

# Beechwood Newsletter



## Attendance

What an amazing half-term it has been in terms of attendance!

Our attendance has steadily increased and currently stands at 92.87%. We are grateful for the collective support from our children, parents, and teachers, which has made this achievement possible.

We are also thrilled to share that every day, we have at least three classes with 100% attendance and punctuality. Recently, we launched our class competitions, and the classes with the best attendance are weekly rewarded with prizes.

This Friday, we are excited to celebrate over 150 children who have maintained 100% attendance, as well as more than 100 children with attendance above 95%. We will also recognise the children with the most improved attendance, and postcards will be sent out to acknowledge their achievements.

## Trips, Visits and Experiences

### Year 6 Animation workshop

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the animation workshop this week. They began by designing sets and props to use in the videos before using stop motion techniques to create a Claymation video all about rainforests. We can't wait to see the final results!



### Year 3 Romans Day

This week, Year 3 were very excited to spend another day with Catherine learning all about the Romans. We explored reconstructed sources to learn about life in Roman times, wrote messages using Roman letters, played different games and learnt all about Roman armour and weapons.



### Year 3 Leeds City Museum Trip

Year 4 continued their learning about Ancient Greece with an exciting trip to Leeds City Museum. The classes took part in a workshop to learn more about Ancient Greece, becoming curators and holding artefacts from that time. The children also went on a walk around Leeds City Centre and looked at how Greek architecture influenced modern building. They looked at the Civic and Town Hall and drew pictures of them. It was a great day out and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



### Black History Month Assemblies

October is Black History Month and each year group in school has had a chance to reflect on Britain's rich cultural diversity and focus on role models that have made a positive difference to our society. The children in each year group have really enjoyed sharing what they have learnt in our parent assemblies and sharing their books afterwards.

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## Nursery baby visit

Nursery children have been learning about babies. We were very excited to welcome a visitor with a lovely baby. Nursery children thought of questions to ask to find out more about babies. Some children thought babies could go to the toilet and eat food when they are first born. We found out lots of great information.



## Year 5 National Archives Zoom lesson

Year 5 had a workshop run by the National Archives which focussed on black people during the Victorian era; the impact they had on society and how they were treated. We used different sources to learn about the diverse lives of three Black individuals. We investigated what documents can tell us about their lives. The session explored themes of migration and identity and allowed us to develop our historical enquiry skills. We talked about how, even though there was racism in the Victorian era, these people were able to overcome this and be respected and successful in their fields. We learned that there were many other amazing black Victorians who we know little about, including many women. We learnt that these parts of history which are not written about much are often referred to as 'hidden histories'. We all agreed that it is important that we try to learn more about the amazing people that may otherwise be forgotten. We will be sharing more about our learning in the year 5 assembly.

## Harvest

Rev. Anne Russell came into school last week to deliver Harvest assemblies across school. She was overwhelmed by all the fantastic donations you had generously given for St Richards Foodbank so thank you all very much for your kindness.

## Clothing and Footwear reminder

Now the weather is starting to change, please ensure you are sending your child with a waterproof coat everyday and appropriate footwear. If your child comes to school in wellies, please also send in another pairs of shoes for them to wear indoors. A polite reminder that Crocs are not allowed to be worn to school.

Children in Reception enjoy indoor and outdoor learning in all weathers. Please send your child with waterproofs and wellies every day.

## Reading and Phonics workshop

We invited parents in from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for a reading and phonics workshop. The information has been added to the website along with some useful videos to help you support your child with phonics at home. [Click here](#)

## Staff News

We have welcomed our new attendance officer Ileana Ticala to school this term. She is looking forward to working with children and parents to support attendance across school.

## Local Halloween Events

Chapel FM is a local Arts, Media and Radio station based in Seacroft, near Tesco. They are holding an open day on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Everyone is welcome to call in and there is no need to book. There will also be pumpkin carving in Seacroft Forest Garden and the Denis Healey Centre is having their Halloween Party. There will be lots of activities for children to take part in. Please [click here](#) for more information.

## 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.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's online safety focus is on online chat functions on video games. As video games continue to increase in popularity, it is important for parents and

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carers to be aware of how to keep children and young people safe as they play. Please see below for information to help support you.



## How to Find a Bookworm

**Friday 1 November**  
**1.30-2.30pm** (note: outside normal library opening hours)  
**Whinmoor Library, Naburn Approach, LS14 2DF**

Join Libellule Theatre on an exciting storytelling adventure into unknown lands! Meet Follifoot, a new and determined Bookworm-ologist and one of the few speakers of the language of bookworms. She is on her quest to find rare and endangered species of this gentle, story loving creature. To do this she must travel through places never explored before...Will you join her?

A pay-what-you-decide storytelling and creative play event recommended for children aged 5+. All children must be accompanied by adult.

Booking essential: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/leedslibraryevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/leedslibraryevents)

  @LeedsLibraries 

### Key Dates

31st October

- Deadline to apply for secondary school places for year 6 children

4<sup>th</sup> November

- Teacher Training day (school closed)

5<sup>th</sup> November

- Children return to school
- Year 5 Leeds Industrial Museum Trip

7<sup>th</sup> November

- Year 1 Eureka Trip

11<sup>th</sup> November

- Interfaith Week

14th November

- Year 5 Leeds University Trip Climate Change

### School App

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

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



## Squirrels

### This way to adventure



Squirrels. The newest branch of the Scouts family tree. Where 4-6 year olds can join in too.

This is an age when minds are fizzing, when energy and curiosity levels are sky high, when little lives are full of wow and wonder. Set them climbing the tree. Who knows how far they'll reach?

Book your place now on our Squirrels Taster Sessions

Wednesdays in November from 5-6pm at St Richards Church Hall, Seacroft LS14 1BX...

[helen.thomas@scouts.org.uk](mailto:helen.thomas@scouts.org.uk)  
07523 300811  
#SkillsForLife

  
**Scouts**  
13th Epiphany (Seacroft)

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## BEAVERS

### It's time for fun!



We're opening a brand new group for boys and girls aged 6-7½ in Seacroft.

If you want to make friends, play games, have fun, learn new skills, help people and go on adventures, this is the place for you.

To book your place on our taster sessions on Wednesdays in November from 5-6pm at St Richards Church Hall in Seacroft, LS14 1BX, please scan the QR code or get in touch with us at

[helen.thomas@scouts.org.uk](mailto:helen.thomas@scouts.org.uk)  
07523 300811

[scouts.org.uk/beavers](http://scouts.org.uk/beavers)  
#SkillsForLife



  
**Scouts**  
13th Epiphany (Seacroft)

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

## DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

## BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

## POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

## COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

### REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

### CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat)