

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

At Beechwood Primary School, our attendance remains strong and maintaining good attendance continues to be one of our key priorities, alongside punctuality.

Class 1 has been leading the way, achieving some fantastic attendance and punctuality results, and ranking among the top classes in these areas almost every week. We are incredibly proud of their consistent efforts and the positive example they are setting for the rest of the school. The other classes are following closely behind, and it is wonderful to see everyone working together to make attendance and punctuality a shared priority. Well done, Class 1, and a huge well done everyone!



As we approach the end of half-term, we are looking forward to celebrating our children's achievements and recognising their individual efforts. We cannot wait to celebrate those who have achieved and maintained good attendance, improved their attendance or demonstrated excellent punctuality. Every improvement and every effort count and we want all our children to feel proud of their achievements. Thank you to our families for helping us make every school day count.

Trips, Visits and Experiences

Nursery Woodland Tales

In nursery, the children have been taking part in weekly Woodland Tales session in the Magic Garden.

This week's Woodland Tales was Dinosaur Roar! We looked through the story together and shared our knowledge on dinosaurs. We decided to become dinosaurs and played the dinosaur game where we had to do what the dinosaurs did in the story. We looked at how each word was an opposite to another.

We learnt the new word of the week which was fierce. We all used our facial expressions to create a fierce dinosaur face! We then found the fierce dinosaur hidden in the magic garden, but he wasn't fierce anymore, he was upset. He didn't have another dinosaur friend to play with him. So, we all decided to make him a new dinosaur friend which made him very happy!

Year 4 and 5 Football Session

Mrs Haylings and Miss Riley took children from years 4-6 to Fives for a morning of football activities. The event was hosted by Leeds Well Schools Partnership and the activities led by students from Leeds City College. The Beechwood pupils honed their ball skills with a variety of dribbling, shooting and passing games. Everyone involved had a great morning, and the pupils were awarded a certificate at the end of the morning.



Beechwood Newsletter



Year 3 Roman workshop

Year 3 were very excited to spend a day with a history expert, finding out how the Romans changed Britain when they invaded and settled here in AD 43. We explored reconstructed sources and used them to learn about what life was like in Roman Britain.

We also played Roman games using Roman numerals and learned to write messages in Latin using an ink pen. We learned how the Celts fought to try to stop the Romans from taking over their land. However, we discovered that the Roman army was better trained and had more soldiers. Even when tribes put up a good fight, the Romans eventually took control.



Black History Month Assemblies

This week it has already been so brilliant to see so many parents in school to watch the children's Black History Month assemblies and look at their work from this half term. We look forward to welcoming lots more parents to the assemblies taking place next week.

Nursery have been learning about the incredible artist Alma Thomas and exploring her amazing, colourful artwork!

Year 1 have been learning about Mae Jemison who was the first black woman to travel into space.

Year 2 have been learning about Nelson Mandela who was the first black president of South Africa.

Year 3 have been learning about Nina Simone who was a famous singer, pianist and civil rights

activist. Ella Fitzgerald was a jazz singer and civil rights pioneer.

Year 4 have learned all about Ruby Bridges for our Black History work. We found out about the important role she played in the civil rights movement in America in 1960 as the first black child to attend a white school in New Orleans. She is one of the figures painted on the hall wall too.

Year 5 have been learning about Black Victorians in our Guided Reading lessons and in a Zoom lesson with the National Archives.

Year 5 have studied the following people:

- Hezekiah Moscow
- Ira Aldridge
- Donald Adolphus Brown
- Frances E W Harper
- Mary Seacole

Year 6 travelled through North and South America to look at different inspirational black people from both continents. We studied a range of people from the likes of Martin Luther King through to Simone Biles.

Staff News

At the end of this half term, Sarah Mathers will be leaving the school after working here for over 11 years. Sarah has been an incredibly hardworking member of our team and has made lots of valuable contributions to our school and the wider community. She will be really missed but we wish her the best of luck as she moves onto a new and exciting job opportunity.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's mental health, wellbeing and online safety focus is on AI companions. AI companion apps, such as Snapchat MY AI, allow users to create, customise and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young children use them for harmless entertainment, these tools are used to generate human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship. Please see the link below for information to help parents and carers. See below for more information

Beechwood Newsletter



Safeguarding

If you are worried about any safeguarding situation or about your child being harmed, then you should contact Miss Roberts (Designated safeguarding lead), Mrs Giles, Miss Magill or Mrs Ticala (Deputy designated safeguarding leads) to share your concerns.

Nursery Places

We have a small number of 3-year-old nursery places available for both 15 hours & 30-hour places. Please contact the school office for more information and share this with family and friends.

Beechwood Primary School
Nursery Places Now Available

Unique Outdoor Magic Garden Trail

Exciting Activities & Indoor Provision

Universal & Extended 30hrs Funded Options Childcare Choices

Ofsted Outstanding 2014/2015 Early years provider

Spaces are limited

ENROL NOW BY CONTACTING OUR OFFICE TEAM
0113 2930 250
office@beechwoodprimaryschool.co.uk

Diary Dates

20 th October	Year 4 Leeds City Museum Trip
21 st October	Parents Evening
10 th November	Year 2 Yorkshire Wildlife Park Trip
13 th November	Children In Need
23 rd November	Year 1 Eureka Trip
26 th November	Year 5 Leeds Industrial Museum Trip

Half Term

Break up at normal time on Friday 23rd October 2026

Teacher Training Day - School Closed to Pupils
Monday 2nd November 2026

School Open- **Children return to school Tuesday 3rd October 2026**

Young Carers

For more information about Young Carers—including events, updates, and news—please visit the school [website](#).

