

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

Thank you to everyone who is working with us to improve our attendance and punctuality. Congratulations to our top three attending classes this week:

Class 7 98.2%
Class 10 97.7%
Class 13 97.3%

We also have three other classes who have achieved our target of 95% or more attendance.

Class 9 96%
Nursery 95.8%
Class 3 95.2%

Please remember that if you are late to school and the register has already closed, then you will have a half day absence on your record. Following the new government guidance, ten days of unauthorised absences across a year can now lead to a fine. It is important that you understand that late marks can also contribute to this. Please contact us if you need any support in getting your children to school on time.

Trips, Visits and Experiences

European Languages Day

We had an exciting European Day of Languages, filled with fun and learning! The whole school played a fantastic Hello Bingo game, collecting greetings from different languages. Our cake competition was a hit with a fabulous array of creative and delicious cakes! The winners of the cake competition were Isaac (Reception), Grace L (KS1) and Evie R (KS2). Lunchtime was extra special with a European-themed dinner that everyone enjoyed. In class, we explored the continent through Greek temple artwork, tissue paper flags, posters about different European countries and much more! It was a busy, fun-packed day celebrating the rich diversity of languages and cultures!



Year 5 Victorian Day

Storyteller and historian Matthew Bellwood visited year 5 to run a workshop about Victorian leisure activities. During the workshop, year 5 learned about what the Victorians liked to do in their free time and why and how this was similar or different to other time periods. Matthew helped us to answer one of our key questions formulated at the start of the topic and the workshop built on and extended our previous learning about the Victorians in year two.



Year 5 and 6 Fire Safety

Last week, the West Yorkshire Fire Brigade visited years 5 and 6. They spoke to us about what to do in case of a fire and how to ring 999, ask for the fire

Beechwood Newsletter



service and give as much detail as possible about the location and fire. Some children were chosen to put on the special fire suits and boots and were shocked by how heavy they were! It was very interesting to look at the fire engines and discover what equipment is carried and why. Every child even had to opportunity to use the water hose!



SEND Parent Workshops

This week, Mrs Giles and Miss Magill held parent workshops for parents across the school to discuss both the Leeds local offer for SEND children and Beechwood's SEND offer. It was lovely to chat to and showcase to parents all the support we have in place here at Beechwood to support our SEND children and share more ideas of how parents can support their children at home to help them with their school life. We look forward to hosting more parent workshops throughout the year!

Home Reading

At school, we work hard to instil a love of reading into our children and ensure they have a wide range of exciting and interesting books to read at school. We really value your support with reading with your child at home. Please [click here](#) to the letter on the school website to read more about how you can do this.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's online safety focus is about QR code scams and how to avoid them. Please see below for information to help parents and carers.

School Place Applications

Year 6 parents must apply for your child's secondary school place. The deadline for the

application is 31st October. Please [click here](#) if you haven't already applied.

If your child is currently attending Beechwood nursery and will start school next year (2025), you *must* apply for a primary school place by 15th January. Your child will be 3 or will have just turned 4 when you apply. This is true even if you want your child to start later - you'll be able to ask for a later start when you apply.

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

2nd October

Reception/Year 1/Year 2 Reading and Phonics workshop 9am

3rd October

Whole School 'Fakeaway' Theme Lunch- please ensure your child chooses their lunch via the SchoolGrid

9th October

Year 6 NCMP nurse visit -measurement & vision

15th October

Year 2 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park- please see google form

17th October

Whole School Photos. If you would like a sibling school photo taken, please ensure you arrive to the school office between 8am-8.30am ready to have your sibling photos then you will have time to return to the school playground for registration.

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 QR CODE SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

QR code scams (also known as 'quishing'), involve the malicious use of Quick Response (QR) codes to deceive people into revealing personal information or downloading harmful software. These scams exploit QR codes' convenience and widespread use – for example, in adverts, restaurant menus and public notices, with criminals installing fake QR codes which direct users to bogus sites.

PAYMENT SYSTEMS

Cybercriminals may seek to change a QR code that's related to a legitimate payment service, such as in a restaurant. If a customer scans the QR code expecting to order and pay for goods or services (such as a meal in this case), they may be directed to a site controlled by the scammers. Entering their payment details would then allow the criminals to defraud them.

DISCOUNTED GOODS

A poster promises goods or services at a discounted cost, requiring people to scan a QR code to register and pay. The poster, however, is malicious, and there is no discount. Again, providing your payment details would allow the criminal to access your funds. This scam is reasonably common and is often found in car parks in major cities.

PRIZE DRAWS

A QR code is provided for a prize draw, advertised on a poster which is likely on display in a public space. Scanning the QR code will result in being asked to provide further information (such as your email address, name, address or phone number), which is then used by criminals for further social engineering attacks or even identity fraud.

WIFI CONNECTION

Scanning a QR code may be the means of connecting to the Wi-Fi network in a hotel or other public area. This is usually legitimate, but if the QR code is a fake, it could result in criminals viewing your browsing history and even your login details. These can subsequently be used for phishing attacks and identity fraud – and even financial fraud, if they're able to access your banking credentials.

FAKE EVENTS AND TICKETS

A poster highlights news regarding an upcoming event, or regarding an additional allocation of tickets for a sold-out concert or other performance. It directs the user to scan a QR code for more information, to register or possibly to pay. The QR code then leads to a fake site hosted by scammers, aiming to gather data on the user for future attacks or to exploit or defraud them immediately.

Advice for Parents & Educators

BE VIGILANT

QR codes are becoming more prevalent, and cyber criminals are increasingly seeking to use them to steal information and commit fraud. As such, it is important to remain aware of the risks. Always consider these safety concerns before scanning a QR code and avoid doing so unless you're certain it's legitimate. Be sure to keep your device's operating system updated as well, to keep you protected from known safety risks.

CHECK FOR SIGNS OF TAMPERING

Where QR codes are printed or displayed, check for any sign of tampering: as a sticker with a new QR code being placed over the top of the previous code, for instance. Where there are signs of tampering, you should consult a member of staff (if you're in a hotel or restaurant, for example) or simply avoid scanning the code altogether.

CHECK THE URL

Most phones now show the web address or URL which a QR code connects to, and they typically require users to accept being taken to this address before progressing. Check that the web address matches that of the site or service you're expecting to access via the QR code you've scanned. If it seems dubious in any way, don't click on it.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SOURCES

Consider the source of the QR code and its trustworthiness. A QR code for payment in a restaurant, for example, is likely to be legitimate if you can see it printed on every menu; a random poster pinned up in the street or in a building's corridor is more likely to be fraudulent. If you're unsure, err on the side of caution and don't scan the code.

USE THE DEFAULT QR CODE SCANNER

Most mobile devices come with the ability to scan QR codes built into the camera app. Where possible, you should seek to use this default functionality and avoid the use of third-party QR scanning apps which may have themselves been tampered with or compromised. Stick to reputable methods.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



The National College