to see so many of you at parents' evening on Wednesday; if you still need to meet with your child's class teacher, please ask them for an appointment.

After many years of dedicated service, we say a heartfelt goodbye to Mrs Hunter, our Lead Learning Mentor, who is retiring after almost 18 years at Beech Hill. Throughout her time with us, she has shown unwavering commitment, kindness and professionalism in every aspect of her role. Her support for both students and colleagues has made a lasting impact, helping to create the positive, nurturing environment that defines our school. She is truly a valued member of our school community and we are incredibly grateful for the contributions she has made over the years. We wish Mrs Hunter all the very best for the future and hope that the next chapter brings her happiness, relaxation and new opportunities as she plans to return to Beech Hill in a volunteer role. Thank you for everything—you will always be a part of our school family.

A big well done to all the children who have maintained 99 or 100% attendance this term. This is a fantastic achievement and they will all be receiving a reward for this from Mrs Farhat, our attendance officer. As a result of parents' hard work and commitment towards ensuring children attend every day, we have managed to maintain our attendance at 95 % - above the national average.

**School closes at 1.10pm on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March and we will reopen on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

The summer term is a long and busy one. Parents of children in years 1, 4 and 6 will be well aware that the Phonics Screening Check, the Multiplication Tables Check and, of course, the year 6 end of KS2 SATs will be soon upon us. Please continue to support your children at home to prepare them for these tests. Holiday homework will be uploaded or given to the children. Please make sure they are completing this. Make sure children in year 2 upwards are practising their times tables on Times Table Rock Stars and that children in year 6 are accessing the Reading Plus Intervention (if they have an account). Family challenges will also be shared on Seesaw - we look forward to seeing what you do over the next fortnight.

**Please do not message the class teachers on Seesaw in the holiday as we would like them to be able to switch off completely over the Easter break.**

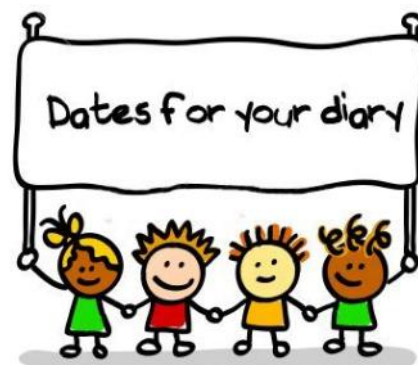
We would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you a restful holiday.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Mrs Bowling and Mrs Cockroft

## Important Dates

Tue 14th & Wed 15th April - Year 3 trip to Murton Park  
Thu 23rd April - Phil Earle, author assembly for Y5/6  
Tue 28th April - Y4 trip to Gurdwara  
Wed 29th April - Reception family learning  
Thu 30th April - Y2 trip to Madni Mosque  
Mon 4th May - **School Closed**  
Tue 5th May - Y4 trip to Gurdwara  
Wed 6th May - Y1 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park  
Y5 Ancient Greece workshop  
W/C 11th May - KS2 SATs week  
Thu 14th May - Reception trip to Swithens Farm  
Fri 15th May - STEM coffee morning  
Tue 19th May - Y4 trip to Gurdwara  
Tue 19th May & Thu 21st May - Y5 parent lunches



## Pickleball Tournament

Last Thursday, a group of KS2 children competed in a Pickleball Tournament at The Brooksbank School. It was our first ever entry in this event with the sport only being introduced to our school earlier on in the year.

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It is played on a badminton-sized court with a slightly modified tennis net, where players use paddles to hit a plastic ball between them. It can be played as both singles and doubles.

In our case we played as mixed doubles. Competing with 6 other schools, determined to showcase our skills and teamwork, we ended up finishing the tournament in second place having played a game less than the team above us. Due to time constraints, we could not fulfill our last match which left our children slightly frustrated as they were confident of beating their final opponents and therefore missing out on bringing back some gold medals with what would have been a fitting moment, following the grand opening of our new sports hall earlier in the day.

Nevertheless we are proud of their achievements prior and we see them as nothing but winners!



## Calderdale Local Offer

The Calderdale Local Offer have issued their March newsletter. The newsletter includes updates across the SEND Partnership and also things to do for families during the school holidays.

Please follow the link for more information: [Local Offer March Newsletter](#)



## Y6 Trip to Dean Field

On Wednesday, a group of our Y6 children visited our trust school, Dean Field, to deliver an assembly about Ramadan and Eid. The children were an absolute credit to Beech Hill. They were polite, well-mannered and most importantly confident when delivering the assembly and answering the array of questions that the children at Dean Field had for them.



## Year 1 Spring Performance

This half term the children in year 1 have been practising really hard for their spring performance. To help get ready for the performance the children learned all about the season of spring and the changes that happen during this season.

On Wednesday, the children performed their spring performance for their parents which included three poems and three songs.



The children were amazing and should be very proud of themselves!

### House Points

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

Usman B  
Mohammed A

### House Points

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

Maryam A  
Haniya A  
Musa B  
Eesa H  
Othman O  
Haidar A S

### House Points

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

Adwaith R C

**DON'T FORGET**

School closes on **Tuesday 31st March** at 1pm to ALL children.

We will reopen after the Easter holidays on **Monday 13th April** at 8:35am.

**Verd de gris arts needs your help!**

Help us shape our next 5 year journey by supporting our bid to create a safe and inclusive space for creative expression in Halifax!



"For me, the funding is permission to breathe again ..."

"Certainty is here. The future is ONE VOICE."

We've had some great news recently for our company Verd de gris arts ...

We've secured major support for 5 years of community-based work from The National Lottery Community Fund and technical support from the Clothworkers' Foundation, to help the most vulnerable to find hope + opportunity, and to bring diverse groups of people together in the spirit of love, mutual trust and friendship ... vital work in these dark and troubling times ...

