

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

We are thrilled to share the fantastic progress we've made in improving school attendance this term. Your involvement and commitment have played a crucial role in our success, and we genuinely appreciate your efforts!

As many of you may know, we have implemented friendly competitions between classes to encourage better attendance. Classes with the highest attendance rates will receive rewards that vary each week. This initiative has been met with enthusiasm from our students, who thrive on healthy competition. We are proud to report that several classes achieved a remarkable 100% attendance from Monday to Friday—what an incredible accomplishment!

This week, we have four classes that achieved perfect attendance, with 🌟 100% 🌟! Other classes are also very close to this milestone.

For our next rewards, students can look forward to individual prizes of their choice, along with treats like cookies 🍪 and hot chocolate ☕. We want to make these experiences memorable and enjoyable for all our children.

Trips, Visits and Experiences

Climate Joy Day

On Wednesday 6th November, all children in school took part in our first Climate Joy Day. Children took part in a range of exciting activities to learn more out how we can care for our environment and how we can support climate action. This included learning about different types of power to create electricity such as solar panels, using drama to understand how solar panels work, exploring our school gardens, finding out how to reduce our carbon footprint and planting wildflowers to support wildlife on the school grounds. We also enjoyed listening to and singing the song, 'It's a Wondrous World' to remind ourselves of what an amazing place our planet is and why it is so important to take care of it for future generations.



Interfaith Week

This week we have been celebrating Inter Faith Week. It is an occasion that celebrates the UK's religious diversity and strengthens ties between communities that follow different faiths and religious beliefs. The children have had the opportunity to take part in lots of different assemblies and workshops this week.

Reception, year 1 and 2 had a special author visit from Saffiya Shaheen where we explored some of the wonderful stories she has written such as 'Aminah's Prayer Beads'.



Year 4 welcomed Helen from the Etz Chaim (Tree of Life) Synagogue in Moortown. Helen taught us about the origins of Judaism and described some of the festivals celebrated by Jews. Every child also made Challah bread and thoroughly enjoyed sampling our hard work!



All the children from Y1-6 had a special assembly delivered by Equilibria on Friday to learn more about Islam. Next week, they will be taking part in an online

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zoom with members of the Jewish and Sikh community helping us to better understand these religions.

Year 1 Eureka trip

On Thursday we had our trip to Eureka which was amazing. The children's behaviour was impeccable. We found out about our senses, how our body works and had a Gross Lab workshop. We also explored the mini town.



KS1 Author Visit

Caryl Hart visited our school and is the bestselling author of over fifty books for children, and the winner of multiple awards including the Sheffield Children's Book Award and the Lancashire Share a Story Award. Children in Year 1 and 2 took part in Caryl's interactive session focused on the fun and informative book 'Meet the Weather'. We were introduced to clouds, wind, tornadoes, thunder and lightning, fog and snow, sunshine and rain and – finally – a beautiful rainbow.

Year 5 Leeds Industrial Museum trip

Year 5 had an excellent school trip to Leeds Industrial Museum. They demonstrated fantastic acting skills as Victorian children and fully got into character. We learned about the strict procedures of the Victorian school day, including punishments like the cane and dunce's hat, while we took part in subjects that the Victorians themselves would have done. We mastered the 3 R's (reading, writing and arithmetic) and even completed an exercise drill and a vocal gymnastics lesson. We even wrote on slate boards and used dipping pens! They demonstrated outstanding behaviour throughout - well done class 11 and 12!



Year 5 Leeds University Visit

On Thursday 14th November, year 5 visited Leeds University to take part in a fascinating day called, 'Be Curious About Climate Change.' The day started with an assembly led by Catriona Flesher which taught us about what climate change looks like around the world. We heard about Catriona's personal experiences when she visited Malawi (a small country in southern Africa) to research how climate change was affecting the lives of people who lived there. After that, we took part in a range of different activities with climate change experts where we rotated around different stalls. The final activity was presented by James McKay and was called, 'Can you draw the future? We spent some time looking at the amazing mural he has painted on a curved wall in the university campus. It was a brilliant day where we got the chance to meet a wide range of experts and learn about climate change and what we can do about it in a fun, informative and hands on way.



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Year 2 Awungelama workshop

On Tuesday, Year 2 had a special workshop with Matthew Bellwood as part of our 'South Africa' topic. We listened to the traditional African tale 'Awungelama' and retold the story through drama.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's wellbeing focus is encouraging children to choose respect. Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying which can seriously impact their mental health. The guide provides tips to encourage your child to show respect in difficult situations. Please see below for information to help support you.

Religious Education

At Beechwood, we feel RE is an important part of the curriculum and helps children to develop their understanding of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs. Schools have to teach RE as part of the curriculum but parents do have the right to withdraw their child for all or part of RE lessons taught.

Parking

Following numerous reports of poor parking outside of school, we would like to remind all parents/carers of the following:

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area outside of school is likely to be very busy
- Please do not park outside the school entrance - this is a safe crossing point for the children
- Do not park on the yellow zigzag lines or on the corners of junctions
- Please do not park on pavements; they are a safe space for families to walk to school
- Please be considerate of residents and avoid blocking driveways
- Consider walking part of the way to school or even share the school run with other parents to reduce the number of cars in the area

We understand that drop off and pick up times are busy, however parking restrictions outside of our school are there to keep you and your children safe. Parking inconsiderately can put people in danger - let's work together to improve the safety around our school.

Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals. Children in years 3 – 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
- 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 applied 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, or if you have any questions about free school meals, please contact the school office.

Safeguarding

If you are worried about any safeguarding situation or about your child being harmed, then you should contact Miss Roberts (Designated safeguarding lead) or Mrs Giles (Deputy designated safeguarding lead) to share your concerns.

Key Dates

28th November

Year 3 Meanwood Valley Farm Trip

11th December

Year 5 Skelton Grange trip -Victorian Christmas

12th December

Whole school Christmas dinner day - please visit school grid

Christmas Performances & events

10th December -year 1& year 2 Christmas Performance
9.15am

11th December- Nursery carol & craft session (9.15 and 1.45 pm) - Parent/carers please only attend 1 session

17th December- Reception Christmas Performance
2.15pm

18th December - Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Performance
09:30am (*Please note change of date*)

18th December- year 3 & year 4 Christmas Performance
2.15pm

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 ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

ANTI-BULLYING
ALLIANCE

#WakeUp
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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>

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