School Grid

Please continue to use School Grid to order your child's meals in advance. It is really great to involve your child in making these choices to ensure they are enjoying their lunches.

Autumn Guide - Kids Eat Free

Autumn Guide
AUTUMN 2026

KIDS EAT FREE & £1 IN LEEDS DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
There are lots of dining discounts available around Leeds if you heading out this October half term and most offering this deal from October 17 - November 1, 2026.

Pumpkin Patch at Lotherton
Saturday 17 to Saturday 31 October. Pick your perfect pumpkin and enjoy autumn photo opportunities at Lotherton. Weekends from 3 October and weekdays from 19 to 31 October. £4 plus general admission.

Halloween at Temple Newsam
Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Follow spooky trails, enjoy quizzes and crafts, and explore seasonal displays at the farm and house. Included in admission.

Scarecrow Trail at Leeds Industrial Museum
Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Meet the scarecrows and enjoy autumn crafts and seasonal activities. Included in admission.

Glow in the Dark Week at Leeds City Museum
Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Follow a glow-in-the-dark trail, enjoy a glow disco and try shadow art workshops. Give what you can; some events need booking.

Junior Ghost Walk at Temple Newsam
Wednesday 28 to Saturday 31 October. Enjoy silly spooky stories, family-friendly fun, and plenty of laughter at Temple Newsam Home Farm. Included in admission; pre-booking required.

Monkey Madness at Tropical World
Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Enjoy monkey facts, bingo, games, a banana toss and a monkey tucker trail. Included in admission.

Spooktacular Family Day at Leeds City Library
31 October, 10am to 2.30pm. Enjoy authors, theatre, draw-alongs and spooky family activities. Recommended for children aged 6+. Free.

Half Term Madness at Leeds Kirkgate Market
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October, 10am to 4pm. Enjoy Lego, Duplo, colouring and Halloween-themed lotions and potions.

Spellbound at Lotherton
Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Use a spellbook to find ten witches and help make a magical autumn charm. Included in admission.

Nocturnal Creatures Trail at Kirkstall Abbey
Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Discover the animals that live among the Abbey ruins on a fun family trail. Give what you can.

Spooky Streets at Abbey House Museum
Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Wander spooky Victorian streets, meet creepy characters and take petrifying pictures. Included in admission.

Pumpkin Competition at Leeds City Museum
Thursday 1 October to Sunday 1 November. Design your dream pumpkin and see the winning ideas brought to life. Give what you can.

400 Stories Art Workshop
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October. Young artists aged 4+ can create story-inspired artwork at libraries across Leeds. Free.

Holiday Clubs at Herd Farm
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October, various dates. Enjoy fresh air, get active and take part in unforgettable outdoor adventures. £48.

Holiday Clubs at West Leeds Activity Centre
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October, various dates. Enjoy fresh air, get active and take part in unforgettable outdoor adventures. £45.

Light Night Leeds
28 and 29 October, 6pm to 9.30pm. Explore illuminated artworks, projections and immersive experiences across the city. Free.

Baby Week Leeds
14 - 20 November join the city in celebrating Baby Week! Free or 50p events in leisure centres, library and children centre events and much more. Weekend Family Showcases at Temple Newsam and Play Barn. All free and low cost available at babyweek.co.uk.

Beechwood Newsletter



School App

Thank you for activating your Arbor account for all communications. If you are having any issues logging in, please contact the school office.



Arbor

Reception Open Afternoon

Reception Open Afternoon
for children starting Reception in September 2027

Monday 16th November at 3.30pm

Come and see our school, meet our team and find out more about starting Reception at Beechwood Primary School.

Beechwood Primary School
Kentmere Avenue
LS14 6QB

Wrap Around- Premier Education

We are pleased to let you know that there are still places available in our Wraparound Care provision run by Premier Education. If you are looking for a flexible, high-quality childcare before or after school, please see information below. To secure a place for your child, please use the booking link [here](#).

Before and After School Wraparound Care from Premier Education

Wraparound Care

Premier Education
INSPIRING ACTIVITY

Trustpilot
★★★★★
Based on over 20,000 reviews

Timings*

Breakfast club
7.30am - 8.45am
Includes breakfast.

After School club
3.30pm - 5pm
3.30pm - 6pm
Includes snack and light tea option.

*example timings only

Why choose Premier Education?

- **Wide Range of Activities:** From gymnastics to gardening, we offer diverse activities to enrich each child's experience.
- **Convenient Online Booking:** Our simple online booking system allows parents to book activities with ease. Receive instant email confirmations for hassle-free tracking and reduced administration.
- **Responsive Office Support:** Our dedicated office support team is available from 9am to 5pm daily to address any queries or concerns promptly.
- **Siblings Discount and Special Offers:** Enjoy increased siblings discount and exclusive offers for our valued families.

OFSTED REGISTRATION

Our wraparound clubs are registered with Ofsted, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. This allows us to accept childcare vouchers against our provision.

Learn more about childcare vouchers at: <https://tinyurl.com/premierchildcarevouchers>

SUITABLE FOR ELIGIBLE SERVICE PERSONNEL

Eligible Service personnel (Tris-Service) can register for up to 20 hours per week, per child, term time only (39 weeks per year) of wraparound childcare funding for 4- to 11-year-old children attending before and after school childcare in the UK.

Learn more at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-for-service-children>



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI COMPANIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school – such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book *Ethical AI and Education*, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.



The National College

See full reference list on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.10.2026