

Beechwood Newsletter



As we come to the end of Autumn Term 1, we are delighted to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic start to the academic year here at Beechwood Primary School. We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break next week.

Attendance

The children have returned with enthusiasm, energy, and a strong sense of purpose, and this has been clearly reflected in their attendance and punctuality. We've seen a noticeable improvement across the school, with most of the pupils arriving on time and ready to learn each day. This commitment to being present and punctual sets a strong foundation for academic success and personal growth, and we are incredibly proud of the way our school community has embraced this focus.

To celebrate these achievements, we will be holding a special assembly on Friday (24.10.2025) to celebrate our attendance and punctuality stars. We are thrilled to announce that over 170 children will be receiving certificates for achieving 100% attendance throughout the term—a remarkable accomplishment that deserves recognition. Additionally, more than 130 children will be awarded certificates for maintaining attendance above 95%, which is just amazing. These awards not only highlight the children's dedication but also reflect the vital support they receive from home. We thank all parents and carers for prioritising school attendance and helping us build a culture of consistency and excellence.

We would also like to shine a spotlight on the classes that have gone above and beyond to meet and exceed our school attendance target of 95%. Class 3 leads the way with an outstanding 96%, setting a brilliant example for the rest of the school. Class 9 follows closely with 95.6%, and Class 10 is not far behind. Class 12 and Class 6 have also demonstrated impressive consistency, showing that high standards are being maintained across multiple year groups. We commend these classes for their commitment to showing up and making every day count.

Punctuality is equally important, and we are pleased to recognise the classes that have demonstrated exceptional timekeeping from September through to

the end of the half term. Class 1 and Class 4 have shown outstanding punctuality, with most pupils arriving on time every day. This is especially impressive for our youngest learners, who are already developing strong habits that will benefit them throughout their education. Being on time ensures that children start their day calmly and confidently, and we are proud of these classes for setting such a positive example.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of the importance of continuing to maintain clear communication with the school. If your child is absent, it is essential that you inform the school office as soon as possible. This helps us keep accurate records and ensures that we can support your child appropriately. Additionally, if your child has a medical appointment or other scheduled absence, please provide supporting evidence when requested. Working together in this way helps us maintain high standards and ensures that every child receives the best possible support.

We are incredibly proud of all the amazing achievements this term and grateful for the continued support from our families. Attendance and punctuality are key elements of a successful school experience, and we've made a brilliant start to the 2025–2026 academic year. With your support, we are confident that the rest of the year will be just as inspiring and successful.

Trips, Visits and Experiences

Year 2 Yorkshire Wildlife Park Trip

Year 2 had a brilliant day exploring a variety of animals at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. They were able to see some real life South African animals such as lions, giraffes and rhinos, as well as being entertained by the polar bears. During the workshop with a zookeeper, they explored animal groups and shared some fantastic knowledge!



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Athletics Competition

On Monday, Mrs Haylings and Miss Taylor took some children to John Smeaton leisure centre to take part in a morning of sports hall athletic activities. Here the children were able to practise their throwing, running, balancing and stamina skills. It was a very enjoyable morning where everyone tried their best.



Year 3 Care Home Visit

15 children from Year 3 were lucky enough to visit Seacroft Grange Care Home this afternoon to do Halloween Activities. We really enjoyed meeting different residents and over this year we are looking forward to keeping a link going and finding out more about them.



Parent Assemblies

Over the last two weeks, it has been brilliant to see so many parents in school to watch the children's Black History Month assemblies and look at their child's work from this half term.

Nursery thoroughly enjoyed having their grown-ups in to showcase our black history month celebrations! We learned about Garrett Morgan, the inventor of traffic lights. The children took part in a fun, active game where they responded to red (stop), yellow (get ready), and green (go) signals. As part of our Black History Month celebrations, we also learned about the amazing artist Alma Thomas. Using paint and collage materials, they created their own vibrant abstract artworks inspired by Alma. The children worked super hard to learn a song for black history month which they were so proud to perform to their parents!



