

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

At Beechwood Primary School, we place a strong emphasis on the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. Being in school on time every day helps children settle into their routines, engage fully in learning, and build strong relationships with their peers and teachers. When children arrive late, they miss out on key moments that set the tone for the day, including morning instructions and social interactions. Attendance is not just about being present—it's about being ready to learn, participate, and thrive. We encourage all families to make punctuality and daily attendance a top priority, as it lays the foundation for academic success and personal growth.

We are thrilled to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Class 9 and Class 6, who have both exceeded the school's attendance target with an impressive rate above 95%! These two classes have shown remarkable consistency and commitment to being in school every day. Their efforts reflect a shared culture of responsibility and enthusiasm for learning. Well done to all the pupils, parents, and staff involved—you are setting a brilliant example for the rest of the school community. Keep up the great work and let's aim even higher!

A huge shout-out goes to Class 1 for their outstanding punctuality last week. Incredibly, not a single child was late—a truly amazing accomplishment! This level of dedication shows how well families and children are working together to ensure a smooth start to the school day. Punctuality is a key part of school life, and Class 1's achievement demonstrates how small habits can lead to big success. We're so proud of you all and hope your example inspires other classes to strive for similar excellence. Let's stay on track and celebrate every timely arrival!

We'd like to remind all parents and carers that our school website is a valuable hub of information. Whether you're unsure about what to do when your child is unwell, need guidance on absence procedures, or are looking for support services, the website is a great place to start. It includes

frequently asked questions, contact details, and links to useful resources that can help you stay



informed and connected. We encourage everyone to visit regularly and make use of the tools available to support your child's school journey. It's essential that parents communicate openly with the school regarding any absences. If your child is unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible. In cases where we haven't received any communication, our staff may carry out a home visit. These visits are part of our safeguarding procedures and do not need to be booked in advance; they are simply a part of our duty of care to ensure every child is safe and accounted for. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a secure and supportive environment for all pupils.

Finally, we want to extend a sincere thank you to all our parents, children, and staff for your continued commitment to daily attendance and punctuality. Every day in school is a step forward, and together we are building a strong, vibrant community where children can flourish. Thank you for being part of the Beechwood family and for helping us give every child the best possible start.

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Trips, Visits and Experiences

Year 3 Roman workshop

Year 3 had an amazing day learning all about the Romans in Britain. Catherine brought in several amazing artefacts for them to look at. We also tried out some games using Roman numerals and even tried to scribe in the Roman alphabet. Finally, we recreated some battle scenes from this fascinating part of history!



Harvest

Last Tuesday, Rev. Anne came into school to talk to us about Harvest in assembly. We want to say a huge thank you for all the food donations for St. Richards Foodbank that were brought into school!

Year 6 Skelton Grange trip

Year 6 absolutely loved their hands on learning science trip to Skelton Grange. We learned about classification through pond dipping, tested out different beaks found on birds to demonstrate 'survival of the fittest' and enjoyed impressing the people that worked there with our prior knowledge. It was a great trip and the whole year group were excellently behaved throughout it.



Year 5 National Archives zoom

Year 5 enjoyed a live zoom session with the National Archives as part of our Victorians topic. The interactive session was led by a historian who used a variety of different primary sources to learn about three significant black Victorians. The children looked at census records, newspapers, photographs and playbills to discover more about the lives of Hezekiah Moscow, Ira Aldridge and Donald Adolphus Brown.

Early Reading and Phonics workshop

This week parents were invited in to learn more about how early reading and phonics is taught in school and how you can best support your child at home. We were so pleased to see so many of our parents at the meeting. If you were unable to attend or would like to look at the information again, please visit the [English](#) section on the school website.

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 online safety focus is about how to keep safe while using EA Sports FC 26. The guide looks at the risks surrounding it and their top tips to minimise them. While Kick-off mode is great for playing with friends and Career mode allows

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players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate team remains the main draw for many players and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest. Please see the link below for advice to help parents and carers support responsible use.

