



Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow

Beech Class – Spring Term 2

February 2025

Dear Beech Class Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after what was hopefully a relaxing half term break. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and I have been so impressed by their engagement and enthusiasm towards their learning so far. This term promises to be a busy one, filled with lots of exciting learning opportunities for the children and parents' evenings where I look forward to sharing more with you about how all children are getting on.

Topic:

Our topic this term will focus around being a geographer where we will be comparing London to the Alps. As geographers, we will be locating London and the Alps on a map and identifying key features. Children will also be comparing and exploring both the human and physical geography of these two geographical locations. Additionally, children will start to understand the environmental issues faced in these locations and investigate how the climate impacts human activity.

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 animals including humans. Year 5 will be taught by myself (Mrs Richmond) and also be learning about animals including humans, building upon their learning from previous years.

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. Please send your child into school each day with their reading record and levelled reading book as Mrs Richmond, Mrs Butler and Mrs Darragh will be trying to read with individuals on a regular basis. 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 Justice 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 Justice.

Judging what is right

Understanding what is fair

Standing up for those who need help

Trying to listen to both sides

Informed and wise decisions

Caring enough to take action

Equal opportunities for all

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

Mrs Richmond