

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

We're thrilled to share that our school attendance is steadily improving! It currently stands at an impressive 93.03% for the whole school. Thank you all for your support in achieving this milestone. Let's continue working together to maintain and strive toward our school attendance target of 95%.

Last week, the top attendance classes were Class 9, Class 3, and Class 4, with Class 3 shining through with consistently good attendance over the past three weeks. All the other classes came very close, so a big well done to everyone!

The children are particularly excited about the end-of-year attendance prizes, which include 14 bikes and 6 scooters. For more details, please visit our school website under the "Attendance" section.

A gentle reminder for parents to communicate with the school regarding any absences. If your child has received a letter requesting supporting evidence, kindly provide this to assist with absence records. While punctuality is improving, there are still concerns about some children being late repeatedly.



We would also like to thank the parents who are already in regular communication with the school and promptly respond to requests for evidence, communication, and addressing lateness. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Trips, Visits and Experiences

Year 5 Lotherton Hall visit

Y5 visited Lotherton Hall as part of their WW2 topic. They were in role as evacuees billeted to the house. After a tour of their new home, they learned basic first aid and how to send secret messages using Morse Code. When the air raid siren sounded, they sheltered in the chapel singing songs to keep their spirits up. The day finished with an artefact handling session looking at gas masks, rationed food and Morse code machines.

Year 2 Ledston Woods trip

On Thursday Year 2 visited Ledston Woods where we learnt all about the different species of plants and animals that can be found there. We then completed a Nature Scavenger Hunt before doing some den building in the woods. We had an amazing time!





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synagogue volunteers with their excellent behaviour and thoughtful questions. It was a fantastic learning experience that helped deepen their understanding of different faiths and traditions.



World Book Day competition

Ava from Class 6 came second in Tesco's' World Book Day competition and was presented with a giant bag of Haribos. Well done Ava!



Young Carers

Young Carers Action Day took place on the 12th March. The theme for this year was "Give Me a Break." To mark the occasion, the school council members facilitated creative activities, encouraging students to express their thoughts and feelings about the exhausting daily work that young carers often undertake. As part of this, participants created poems or drawings to symbolise their experiences and the significance of the day.

For more details about the impactful work completed by the school council, please visit our school website as well as the [Young Carers section](#).

Springtime Live 2025 – Saturday, 5 April 2025

Springtime Live is a fantastic family-friendly event on Saturday, 5 April 2025, at the Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate. This fun-filled day allows children to get close with various farm animals, from pigs and goats to ferrets and even giant tortoises! In addition, there will be free demonstrations and hands-on workshops for all to enjoy.

Organised by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, the event is known for its engaging activities and interactive experiences, making it a wonderful day out for families.

Important Ticket Information

Tickets are selling fast, and visitors must select a specific arrival time when booking this year. Once inside, guests are welcome to stay until 4:30 PM.

Available arrival slots (subject to availability):

- 9:30 am
- 10:30 am
- 11:30 am
- 12:30 pm

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Tickets must be purchased in advance from springtimelive.co.uk as they will not be available at the gate.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's online safety focus is on social media and how it can impact mental health. It is estimated one third of children have a social media account. Each app your child uses will have an age rating and its useful to know what these are. Many have a minimum age of 13 years so it is important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming. The guide has lots of advice and guidance for parents and carers on how to support children and keep them safe while using these accounts. Please see below the information to help support you.

Staff News

This half term, we have welcomed Miss Ettienne who is now working in our school office. Welcome to the Beechwood team! Miss Karagic started her maternity leave on Friday and we wish her and her baby to be all the best for their journey ahead. This half term, we have said goodbye to Mrs Strong. We wish her well with her promotion as a teaching assistant in a school nearer to her home.

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 (Deputy designated safeguarding lead) or Miss Ileana (Deputy designated safeguarding lead) to share your concerns.

Key Dates

Friday 21 st March Monday 24 th March	Year 1 Audiology testing
Wednesday 2 nd April	Parent/carers evening - please book via booking system
Friday 4 th April	Break up for Easter Holidays
Wednesday 23 rd April.	School reopens to all children

Parents/carers assemblies

Date	9am Assembly	2.15pm Assembly
Thursday 20 th March	Year 3	
Tuesday 25 th March		Year 6
Wednesday 26 th March	Year 5	
Friday 28 th March	Year 1	
Monday 31 st March	Year 4	
Tuesday 1 st April	Year 2	Reception

School App

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

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



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthralls young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK – and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-60040005>
<https://pruissocial.com/insights/social-media-algorithms/>

National Online Safety
 #WakeUpWednesday