But now we'd really like your help!

For over 25 years, Verd de Gris Arts has been a constant in women's lives in Calderdale - helping them break cycles of trauma, find confidence, and lead change in their communities. Women like Shamin, who was denied education, now speaks at universities. Jade, who overcame profound trauma, now mentors young girls.

But we are facing uncertainty. Since COVID, we have lost our space multiple times - and this July, we will lose our base again. For women managing anxiety, isolation, and trauma, losing a safe place isn't just inconvenient - it can set back their progress.

We've found the perfect permanent creative hub - a space where women can belong, create, learn, and be supported.

This will be a safe, supportive space which will allow us to create locally-owned creative workshops, exhibitions, inclusive poetry and spoken word events, talks ... and see us working with a range of creative and support agencies.

But we need your help to make it real.

♥ Donate, share, or help spread the word - let's share this news far and wide!

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/secure-our-home-secure-our-future>

Thanks so much for your continued support, we really appreciate it!

We remain grateful to National Lottery players, whose support enables The National Lottery Community Fund to back projects that strengthen communities and improve lives across the UK.

## Dinner Menu from Monday 13th April

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

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

### TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

### PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

### VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

### SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the Internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

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# Values Awards Appreciation



**Pellon Lane** - Shastika S for showing impeccable manners since she joined nursery. She is always so grateful for everything the teachers do for her and shows her appreciation by making us all lovely pictures at home. She is a joy to have in class.

**Halifax 1** - Amal O for being a very positive member of the class who is a great listener and always tries her best. She is always polite and she understands how to be kind to others and to make sure everyone is included.

**Halifax 2** - Adam H for being very grateful for the toys and experiences we have provided this term and for consistently using good manners to express his appreciation. He has been behaving so well that he has been able to join in all the activities we provide. Well done, Adam.

**Halifax 3** - Mannat A for consistently showing appreciation for the learning experiences she has at school. She regularly thanks the adults around her after visits and activities, whether that's a trip to the library or something new she has tried in class. She already understands that learning is something to be grateful for, and she makes sure to show she is grateful.

**Northern Ireland** - Muhammad O & Durga S for always being so appreciative every single day at school. No matter what it is they always say please and thank you to every member of staff and also their peers. They come to school always with a huge smile on their face and give their everything to all that they do! I am very lucky to have such wonderful children in my class.

**Scotland** - Oscar T for always remembering his manners. When I am handing out resources he is always the first person to say "Thank you!" and this helps to prompt his peers to also say thank you. This shows his appreciation to the different adults.

**Scotland** - Eliza H for showing appreciation in all her actions throughout the school day. She shows she appreciates her peers indirectly by being a good friend, sharing her equipment and always helping them if they are stuck. She shows appreciation to the adults by helping out with jobs around the classroom and always following the behaviour expectations in class.

**Wales** - Laraib G for being an always child who shows appreciation to everybody she meets. She is a highly respected member of class Wales and is appreciative of anything anyone does for her by using her manners, smiling and just being an all-round lovely person.

**Denmark** - Aliyar A for always being appreciative of everything the adults do in class. He always shows his appreciation with lovely manners, a smile and displaying the right behaviours. I am really proud of him for showing this value as he has become a fantastic role model for our class.

**France** - Ayat O for always showing gratitude towards the adults and peers in her class and making sure to show appreciation when they have helped her.

**Switzerland** - Carmen K for always being polite and using her manners. She is new to Beech Hill this year and always says 'thank you' to her peers and teachers. Well done for setting a good example to all the class!

**Canada** - Haya M for always saying thank you to anyone that has given her something or helped her. Haya never expects adults do work for her but is very appreciative of any support she is given to improve her work. She is polite, well mannered and always smiling!

**Mexico** - Janvika J S for always showing the value of appreciation in all aspects of her school life. She will always use her manners, greet adults and her peers in a morning and can always be relied on for any jobs in class. She loves to help others in class, the playground and the dining room. Many adults compliment her lovely manners around school. Well done!



# Values Awards Appreciation



**Egypt** - Marwah H for always remembering to use her manners when she is speaking to adults and other children. Marwah shows her appreciation for her friendships really well by showing that she cares if someone is upset and by showing them a smile when she sees them. She has really matured this year and is such a polite and friendly girl towards all.

**Nigeria** - Faryal S for always being appreciative of the adults she works with in class. She is calm, patient and always thanks you for spending time to answer a question or help her to complete a task.

**South Africa** - Ravin H for being brilliant at noticing when other children are helpful or kind and saying thank you to make sure that they feel appreciated.

**China** - Haniya A & Abubakr N for both being well-mannered and ensuring they always use their 'pleases' and 'thank yous' without prompting.

**Japan** - Mohammed A A for always being polite & respectful. He NEVER forgets a thank you and shows his appreciation through his hard work and kind nature. He is an absolute pleasure to teach and have in our class. Everyone should be more 'Mohammed'.

**Singapore** - Yusuf R for always being extremely polite when asking an adult for help. Even if it's a small amount of help that is given, Yusuf always says thank you. He has lovely manners and always shows appreciation.

**Australia** - Ayesha N for always being very polite to all in school. She appreciates any help she receives from adults in lessons and always follows the advice given to her in feedback showing she values the time and effort spent with her. She always tries her best; showing how much she appreciates and values her education. She is simply a delight to teach!

**New Zealand** - Amelia A for always being polite, kind and appreciative of everything the adults do for her. Her behaviour is exemplary. She isn't afraid to ask for help when she needs it, and always shows appreciation when adults help her. She is a role model for others and always has a positive attitude to learning.

