



Believe - Learn - Grow

Beech Class – Spring Term 1

January 2025

Dear Beech Class Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new year. I hope you all had a lovely holiday and the children had a wonderful break. We have already kick started a new term with an Ancient Greek immersion day and I am so impressed by how the children have come back into school. This term promises to be filled with lots of exciting learning opportunities for the children and will finish with a class trip.

Topic:

Our topic this term will focus around being a historian where we will be learning about the Ancient Greeks. As historians, we will be focusing on learning about different sports during the Ancient Greek civilisation, including the Ancient Greek Olympics. Children will then learn about different wars during this period of history and what makes a Spartan soldier. Towards the end of this term, children will have the opportunity to go on a class trip to conclude their history unit. More details will follow shortly.

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 living things and their habitats. Year 5 will be taught by myself (Mrs Richmond) and will be continuing to learn about living things and their habitats.

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 this week. 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. Mrs Richmond will celebrate Pick 'n' Mix every Thursday afternoon.

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 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.

Value:

This term's value is Perseverance.

Pressing on

Eager to continue

Running the race

Sticking with things

Encouraging each other to keep going

Valuing the support of others

Eyes fixed on the target

Reaching a goal over time

Aiming to complete the task

Not giving up

Commitment to keep going

Ending up where you want to be.

Date for the diary: 13th February 2025 Beech class will be holding their Collective Worship on this date for our school value of Perseverance. We hope you can make it. A reminder will be sent out nearer the time.

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

Mrs Richmond