

Beechwood Bulletin

Beechwood Primary School

Ambleside Close

Woodley

Reading

Berkshire

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Term 1, Issue 2



Wednesday 20th September 2023

Looking Smart

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Children have returned to school looking very smart in their uniform. At Beechwood we encourage the children to identify with their school community by the wearing of simple, comfortable clothes and we hope they want to wear their Beechwood uniform with pride. We ask that children come to school each day dressed in the correct uniform and no variations are made. For example, black clothing items should not be substituted for grey or navy and black school shoes should be worn every day unless it is a PE day when children should wear trainers to school.

As we have begun a new academic year, may I take the opportunity to remind you of our school uniform guidelines:

Winter: Black pinafore dress/skirt /long black school trousers (not fashion trousers)

White polo shirt (FS & KS1), white shirt and school tie (KS2)

Burgundy School Sweatshirt/Sweatcardi (KS1)

Knitted Jumper/ Cardigan (KS2)

Black socks or tights

Black school shoes (not boots or trainers). Low heeled – up to 3mm

Summer: Optional black shorts.

Red/white check dress with white socks

Book Bag with or without shoulder strap

PE and Games:

Summer and Indoor: Black Shorts (shadow stripe or plain), **burgundy T-shirt with school logo**, short white socks.

Winter: Black Shorts (shadow stripe or plain), black tracksuit bottoms/tracksuit top (KS2). Trainers for outdoor games (not pumps). Apparatus is performed barefoot.

All kit should be kept in a **burgundy draw-string bag**.

All uniform items with the Beechwood logo (**underlined**) are available to order online at School Trends (www.schooltrends.co.uk).

School ties (KS2 only) are available to purchase from the school office. All other items (non logo) can be purchased from any shop which sells school uniform.

Plain, simple hair bands and ties should be worn by children during the school.

Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name so we can help them to be responsible and keep track of their own belongings as we already have a number of items in lost property.

Kind regards,

Miss S E Hunter, Headteacher



NOTICEBOARD

ATTENDANCE AWARD

The class with the best attendance across the whole school last week was Owls with 98.8% attendance. Well done Owls!



ATTENDANCE: If your child is away from school please contact the school office each day of their absence – 0118 9695976 **by 9.30am**. Should your child develop sickness and or diarrhoea, it is really important that your child is kept away from school for 48 hours, to minimise infection. It is also important to notify the school should your child develop chicken pox, scarlet fever, measles, German measles or any other notifiable disease.

DROP OFF & PICK UP TIMES:

Morning—8.35—8.45am

Afternoon—3.15-3.25pm

Any child arriving to school after the gates have shut will receive a late mark in the register.

SCHOOL CAR PARK: Please be aware the school car park is for STAFF ONLY. If you need to access the school please park in the surrounding roads (not Ambleside Close) or the Lidl Car Park.

EQUIPMENT: Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school each day and that they are dressed according to the weather, ie coat /sunhat.



DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL

NEEDS?: You are warmly

invited to our SEND Coffee

Morning on Friday 6th

October, 9.45—10.30am.



Attendance

Our minimum attendance target is 96.5%. Please help us to ensure your child receives the best education by attending school regularly and being on time.

Our whole school attendance for last week was 96.4% which is almost at our target.

Star Pupils—w/c 11/09/23

Robins — Hugo

Rabbits— Junior

Hedgehogs— Mackie

Badgers— Arthur

Foxes— Samuel W

Woodpeckers – Zoya

Owls— Vanessa

Kites— Arthur

Falcons— Hudson

Hawks— Leland

Eagles— Monty

Well done to all of our

Stars!

Over the last week at Beechwood.....

Foundation Stage have begun talking about how they have changed from being a baby compared to now. They have really enjoyed painting self portraits and making playdoh faces. In maths sessions they have matched and grouped objects both pictorially and practically. In phonics they are learning to recognise and write the sounds t,i,n and p.

Years 1 and 2 have been learning more about the Great Fire of London, in english they have been sequencing the events and writing sentences about them. In maths Year 1 have been comparing amounts and numbers to 10 and Year 2 have been partitioning numbers to 100 and will be moving on to comparing numbers later in the week. They all had a lovely time in art last week painting a gradient ready for some Great Fire of London art work.

Year 3 have been learning about number lines to 100 in maths as well as learning how to partition 3 digit numbers. In english, they have been designing and writing about the setting and characters they will be using in their own adventure stories. They have even been writing subordinating clauses to improve their descriptions. In RE they learnt about and acted out the story of Rama and Sita as we are learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali.

