



The Beechwood Bulletin

Issue 6 – Spring Term 2017

Hello everyone,

It's been a very busy time this week with the SATs taking place. Let's get straight on with the news.

Expansion build to start soon

Exciting news at last! Building will commence after half term as soon as preliminary / exploratory borings have taken place. We are looking forward to four new classrooms, a new resource room, library, music room, staff room, PPA rooms, interview room and finally separate changing rooms for boys and girls. This building is due to be completed by February 2018 but more likely April 2018.

Pendine Welsh trip

Mr Lovegrove led a very successful residential visit to Pendine, Carmarthenshire, South West Wales. 31 Children accompanied by 5 members of staff (Mr Lovegrove, Mr Dodd, Miss Rowse, Mrs Baskerville, Mr MacMillan), experienced outdoor adventure and challenges they would not have met in everyday life. Many children were taken out of their comfort zone, and as a result are now more resilient and adaptable. The school and the parents should be congratulated for continuing to send pupils on these residential visits, given demands on staffing and costs.



Summer fayre

I hope everyone turns out on Saturday 20th May to help the PTA raise money for the adventure playground apparatus which is costing £20,000. The PTA has raised £6,000 so far in a bid to reach their target of £10,000. This money will be match funded if we can achieve this goal!

Running for Kit event raises £725

Thanks to all the sponsors, friends, family and business, we have purchased 50 new sports tops for representing the school in the many sports we do. Many, many thanks to pupils, parents and friends. Please see the children wearing the new kit below.



Kind donation from grandparents

Mr & Mrs Wilson, grandparents of Dexter Rosier, kindly donated £100. This will go to our efforts to maintain our ailing swimming pool. Thank you very much for this generous gift.

Staffing news

Schools are struggling to recruit enough teachers to replace those who are leaving the profession or seeking employment abroad or simply moving on to other schools. Like many schools, Beechwood has seen a larger turnover of staff in recent years. The trend has now become more widespread and is very worrying for the future of this profession. I will be giving more details after half term of staff changes, but I can give a clear indication that we are looking 90% fully staffed for September.

'Always doing something Good'

Self-help day - Saturday 13th May

We need lots of help to prepare our vegetable planters and to paint the fencing around the reflective garden. There is always a lot to do, and I will be so pleased to have your help between 9.30am – 2.30pm. Drinks and refreshments will be available.

Numbers and intake for 2017 September

New parents have been informed about next year's intake of 60. Current FS2 children will move up as two separate year one classes and two form entry will begin to grow through our school.

School structure for September

As you can see, the school structure is going to change. Key Stage 1 and FS2 will all have the luxury of single year group classes. We will begin the process of returning to single year groups in Key Stage 2 so that we bring the benefit to as many children as possible. However, some children will still be in a mixed year group class.

Provisional structure for 2017 / 2018.

FS2	2 classes of FS2 (60)
Key Stage 1	2 classes of year 1 (60) 2 classes of year 2 (45)
Lower Key Stage 2	1 class of year 3 (30) 1 class of year 4 (30) 1 class of year 3/4 (30)
Upper Key Stage 2	1 class of year 5 (30) 1 class of year 6 (30) 1 class of year 5/6 (30)

Re-painting the climbing wall

Are you a budding artist? Can you paint between the lines? Our mountain mural is in much need of repainting. This work can be done at any time throughout the week or on self-help days.

PTA AGM date

Monday 26th June at 7.30pm. Vicky Hamer – Chair, Lucy Radburn – Vice Chair, Liz Allen - Secretary and Sarah Hill – Treasurer invite new and existing parents to attend this important meeting. This long-standing committee are standing down, and a new team is required. Please come forward and volunteer to help our school to keep their excellent work going in providing new and exciting resources for the children.

Vegetable planters

Are you a keen gardener? During May, June and July, if you have any time during the school day, we would welcome your support to ensure that the crops are nurtured.

Sponsorship from Parkers

The PTA have managed to secure £1,000 sponsorship deal with Parkers The Estate Agents. We hope this will be a long and rewarding partnership. If you are thinking of moving, think of Parkers!