World Mental Health Day

OCT 10 2025

Mental Health Matters
Speak Up, Ask for Help

MINDMATE SUPPORT TEAM

ACCESS TO SERVICES - MENTAL HEALTH IN CATASTROPHES AND EMERGENCIES

MindMate
Support Team
Early emotional wellbeing support for young people up to 18 years old in education settings across Leeds for anxiety and worries, sleep difficulties, and low mood.
0300 555 0566
info.mindmate.org.uk/leeds
or visit our website: www.mindmate.org.uk/leeds
Self refer to MindMate Single Point of Access if you are a young person aged 13-17 and parents/carers of 5-17 year olds, call 0300 555 0324

0119 Public Health Integrated Nursing Service
Provide support and information to help you and your family stay as healthy as possible.
Support young people aged 11-19 with emotional health, weight management, and healthy relationships.
TEXT 07520 619 750 between 8:30am-4:30pm Monday-Friday about any health issues

THE MIX
support for young people aged 13-25 on a range of difficulties.
0808 808 4994 11am-11pm
CRISIS SUPPORT: TEXT THEMIX TO 85258

kooth
A FREE ONLINE SERVICE OFFERING EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.
WWW.KOOTH.COM

URGENT SUPPORT FROM CRISIS SERVICES

ChildLine
0800 1111
A FREE, PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE THAT YOU CAN ACCESS ONLINE AND ON THE PHONE. THEY CAN PROVIDE HELP AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE UP TO THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY.

shout
85258
here for you 24/7
TEXT "SHOUT" TO 85258

PAPYRUS
PROVIDER OF YOUNG SUPPORT
CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH SUICIDE, THOUGHTS AND INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO MAKE A SAFETY PLAN
HOPELINE247 - AVAILABLE TO ANYBODY 35 EXPERIENCING SUICIDAL THOUGHTS, OR FOR ANYONE CONCERNED THAT A YOUNG PERSON COULD BE THINKING ABOUT SUICIDE.
OPENING TIMES: 24/7 EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR
0800 068 4541 88247 PAT@PAPYRUS-UK.ORG

SAMARITANS
YOU CAN ACCESS CONFIDENTIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AT ANY TIME FROM SAMARITANS EITHER BY CALLING 116 123 OR EMAILING JO@SAMARITANS.ORG
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE FREE ON THE NHS.
TO GET URGENT MEDICAL HELP USE THE NHS 111 ONLINE SERVICE OR CALL 111. ONLY AVAILABLE IN MAINLAND UK.
FOR LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE

111
111.nhs.uk

Young Carers

Beechwood Primary School has developed stronger links with Leeds Young Carers Support Service (LYCSS), creating a nurturing environment for children who take on caring responsibilities at home. Through this partnership, the school receives regular updates on awareness-raising 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.

The school's website features a dedicated section on Young Carers, offering essential information for families, staff, and students. This section includes guidance on identifying young carers, understanding their roles, and accessing support services. It also highlights the importance of early recognition and intervention, which can significantly improve a child's wellbeing and academic performance.

Leeds Young Carers also leads impactful campaigns to raise awareness and celebrate the contributions of young carers across the UK. These campaigns aim to highlight the unique challenges young carers face, such as balancing schoolwork with caring duties, emotional stress, and social isolation, while advocating for better recognition and support. By amplifying their voices, Leeds Young Carers helps ensure that young carers are not only acknowledged but also celebrated for the vital role they play in their families and communities. For more information to read [click here](#).

Safeguarding

We now have a new safeguarding section on our website. Please check [here](#) regularly for updates. 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.

Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 are entitled to free school meals, Children in years 3-year 6 may be entitled to free school meals if you as their parent receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

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- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals, please follow [this link](#) to apply online or if you would prefer a paper copy of the application form please visit the school office.

Key Dates

Whole School Photos

16 th October	Whole School Photos sibling photos between 8am 8.30am in the school hall
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Upcoming Trips

15 th October	Year 2 Yorkshire Wildlife Park
17 th October	Year 4 Leeds City Museum

Black History Month Assemblies

Nursery	Wed 15 th Oct 11am or 2:45pm (please only attend 1 session)
Reception	Wed 22 nd Oct 2:30pm
Year 1	Mon 20 th Oct 2:30pm
Year 2	Tues 21 st Oct 2:30pm
Year 3	Thurs 23 rd Oct 2:30pm
Year 4	Mon 13 th Oct 2:30pm
Year 5	Tues 21 st Oct 9am
Year 6	Mon 20 th Oct 9:15am

National closing date for Year 7 applications for September 2026 is 31st October 2025

Parents' Evening

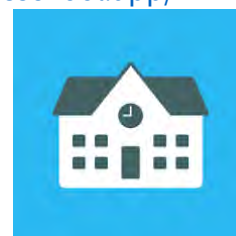
22nd October 3.30pm-6pm - more information to follow

Nursery Places

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

School App

Please remember to download the school App so that you don't miss any communication.
<https://www.theschool.app/>



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins - something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites - doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>