

Beechwood Newsletter



Well done, to all the children for their hard work and achievements this half term. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break ready to start the summer term.

Attendance

As we reach the end of the spring term, it is the perfect time to celebrate the collective achievements of our Beechwood community. This term has been a valuable opportunity to look closely at attendance and punctuality- two essential foundations for learning, progress, and personal development. Being in school every day, on time, ensures that children are ready to learn, ready to grow, and ready to achieve.

We are incredibly proud to share that over 250 children will be celebrated in our End of Spring Term Assembly. These pupils have shown excellent commitment to attending school regularly and arriving punctually, and they deserve recognition for their effort and resilience. Alongside individual celebrations, we will also be recognising the classes with the best punctuality, attendance that reached the school target and those who have shown the most improvement.

This term, classes have been working especially hard to earn the attendance rewards chosen by our School Council, adding an extra layer of excitement and motivation. In addition to this, every child whose attendance is above 95% will take home an Easter egg - a meaningful token of appreciation for their dedication and resilience. These rewards are not just treats; they symbolise the value we place on consistency, effort, and the understanding that good attendance opens the door to learning and opportunity.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to parents, carers, teachers, and all members of our Beechwood community who support and encourage good attendance and punctuality. Together, we help our children build strong habits, develop confidence, and experience the full richness of school life. As we step into the new term ahead, we look forward to continuing

this shared commitment to helping every child thrive.

Trips, Visits and Experiences

Red Nose Day

We had a brilliant day raising money for Red Nose Day. Children enjoyed taking part in lots of activities during the day. We raised £74.50. Thank you for all your support.

M2 Running Challenge

The M2 girls completed their final 5k challenge at Roundhay Park on Saturday 21st March. They all displayed fantastic resilience, determination and positivity to cross the finish line with a smile. We are so proud of their attitudes in bringing together mindfulness and movement! We are looking forward to taking part in the London mini marathon to put our efforts to the test once more.



Year 5 Lotherton Hall Visit

Year 5 had a brilliant time at Lotherton Hall experiencing life as evacuees! First the housekeeper showed us around our new home, then we practised our First Aid skills in case of injury and then we learned Morse Code so that we

Beechwood Newsletter



could decipher enemy messages. When the air raid siren went off, we rushed to take shelter in the chapel and sang Run Rabbit Run to keep our spirits up. What a fantastic experience!



Tiny Tales and Tunes Workshops

Reception had a wonderful time bringing the story 'Journey' to life through creative, hands-on activities. Using pom-poms, parachutes and egg shakers, the children explored the story in a fun and interactive way, building their imagination and enjoyment of learning.

Easter assembly

Last week, we welcomed in Reverend Anne Russell to speak about the importance of the Easter story to Christians. She brought in some hot cross buns and Easter eggs and taught us their significance and how they are used to celebrate at this time of year.



Year 3 Nell Bank residential

Class 7 and 8 had an amazing time at Nell Bank. We explored different habitats during our pond dipping and mini-beast hunting activities. We had a walk in the woods where we saw a beautiful Owl. We then did a scavenger hunt and had some time trying out the incredible playground. Afterwards we sat down for a well-earned dinner and spent the rest of the evening in the water area, playground and singing songs with Mr. White. After a long and exciting trip, we were so tired, but we had so much fun!



Pop-up Bookshop

During parents evening, children and parents were invited into the hall to take part in our 'Pop-Up Bookshop'. The Children's Book Project kindly donated two high

Scholastic Book Fair

During the week beginning 16th March, we held a Scholastic Book Fair at school. It was great to see so many children and parents there after school each night. As a result, we raised a total of £279.63 in rewards to spend on books for our school! Thank you for all your support with this.

Beechwood Newsletter



Parent Assemblies

The children have really enjoyed their parent/carer assemblies over the last few weeks, and we are very impressed with how well they performed to their families. They explained all about their spring term learning and shared excellent art and topic work.

Staff News

At the end of this term, we are saying goodbye to Mr White who has taught in Year 2 and 3 while working at our school for nearly two years. We would like to say thank you for all his contributions to school and his hard work during this time. We wish you lots of luck as you move onto your new school and you will be missed.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Shearer, our lunchtime supervisor, who has worked at our school for 27 years. We want to thank her for all her hard work during this time. We wish you the best of luck in the future, and you will be missed.

At the start of the summer term, we will welcome Miss Karagic back from maternity leave. We are excited to have her back in school as she comes back to teach Class 7 alongside Mrs Isenring.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's online safety focus is the online game Fortnite. It remains one of the most played online games globally which captures the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks for trusted adults need to know about. Please see the link below for advice and support for parents and carers. See below 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), 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](#).

Easter Break

Break up: Thursday 2nd April – normal pick-up time
School Closed: Friday 3rd April (Good Friday)
School Open: Monday 20th April – All pupils return to school

Dates for your diary

2nd April Herd Farm and Lake District
Residential balances due
20th April London Balance due

Arbor

We are excited to announce that we will be moving our school communication system from The School App to Arbor Please download the Arbor app, we will send your login details before the Easter break.



[Google Play Store](#) or [Apple Store](#)

School App

Please remember to download the school App so that you don't miss any communication.
<https://www.theschool.app/>

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](#).

Beechwood Newsletter



**Before and After School
Wraparound Care from
Premier Education**



INSPIRING ACTIVITY



Based on over 20,000 reviews

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 (Tri-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 FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College