SATS feedback

The school did it's very best to relax and focus the year 6 children in the annual SATs. The overall opinion of the teachers was that the papers this year were a little kinder than last year, when the new assessment system was introduced.

Budget constraints

Despite the general election there is great concern about schools' finances. It is common knowledge that schools are facing financial difficulty and Beechwood is no exception. We are currently working with the Local Authority to reduce our deficit.

Ofsted - parent and child surveys

We expect a visit from Her Majesty's Inspector any day and will be pleased to end the long wait. You will be asked to give your comments on the qualities of provision at Beechwood. As a school we have battled through long terms of staff illness and continued with all our exciting adventures for the children. We hope we get the result that we require for the future.

Sports: Trigolf

Beechwood were playing Trigolf this week and finished third overall on 231pts behind 2nd place Lambs Lane and 1st place



Oakland's (last year's winners). It was a good multi-competitive event for the year 3/4 children in an excellent environment. The children really enjoyed the event, and were unfortunate to miss out on qualification to the next round.

Reminders...

Swimming money

Please could **ALL** parents ensure that they donate the weekly £3 contribution towards the heating of the swimming pool. Our pool is in desperate need of rebuilding, we are struggling to keep this wonderful facility.

Car Parking

It is not acceptable to park your car outside the school gate, and left in Ambleside Close whilst delivering your child to school. It blocks residents' drives and causes congestion. Please drop off or park in Headley Road car park or in Arundel Road.

Lost property

Please note that lost property will be returned by year 6 prefects on a daily basis. Items can only be returned if garments are named. If your child's lost property is not collected in two weeks, it will be disposed of. Please remind your child / children to look after their possessions. We must teach our young people to value things they are given.

Fidget spinners

Unfortunately, the latest trend has come to my attention. It is not surprising that after a week, I have decided to ban them from school for reasons of safety and theft. We will continue to confiscate any items which ought not to be in school.

School Gates are open from 8.35am and close by 8.45am. Lateness will not be tolerated.

Mobile phones are not permitted in school and will be confiscated if they are found being used.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Davies

Head Teacher

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 13 th May	Self Help Day – 9.30am – 2.30pm
Monday 15 th May	Walk to school week Year 5/6 Rounder's – Trevelayn v Beechwood 3.45pm-5.00pm
Wednesday 17 th May	Year 5/6 Rounder's – St Josephs V Beechwood -3.30pm-5.15pm
Thursday 18 th May	Menu Change – Fish & Chips For Census Day Invitational Games – 3.30pm-6.00pm
Friday 19 th May	5/6G Class Assembly - 11.30am Forest Walk - 1pm
Saturday 20 th May	May Fayre – 12pm – 3pm
Monday 22 nd May	<i>Woodley Sports Week</i> <i>Dance Festival – (Invite Only)</i> <i>5/6 Cricket – Invite Only - Woodford Park – 12.30pm – 5.00pm</i>
Tuesday 23 rd May	<i>Balanceability Bike Course- FS2 pupils 1.15pm and 2.15pm</i> <i>Year 3 Pupils – Paralympic Activities – Bulmershe -1.00pm – 3.15pm</i> <i>Year 5/6 Rounder's – @ The Abbey – 3.30pm – 6.00pm</i>
Wednesday 24 th May	<i>Year 5/6 Swimming Gala – Invite Only – Bulmershe – 8.45am – 12.30pm</i> <i>Year 1 – Multi skills - Bulmershe – 2.00pm – 3.15pm</i>
Thursday 25 th May	<i>Year 2 Aqua splash – Bulmershe – 1.15pm – 3.15pm</i> <i>Year 5/6 Cricket – Beechwood v Highwood 3.45pm – 5.15pm</i>
Friday 26 th May	<i>Year 4 Sport Activites – Bulmershe – 12.45pm – 3.15pm</i> <i>Year 5/6 Beechwood Tennis Tournament – 1.30pm – 4.00pm</i> PTA Rays Of Sunshine Charity Disco – 6.30pm – 9.00pm
May Half Term	
Monday 5 th June	Inset day