Year 4 have been writing recounts of our first day in Year 4. In maths we are continuing our work on place value, placing numbers up to 10,000 on a number line. In art we are starting our Roman mosaics. We are working on call and response in music. In PSHE we are thinking about being a good team member. In R.E. we are learning about God's special covenant with Jews.

Year 5 have written their chosen character descriptions as part of their independent english work. They have continued to develop their number skills to understand numbers to 1,000,000. In geography, year 5 have been working on farming case studies to understand the environmental impact of certain produce. In science and art, year 5 pupils are continuing with their space theme; in art - they are blending colours and in science they'll jet off to explore phases of the moon.

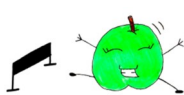
Year 6 have been busy settling into Year 6 life! They have been having a fantastic time learning about The Thanator in english - the most fearsome hexapod on Pandora! Ask your child about it - they can give you some amazing facts! We have moved onto the four operations in maths so we will be spending time on addition and subtraction this week. We are also using our sketching skills in art to draw insects which links with our english and science.

House Points

**Outstanding
Oranges**
139



**Amazing
Apples**
195



**Super
Strawberries**
159



**Brilliant
Bananas**
188



Congratulations to Amazing Apples for collecting the most house points this week

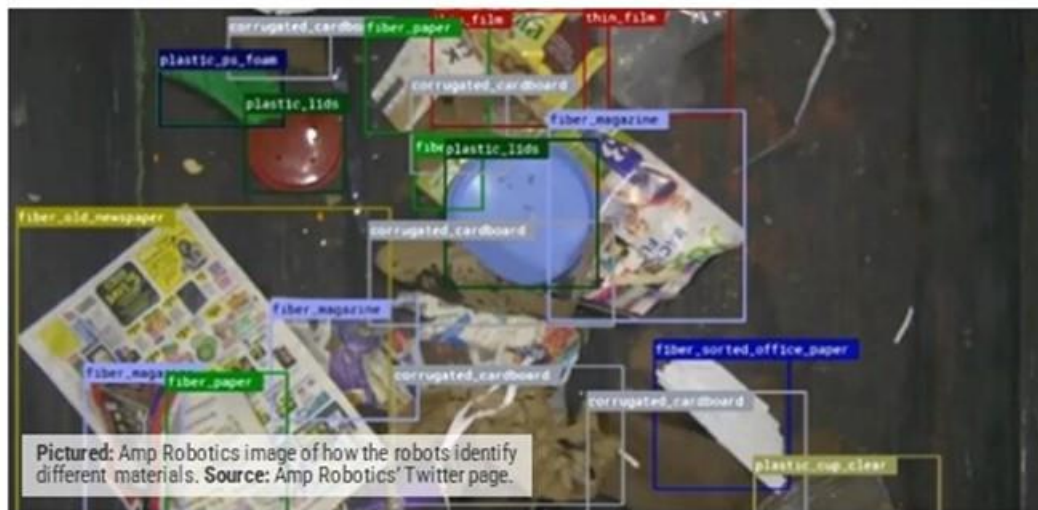
Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 20th September	— Year 6 information meeting 6.00-7.00pm
Wednesday 27th September	— Butterflies Parents meeting 2.30pm
Friday 29th September	— Macmillan Coffee Morning 9.00-9.45am
Tuesday 3rd October	— Family Learning 9.00-10.00am
Tuesday 10th October	— Key Stage 1 Harvest Festival @ Christ Church (more info to follow)
Friday 13th October	— PTA Halloween Disco (more info to follow)
Wednesday 18th October	— Open Morning for prospective parents (booking required)
	— Owls Class Assembly @2.30pm
Thursday 19th October	— Flu Nasal Immunisations
Friday 20th October	— Wear it Pink (charity day)
Monday 23rd—Friday 27th Oct	— Half Term
Tuesday 7th November	— Open Morning for prospective parents (booking required)
Wednesday 8th November	— Kites Class Assembly @ 2.30pm
Monday 13th November	— Parents Evening 3.30-6.00pm in school
Wednesday 15th November	— Parents Evening 5.30-7.00pm online
Friday 17th November	— Children in Need
Wednesday 22nd November	— Badgers Class Assembly @2.30pm
Thursday 23rd November	— Open Morning for prospective parents (booking required)
Wednesday 6th December	— Open Morning for prospective parents (booking required)
Friday 15th December	— End of Term



**Is a school more than
just a building?**

Smart Sorting Robots



Pictured: Amp Robotics image of how the robots identify different materials. **Source:** Amp Robotics' Twitter page.

