



Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow

Beech Class

September 2024

Dear Beech Class Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a fantastic holiday. This term is a great opportunity to kick off the new academic year with fantastic learning, as we continue to Believe, Learn and Grow together in 2024.

Topic:

Our first topic of the year will focus around our work as geographers. We will be learning about maps and directions with the question 'where in the world are we?'. We will be starting off by learning to successfully use an atlas to locate different countries around the world, plotting these on blank maps. As part of our topic, we will also be learning to use symbols and a key to expand our knowledge on the UK and the wider world. Children will also have the opportunity to research different geographical features (including rivers and volcanoes).

Every Wednesday afternoon, Beech class will return to their original year groups for Science. Year 4 will be taught by Mrs Dos Santos and will be learning about states of matter. Year 5 will be taught by myself (Mrs Richmond) and will be learning about properties and changes in material.

Home Learning:

Children in Beech class are encouraged to read regularly for pleasure, either with suitable range of fiction from home, or from a levelled reading book from our reading scheme – Big Cats. Children will have a Big Cat book each week to read to improve reading fluency as well as a 'reading for pleasure' book of their choice. Children will have also brought home a reading record. Please encourage your child to write in it each day they have read and sign it when you have either seen or heard them read. Whole Class Reading sessions take place daily, focusing on developing a range of reading skills, including retrieval, inference and explanations skills to encouraging progress.

The spelling home learning will continue to go home on a Monday, with support given in school to help learn these. Spellings will continue to be a big focus in Beech Class. We will investigate spelling rules and patterns throughout the week, as well as any common spelling errors made by children in class. Children will be given differentiated spellings for the week, depending on the level they are working at in class. Most children will be given around 8 spellings but others might have less. Please use the look, say, cover, write and check format to practise the words at home, as well as the techniques like 'silly sentences', 'pyramid writing' and other strategies which will be explained to your children. Spellings will be taught during the week, followed by a test on Friday.

We will continue to focus on improving our knowledge and speed of times tables using deliberate practice on paper in class. Each term we will have a focus on times tables learning but the expectation is that children will need to know all these by the end of the year. If you would like support at home with times tables, then please let us know.

Pick 'n' Mix home learning will also be starting from week 3. On this grid, there is a range of home learning activities as well as activities linked to our value of Truthfulness and Vision or Believe, Learn, Grow. Children will be awarded points for each piece of home learning they complete, with the points being tallied up by the end of the term and prizes awarded accordingly. The grid also has additional home learning to show the *Reading*, *Spelling* and *Time Tables* home learning which are compulsory.

PE:

PE will be taught on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Children are allowed to wear their PE kits in school for the entire day on their PE days.

Thank you in advance for your support, and I look forward to an exciting first term in Beech Class.

Mrs Richmond