



Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow

## Beech Class

November 2024

Dear Beech Class Parents/Carers,

Wow! What a first term we had in Beech class! It was absolutely lovely getting to know all the children and I am so excited for the term ahead in the lead up to Christmas. It was so lovely to see so many of you share in the children's learning at the end of the term and I am looking forward to parents evening later this term to discuss all the hard work your child has been up to this year so far. Along with this letter, you will also receive a Topic Web and this terms Pick N Mix. I hope you all had a lovely half term break.

### Topic:

Our topic this term will focus around being a historian where we will be learning about the Anglo Saxons. We will start off by looking at the artwork found throughout the Anglo Saxon time period, focusing on looking closely at all the intricate details found in artefacts. As historians, children will then learn about the Anglo Saxon conversion to Christianity and their culture during this time.

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 electricity. Year 5 will be taught by myself (Mrs Richmond) and will be continuing to learn 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 10 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 2 (week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024). On this grid, there is a range of home learning activities as well as activities linked to our value of Trust and Vision of 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 Thursday afternoons. Children are allowed to wear their PE kits in school for the entire day on this day. If your child is wearing earrings (studs, no hoops), these will either need to be removed for PE or medical tape can be kept in their school bags for your child to cover them up. Please note, children will be responsible for either removing or covering up their own earrings.

#### Forest School:

On Tuesday afternoons, Beech class will take part in a series of forest school lessons with Mrs dos Santos. It is advised children wear old, weather appropriate clothing as they can get muddy. Children will need to bring clothing and suitable footwear, e.g. wellies, waterproof coat, sun hat etc. in case of wet, cold or warm weather on Tuesday morning in a **named** bag. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly named.

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

Mrs Richmond