Beech Class Newsletter
Autumn Term (2) 2026

Let's Celebrate!







Communication and language
Communication and language continue to be an important part of our Early Years curriculum. We encourage the children to talk and listen on a daily basis.
Through our 'busy learning' time the children are supported to learn new vocabulary and use it throughout the day, ask questions and articulate ideas through speaking in sentences. They are also encouraged to describe things in detail and use talk to help work out problems and challenges.
Our 'word of the week' will allow children to learn and explore words they may not be familiar with.

Literacy
Reading and Phonics - The children will have lots of opportunities to share books in our daily story times, our daily Guided Reading sessions and in our reading area. We will be using the texts: 'It's My Birthday', 'Maisy's Surprise Birthday Party' and different 'Kipper' birthday stories as starting points for our topic. Children will continue to bring home two phonetically decodable reading books and their phonics book so you can see and practise the new sounds they are learning.
Library books will continue to come home every Monday.
We will continue to teach daily phonics lessons as a whole class.
Writing - Within our provision there will be lots of opportunities for writing – making birthday cards, labels, captions and shopping lists of ingredients. Our message centre encourages children to develop their writing skills independently. We are also encouraging the children to hold a pencil correctly through a tripod grip and are supporting them to write their names, forming each letter accurately. Handwriting practise forms part of our daily phonics

Understanding the world
Autumn and winter bring us so much to learn about from the colourful changes we see in trees, hibernating animals, or our increasingly chilly weather. The children will explore all of this outside during their busy learning and through their outdoor learning/Forest School sessions on Fridays. They will learn about different traditions and celebrations from various cultures as we explore festivals and celebrations around the world.

Topic
We are so excited about this half term's topic, where we will be celebrating in many different ways! The children will be exploring different celebrations including bonfire night, birthdays, Christmas and Diwali.

Expressive Arts and Design
We will be creating a Birthday Party themed role play area together this half term. Our mud kitchen will open and provide lots of opportunity to create some rather unusual and tasty 'cakes'!
In our creative area, we will be experimenting with paint and colour mixing this half term. We will learn how to access and mix the paint independently and use paint alongside natural materials to create a range of autumn pictures.

Home Learning
Home learning in Beech Class is mainly practical and an opportunity for you to get involved with your child's learning whilst hopefully having lots of fun together. This is set via Google Classroom in the form of a grid, where you can choose the learning activities you would like to do. Hand in dates are published on this grid.
New reading books will be sent home on **Fridays** - please support your children to read the book that is familiar to them at least once and the new book at least two or three times. Please use the yellow reading record to record how your child gets on with their reading.
The children will also bring home a phonics book with sounds and words to practise at home.

Physical development
We will be developing our gross motor skills through the use of construction materials and different types of PE equipment such as hoops, balls and bean bags in our 'busy learning' time.
Mr Troman will continue to teach PE on a **Monday**, and we will developing our gymnastics and ball skills this half term.
We will strengthen our fine motor skills through handwriting patterns, "dough disco" and lots of opportunities for threading, squeezing and pinching through our funky fingers activities.
Outdoor Learning in our lovely forest school area will continue on **Fridays**, where we will also have the opportunity to continue developing both our fine and gross motor skills!

Maths
The children will be learning to identify different representations of number. They will subitise or count to find out how many and make their own collections of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 objects. The children will learn to match the number names we say to numerals and objects. The children will begin to understand that as we count, each number is one more than the number before. Similarly, as we count back, each number is one less than the previous number. They will use a range of representations to show their understanding.
We will also be learning about shape, focussing on circles, triangles, squares and rectangles. We will look at these in a range of sizes and orientations and also shapes in everyday life.
Lastly, we will be learning about height, length and time.

RE
Our RE key question this half term is 'Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?' Autumn 2 is the most exciting time when it comes to RE. We will be throwing ourselves into all things festive and learning about Christmas being a special time for Christians when they remember when baby Jesus was born.
We will also be taking part in the Nativity and will retell the story of when Jesus was born.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development
Through our continuous provision there are many opportunities for children to develop teamwork and resilience. They are encouraged to work together to solve problems and to care for each other and our class environment. Our Jigsaw focus this half term is "Celebrating Difference", where we learn that being different is what makes us all special and that this should be celebrated!