

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

The end of Spring Term 1 gave us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate both class achievements and individual pupils who have shown strong attendance and punctuality. We were delighted to recognise 80 children who maintained a perfect 100% attendance, as well as more than 220 pupils whose attendance remained above 95%. Their consistency and commitment set a fantastic example for the whole school community.

We also celebrated a large number of children who have shown real resilience by improving their attendance over the term. A special mention goes to two pupils who received awards for going above and beyond to maintain 100% attendance despite facing significant challenges. Their determination reflects the school's shared goal of meeting our attendance target of 95%, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.

We invite all parents and children to visit the school website, where you will find exciting updates about attendance and the prizes for the end of the academic year. Information about the prizes for the end of the spring term will also be shared there soon.



Trips, Visits and Experiences

Place2Be Children's Mental Health Week

At the end of Children's Mental Health Week, pupils explored the theme "This Is My Place". It was inspiring to see the thoughtful artwork they created, expressing the places where they feel safe, valued, and connected. One of the most heart-warming outcomes was how many

children identified Beechwood Primary School as a place where they truly feel they belong.



This strong sense of belonging shines through in their enthusiasm for coming to school each day. When children feel connected to their school community, they are more motivated to attend, participate, and take pride in the place they call their own.

Early Years Just Bee Workshops

On Thursday 26th February the children took part in a chatterbox challenge workshop to support the children's wellbeing and emotional development. We started off doing yoga to calm our bodies. Then we used the scarves to move in different ways. Before finally reading the story, Daisy's dragon and doing some yoga poses to match the story. The children really enjoyed this experience and felt very calm after.



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Science Week

In preparation for Science Week (Curiosity - What's your question?) the school had a visit from a science boffin. Our very own scientist wowed the school with an assembly, and the children took part in various workshops across the day. We have developed a few budding scientists, and the children were amazed and incredibly well behaved. Alongside our visitor, each class is taking part in their very own science project.



In reception, our question for science week is 'can you make a cloud in a bottle?' We made predictions and watched the experiment. Some children thought we would need soap. Some children thought we would need special science powder. We tried these ideas, but they didn't work! You must fill a water bottle with warm water. Then you light a match, blow it out and put it in the bottle. Then you squeeze the bottle, open it and the steam makes a cloud.



In Year 2, we were fascinated by a variety of experiments exploring how our bodies can carry electricity. The children showed great awe and wonder as they shared their understanding of various body parts, exploring optical illusions and the digestive system.



Year 3 have had a great Science week which was spent exploring the use of magnets. We conducted three different experiments to test their strength and how they function through materials like wood. We also did some research and learned about which materials aren't magnetic.



Year 4 added an eco-theme to Science Week to work on the theme: Curiosity - What's your question? Working in groups, we designed, built, tested and evaluated how we could add

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recyclable materials to work as insulation for a building. We had great fun during the process and were surprised by some of the results!



Climate Joy Day

Nursery were very excited to have a science workshop with our visitor Rodney for Science Week. We got to wear special glasses to see him set light to a piece of paper. It was amazing because we could see lots of colours through them like a rainbow! We then held onto a special tube as we held hands in a circle as it conducted electricity through us. When one of us let go of the other person's hand, the tube stopped making a noise and lighting up. We then added in a wire and a cup of water to our circle and the electricity still conducted through them. We really enjoyed it and had lots of fun!



What a busy Climate Joy Day we have had in Reception today. We began the day discussing types of transport we use to travel, we then discussed which of these ways was the best to protect our climate from pollution. We decided that walking, travelling by bike or scooter, buses, sharing car rides was much safer for the environment. We then made posters in

provision, rode our bikes and scooters before giving them a good wash. We even had time to make cars, bikes and scooters using scrap materials.

Some of the children also helped us to fill in a Tally chart to show how people travel past school. The children noticed cars pass school regularly, some people walk past and buses also go past.



In Year 2, we enjoyed celebrating Climate Joy Day- We learnt lots of facts about Antarctica and enjoyed making our own models.



Year 3 learned more about climate change on Wednesday as we took part in different activities on Climate Joy Day. Because we are thinking a lot about how we can make a difference in our community, we explored the school grounds and began to plan what we could do to encourage more wildlife. Everyone would like more flowers, a wildflower area and homes and feeding stations for different creatures.

We also researched different women who have all been an important part of protecting the natural world and made our own posters or

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booklets to show what we had learned. Jane Goodall, Great Thunberg and Sylvia Earle all did what they were passionate about and believed everyone can make a difference.