Reception enjoyed performing their Black History month assembly to their grown-ups on Wednesday. We talked about our work on Alma Thomas. We enjoyed learning about the art she created and then we created our own paintings and collages. The children learnt their own poem about black history

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and we also learnt how to perform Makaton to the song Three little birds.

Year 1's assembly was about Mae Jemison, the first black woman astronaut. We learnt a poem about her and did some drama. We also showed some wonderful artwork we had done.

Year 2 enjoyed sharing their knowledge of Nelson Mandela with their parents. They made a timeline of his life and displayed art work representing the Rainbow Nation.

Year 3 really enjoyed performing their assembly this week and they did brilliantly. Everyone learned about Rosa Parks and her role in making changes in America. Here are some of the posters we made to show what we had learned.



Year 4 celebrated Black History Month by standing firm in Power and Pride. We amazed our parents and carers in assembly by performing our poetry and showing our research about key historical black figures.

Year 5 performed an excellent assembly for Black History Month in which they shared their knowledge of Black Victorians, gained through their workshop with the National Archives. They also performed the poem 'Resilient Queens: A Salute to our Sisters' written by Ebunoluwa Allen (winner of the Young Teens category in the National Black History Month Poetry Competition). They finished their assembly by singing the Civil Rights song, 'This Little Light of Mine'

brilliantly. Well done Year 5 and thank you to all the parents and carers that came to enjoy it!

Year 6 impressed with their extensive research on famous black people who had changed the world in North and South America. They displayed passion, confidence and resilience throughout the assembly and we were certainly proud of their excellent performances. They then sang 'Three Little Birds' beautifully and with enthusiasm. Not only this, but the year 6 steel pans group treated their audience to an outstanding performance of the same song. It was a memorable morning and one which they can look back on and be proud of! Well done year 6!

Parent Presentation for Diwali

This week, Class 5 welcomed Krishank's mum into school who did a brilliant job of sharing their Diwali celebrations. The children really enjoyed learning about how their family celebrated Diwali and are keen to learn about different celebrations from other faiths throughout the year.



Interfaith Week 2025

Interfaith Week is a special time where we come together to learn about and celebrate different religions and beliefs. This year the focus is on Community. At our school, we believe it's important for children to understand and respect people from all backgrounds.

Over two exciting weeks (10th -21st November), the children will take part in fun and engaging activities, including assemblies, special lessons and workshops covering a variety of religions. These experiences will

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help our pupils learn more about the values we all share and the importance of kindness, understanding, and community.

Sleep Sessions

The Seacroft Manston Cluster are running sessions on any families struggling with their child's sleep at home. Please contact the school office if you are interested in attending as places are limited. They are also able to offer another session on 13th January 5:30-7pm.

Does your child struggle with sleep?



are running a sleep session.

**Thursday 20th
November
9.30-11**

at Kentmere Community Centre.

**Please speak to school if
you would like a place.**

Wraparound Provision

Please follow this [link](#) to find out more information about the wraparound care we will be offering after half term.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's safety focus is on fire safety which is particularly important around Bonfire Night as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for

families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. Please see the link below for a guide that offers practical tips to help parents and carers keep their children safe.

initiatives and practice development, ensuring staff are equipped to identify and support young carers effectively. The collaboration with LYCSS also includes training sessions for staff and signposting families to local resources, helping to embed a "whole family" approach to care and support.

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 or Mrs Ticala (Deputy designated safeguarding leads) to share your concerns.

Key Dates

Friday 14 th November	Children In Need details to follow
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Upcoming Trips

Tuesday 11th November	Year 5 – Leeds Industrial Museum
Wednesday 19th November	Year 1 – Eureka
Monday 24th November	Year 3– Meanwood Valley Farm

Half Term- school closes Friday 24th October- school reopens for all children on Tuesday 4th November

School App

Please remember to download the school App so that you don't miss any communication.

<https://www.theschool.app/>



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.



2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE



Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER



If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.



6 BONFIRE SAFETY



If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"



Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES



Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are **not** toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fire-safety>