

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

September is **Attendance Awareness Month at Beechwood Primary School**, and the whole school community has embraced the opportunity to celebrate the importance of being present and punctual. Assemblies across all year groups have focused on how regular attendance helps children build strong foundations for learning, friendships, and future success. Teachers and staff have worked together to create engaging displays, classroom activities, and daily reminders that reinforce the message: every school day matters.



Throughout the month, children have been encouraged to reflect on how arriving on time and attending every day helps them feel confident, stay on track with their learning, and be part of the exciting things happening in school. Assemblies have included friendly discussions, and shout-outs to pupils who consistently show great attendance and punctuality. These celebrations help children understand that being in school isn't just about lessons—it's about being part of a team, growing together, and making the most of every opportunity.

Beechwood has seen a very strong start to the school year, with pupils showing real determination to be in school every day and on time. The weekly attendance competition has added a fun and motivating twist, with each class striving to be crowned the top attendance group during Friday assemblies. So far this month, Class 6 has taken the lead with the highest attendance, but other classes are very close behind, making the competition incredibly tight and exciting. The

energy and enthusiasm from pupils have been fantastic to see.

Children across the school have shown great pride in their attendance achievements, and many are working together to encourage their classmates to come in every day. Teachers have noticed how this positive peer support is helping to build a strong sense of responsibility and teamwork. Pupils are learning that their efforts not only help themselves but also contribute to their class's success. This shared goal is helping to create a culture of encouragement and celebration around attendance and punctuality.

To make the celebrations even more meaningful, Beechwood's Attendance Ambassador has been gathering pupil voice from across the school. Children have shared their ideas for rewards and prizes linked to attendance and punctuality, suggesting everything from extra playtime and certificates to special treats and fun activities. These ideas are helping shape future attendance initiatives, and many of the suggestions have been featured on the school website for families to explore and support.

Beechwood Primary is proud to champion student-led ideas and continues to build a culture where every child feels motivated, valued, and ready to succeed. Attendance Awareness Month has been a brilliant way to highlight the importance of being present and punctual, and the school looks forward to continuing these efforts throughout the year. With such a strong start and enthusiastic participation from pupils, staff, and families, Beechwood is well on its way to making every day count.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who continue to communicate with the school regarding their children's attendance and punctuality. Your support and partnership are greatly appreciated and play a vital role in helping us maintain high standards and ensure every child gets the best possible start to their day.

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Trips, Visits and Experiences

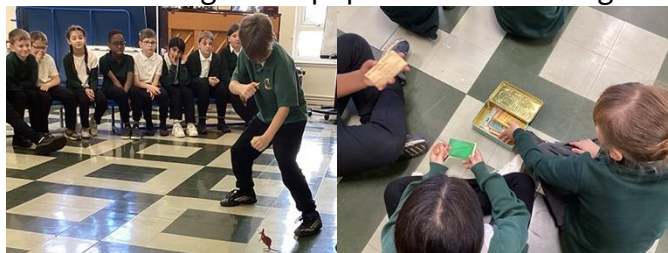
Year 3 Stone Age to Iron Age workshop

This week, Catherine Conyard visited our school to lead us on a journey through the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age during an exciting workshop. We explored reconstructed sources to learn about life in the Stone Age, drew our own cave paintings and learnt all about roundhouses.



Year 5 Victorian Workshop

Matthew Bellwood visited year 5 to do a workshop about Victorian Leisure. Using a variety of different sources, we discovered how the Victorians enjoyed spending their free time (when they had any!) Matthew taught us how the Victorians did lots of things that we still do today, such as going to the theatre or visiting an aquarium. He also told us about the different activities they enjoyed that we do not do today. Year 5 were shocked to learn that going to watch a public execution was popular! Matthew showed us the very first film made very close to Beechwood (in Roundhay) by Louis Le Prince and taught us a popular Victorian song.



Year 5 Leeds Grand Theatre Trip

Year 5 had a wonderful time visiting The Grand Theatre to see Northern Ballet's inspiring performance of Merlin. The children participated in a two-hour story workshop before the trip so that they could understand what was happening in the ballet and they were absolutely mesmerised by the music, props and incredibly talented dancers. The Year 5 team are very proud of the children's maturity and behaviour throughout the show and we can't wait to get stuck into our own workshops with Northern Ballet over the coming weeks!



European Day of Languages

We had a fantastic European Day of Languages on Friday! The whole school enjoyed Hello Bingo, racing to collect greetings in different languages, and our cake competition wowed us again with colourful, creative bakes. A highlight was the brilliantly run Year 6 French Café, where pupils served with style and gave everyone a chance to practise their French. Classes also explored Europe through art, flags and country posters. It was a fun filled, exciting day celebrating the richness of languages and cultures!

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Harvest

On Tuesday 30th September, Rev. Anne is coming into school to talk to us about Harvest in assembly. We are asking for food donations for St. Richards Foodbank again this year. Please send any donations of canned, dried or packaged food to the school office. Thanks in advance.

Parent Year Group Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend your year group meeting. Our teachers were able to talk to you about what will happen in each year group this year and answer some of your questions. If you were not able to make this meeting, the information is available on our website [here](#).

Staff news

After 37 years of dedicated service to Beechwood Primary School our lunchtime supervisor Christine Beveridge (known to some as Miss Green) has decided to take retirement. We wish her all the best for this new chapter of her life.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's online safety focus is about how to keep safe while using Snapchat. The age restriction for the app is 13 years old plus. It is a popular app among children and young people that allows users to share spontaneous photos and videos with friends. Please see the link below for advice to help parents and carers support responsible use.

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.

Nursery Places

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

The poster features the school logo at the top. Below it, the text 'Beechwood Primary School' and 'Nursery Places Now Available' is displayed. The central part of the poster contains four circular icons: 'Unique Outdoor Magic Garden Trail' with star icons, 'Exciting Activities & Indoor Provision' with a book and ball icon, 'Universal & Extended 30hrs Funded Options Childcare Choices' with a star icon, and 'Spaces are limited' in a green circle. On the left, there is a purple and orange 'Ofsted Outstanding Early years provider 2014/2015' badge. At the bottom, a dark green banner contains the text 'ENROL NOW BY CONTACTING OUR OFFICE TEAM', the phone number '0113 2930 250', and the email address 'office@beechwoodprimaryschool.co.uk'.

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

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- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- 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 [click here](#) to apply online or if you would prefer a paper copy of the application form please visit the school office.

Key Dates

1 st October 9:00am	Cluster Coffee Morning. Parents are invited to meet the cluster team and find out information and services they offer
2nd October	Class 13 – Skelton Grange
3 rd October	0-19 Nurses' Visit – Year 6
8th October	Class 14 – Skelton Grange
8 th October 9:00am	Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 parents invited to learn how you can support your child with home reading and phonics
15th October	Year 2 – Yorkshire Wildlife Park
17th October	Year 4 – Leeds City Museum

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

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

SNAP STREAK

97

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

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