

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

At Beechwood Primary School, we continue to work together to build strong attendance habits that help every child thrive. Our whole-school attendance target is 95%, and while our current overall figure sits at 93%, we are encouraged by the determination shown across the school. Classes 9, 10 and 3 are staying close to the target, showing what can be achieved through consistency, routine and a positive approach to learning.

If your child's attendance during the school year...	Your child would have lost approximately...	Or they would have lost approximately...
Was 95%	9 School Days	45 Lessons
Was 90%	19 School Days	95 Lessons
Was 85%	29 School Days	145 Lessons
Was 80%	38 School Days	190 Lessons
Was 75%	48 School Days	240 Lessons
Was 70%	57 School Days	285 Lessons

This term, our key attendance message focuses on daily readiness, a simple but powerful habit that sets pupils up for success. Arriving at school prepared, with the right mindset, equipment and enthusiasm, allows children to make the most of every learning opportunity from the very first lesson. Small routines, such as packing bags the night before or getting a good night's sleep, can transform how smoothly each morning begins.

We are also celebrating some fantastic achievements across the school. A big well done to Classes 3, 4 and 12, each of which achieved 100% attendance on different days recently - a brilliant example of teamwork and commitment. Class 8 has shown real determination by improving punctuality in KS2, and we hope they keep this energy going in the final weeks of the half-term. Huge well done to the class 4 for securing the highest attendance this week.

With the end-of-summer prizes (four scooters for each year group) still waiting to be won, there's even more motivation for pupils to keep attending regularly and arriving ready to learn. We are grateful to all the families who continue to prioritise their child's education and work alongside us to build strong attendance routines. Your support plays a crucial role in

helping children achieve their very best, and we truly value the partnership we share.



Time to
CELEBRATE



Trips, Visits and Experiences

Year 4 Lake District Residential

Year 4 had an amazing trip to the Lake District. We skimmed stones in a lake, explored the grounds of our youth hostel, used a compass and admired the breath-taking scenery. On the second day we interviewed members of the public in Keswick, had our lunch by Derwent Water and then went on a magical boat ride. Everyone loved the trip and we were all exhausted by the end!

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Year 2 Lion Learners workshop

This week, Class 6 enjoyed a visit from Lion Learners as part of our science learning. We got to meet lots of exciting animals and learnt all about what they are like, what they eat and where they live. Class 6 were brave to hold and pet the different animals!



Year 5 Maths Competition

Four of our Year 5 children - Mya, Huang, Hanan and George - represented Beechwood in an exciting maths competition hosted by Leeds Grammar School. They competed against their peers from fifteen Leeds schools, taking part in a range of team and individual challenges in which they demonstrated excellent teamwork and resilience. Well done!



Herd Farm Residential

Year 5 had a fantastic three-day residential at Herd Farm packed with adventure, teamwork and fun. After arriving on the first evening, the children enjoyed a night walk towards the Harewood Estate where they spotted the filming location for Emmerdale. Over the next two days, pupils challenged themselves with exciting activities including archery, the climbing wall, assault course, leap of faith and zip wire. The children showed excellent resilience, determination and teamwork throughout the trip. Other highlights included celebrating two children's birthdays and enjoying a brilliant talent show and quiz. Finally, after lunch on Friday we headed home tired but happy.



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Screen Time Guidance For Under Fives

Please follow this [link](#) to find out about the latest guidance on screen time for under 5s to support healthy screen habits for your child.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's safety focus is about conspiracy theories. These are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. They are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. This guide outlines the risks that trusted adults need to know about. Please see the link below for advice and support for parents and carers to spot the risks and signs and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

Diary Dates

18th-20th	May Art Gallery
18th-20th May	London Residential
Friday 22nd May	Break up for half-term at normal pick-up time
25th-29th May	Half-term Break - 1 week
Monday 1st June	Children return to school

Spirit Alive Fundraising Day-Festival of Sport

On Friday 22nd May, we will be holding our annual Spirit Alive Fundraising Day

The fundraising activities for the day are:

Non-Uniform Day – wear your favourite sports kit for a £1 donation

Bun Sale – Bring £1 to buy delicious buns at Beechwood's bun sale

Our main event will be a *Sports Festival* taking place throughout the day, with lots of fun activities for the children to enjoy.

We would also greatly appreciate any bun donations. These can be brought to the school office on the morning of Friday 22nd May.

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.

Young Carers

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

Census Day 'Italian Fake-away' Menu

On Thursday 21st May 2026, we will be having an 'Italian Fake-away' themed lunch for our school Census Day. If your child usually has a school meal, please select their meal choice as usual via the [School Grid](#).

If your child usually has a packed lunch and would like a school meal on this day, please also select their meal choice via the [School Grid](#).

Arbor

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



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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**



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:
<http://tinyurl.com/premierchildcarevouchers>

SUITABLE FOR ELIGIBLE SERVICE PERSONNEL

Eligible Service personnel (Trif-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 CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College

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