Tech startup company, Amp Robotics' smart sorting robots (also named Sorty McSortface and Sir Sorts-a-Lot), operate in 80 recycling facilities in the USA. The ingeniously named machines have massively improved recycling procedures at the centres. The robot waste pickers identify and sort recyclables with extreme accuracy (up to 99%); they can even recognise SKU numbers (stock keeping unit - a unique number combination used by retailers to identify and track products).

One robot can pluck out juice cartons and plastic bottles that can be reprocessed from the conveyor belt of waste products. At the same time, the other searches for contaminants in the stream of paper products headed to be recycled at the fibre mill. The robots use mechanical claws and AI to sort tons of recyclables in minutes, meaning it is much more cost-effective for items to be recycled and not sent to landfill. **Can you think of any other sorting jobs this technology could be used for?**

Peanut – the World's Oldest Chicken!

Peanut, who is 21 years old and from Michigan, USA, was officially recognised as the world's oldest living chicken earlier this year. She lives on a small farm, where she was almost thrown away two decades ago before she hatched! Retired librarian Marsi Parker Darwin, who lives on the farm, found a 'rotten looking' abandoned egg and luckily heard a small 'cheep' coming from inside. She gently peeled back the shell to discover a tiny chick, who couldn't break out on her own as she didn't have an egg tooth. Marsi lovingly hand-reared the tiny bantam hen, who now lives with her daughter in Marsi's living room in a wire

coop next to the window, so she has a view. 'She's a friendly character and she pretty much gets along with everyone, including our dogs and cats,' said Marsi, who considers the record-breaking bird to be part of her family. Marsi added, 'Peanut is a sassy little chicken, if she doesn't get her blueberry yoghurt in the morning, I definitely hear about it! I hope to share Peanut's message that even if you're rejected or might feel like a misfit, you can still find someone to bond with and have a long, productive life.'

Did you know that chickens could live to be over 20 years old?



Pictured: Peanut, the world's oldest living chicken. **Source:** Guinness World Record's Twitter page.



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Book Vending Machine

Students and teachers at Bradfield's Academy in Chatham, Kent, have been talking about their school's book vending machine. Pupils can earn tokens to use to purchase books as appreciation for their efforts and engagement in English lessons. Sherie McCormick, a teacher at the school, said, 'We believe in the power of reading, and it must be accessible for all. Reading helps to improve concentration, expand vocabulary, inspire creativity and spark imagination. It also helps our students to improve their self-esteem. It is the foundation of education and a great leveller that fosters cultural, social and emotional growth.' The school say that they are trying to combat the

cost-of-living crisis, which they believe has made books a luxury item. 31% of students surveyed by the school said they did not have access to books at home! The machine has been funded by the publishing company CPI and the Co-op. The Fortis Trust, which the academy is a member of, Tweeted, 'Reading for education & pleasure is encouraged across the trust, and this book vending machine will help students continue their love of reading at home.' The vending machine has been very popular with students and the school aims to continue making a range of books available this way.

Do you think that a book vending machine at school is a good idea?



Pictured: The book vending machine at Bradfield's Academy. **Source:** Fortis Trust Twitter page.

Last week's topic:

What can we learn from new adventures?



I think that new adventures can challenge you and help you to become a stronger person.

Otis

I think travelling the world and meeting lots of different people and seeing lots of new places would be so exciting. Learning about them all will give you so much knowledge to use in the future.

Neave

Going on adventures and travelling to every country would be amazing but I would like to take my friends and family with me.

Theo

Let us know what you think about this week's news?



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TAKEHOME

18 - 24
Sept



Is a school more than just a building?

In the news this week

More than 100 schools across the UK have been affected by a potentially dangerous concrete used in their construction between the 1950s and the mid-90s. The crisis has left some school staff struggling to find temporary teaching accommodation and forced many pupils to begin their academic year learning online. It's not just schools affected; more than 30 hospitals are also believed to be at risk, according to experts.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your thoughts on this week's news. Are you aware of any local schools or hospitals that have been affected?
- For those pupils resuming learning online from home, how do you think they might feel?
- Considering school buildings, how do you believe they might change in the future? Can you think of any ways to improve school buildings or classrooms?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and Voz247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipolapp/about/privacy.html>

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