Year 4 participated in our school climate assembly to talk about how we contribute to climate change through our carbon footprint, and how we can reduce it. Beechwood's carbon footprint has reduced this year compared to last!

We then had Shine in the afternoon to help us learn our new song - Climate Joy! In the afternoon, we researched climate change in Ghana which has given us more insight into our TSU topic, Ghana, this term!

We created some informative posters on how climate change has affected Ghana and the impact it has had on their environment.



For Climate Joy Day in Year 5, we enjoyed an assembly called *Exploring Urban Wildlife Careers* which made us consider how our aspirations for the future could be related to climate activism. We explored a poem about small changes we can make to make a difference and enjoyed creating actions to perform it. We also had a brilliant singing session with Shine!



On climate day, year 6 had a SPAG treasure hunt outside, drew a scaled drawing of the netball courts in Maths and performed an excellent poem based on our love for the environment too! In the afternoon, we were lucky enough to have a workshop with Shine where we practised the 'climate joy' song. Shine was incredibly impressed with our enthusiasm!



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World Book Day

Reception had lots of fun on World Book Day! We shared our favourite book characters, shared a book session with Class 9, had story time with Nursery and had lots of fun in provision.



Class 8 absolutely loved visiting nursery to share books and stories on World Book Day.



On Thursday Year 2 celebrated World Book Day - lots of us dressed up as our favourite characters or came in our cosy pjs. We enjoyed sharing some of our favourite stories with Year 6.



Class 9 had a brilliant World Book Day. We took part in various activities during the day and our highlight was reading with Class 1 (while enjoying a biscuit too). We took part in an interactive lesson on BBC Bitesize, discussed our favourite types of books and explored where we like to read.



For World Book Day, the children in Year 5 came to school dressed as their favourite book characters or in cosy pyjamas. We took part in making bookmarks and book-based word searches, and other reading activities. We also enjoyed a special story-time with Mrs Baldwin. It was fantastic to see the class reading and sharing books with Year 1, which everyone really enjoyed.

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Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic final World Book Day. They dressed up brilliantly, designed some brilliant book tokens and spoke about their favourite books. They shared stories with year 2 and enjoyed a biscuit with them while reading together. They were patient, enthusiastic and kind to the year 2's. We were very proud of them!



Year 1 Tropical World

Year 1 had a wonderful afternoon at Tropical World which was linked to our science work on Animals. We saw many types of mammals, reptiles, fish, amphibians and birds. We also enjoyed finding out where in the world the different creatures came from. Year 1's behaviour was exemplary and we are very proud of them.



Year 6 March of the Women workshop

Year 6 enjoyed an incredible workshop with Matthew Bellwood. We re-enacted the March of the Women which sparked the French Revolution. We demanded bread and for our taxes to be lowered all while the king and the queen sat in luxury. After a long, tiring day of marching on Versailles, the king finally agreed to

move back to Paris where we could keep watchful eye on him!



Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's online safety focus is the safe use of WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy but also comes with risks that parents and carers need to be aware of. Please see the link below for advice to help parents and carers support children use WhatsApp safely.

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.

[Young Carers | Beechwood Primary School](#)

Dates for your diary

Book Fair (small hall)- 3.30pm 16th-19th March
Year 5 Lotherton Hall Trip- 17th March

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Parent/Carer assemblies

We would like to invite you into school to see your child in a year group assembly where they will get a chance to share all the wonderful learning they have been doing. It will also be an opportunity to look at your children's books ahead of parents evening.

Please see below your child's year group date & time

Reception - Wednesday 1st April at 2:30pm

Year 1 - Tuesday 31st March at 9am

Year 2 - Tuesday 31st March at 2:30pm

Year 3 - Tuesday 24th March at 9am

Year 4 - Thursday 26th March at 9am

Year 5 - Wednesday 1st April at 9am

Year 6 - Tuesday 24th March at 2.30pm

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](#).

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

Wraparound Care

Premier Education
INSPIRING ACTIVITY

Trustpilot
★★★★★
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 administrative.
- **Responsive Office Support:** Our dedicated office support team is available from 9am to 5pm daily to address any queries or concerns promptly.
- **Sibling Discount and Special Offers:** Enjoy increased sibling 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/premiereducationvouchers>

SUITABLE FOR ELIGIBLE SERVICE PERSONNEL

Eligible Service personnel (The Armed Forces) 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 13-year-old children attending before and after school childcare in the UK.

Learn more at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-for-armed-forces-personnel>



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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