

Beechwood Bulletin

Beechwood Primary School

Ambleside Close

Woodley

Reading

Berkshire

RG5 4JJ

Telephone: 0118 9695976

Email: office-beechwood@fraysacademytrust.org

Term 1, Issue 6



Wednesday 18th October 2023

HOMEWORK

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of the first half term of the academic year. It seems to have whizzed by.

At Beechwood we believe that homework supports children's learning and helps them to develop key skills they need. It also develops independent learning skills, including good habits of organisation and self-discipline, which are an essential part of learning. We know that homework provides opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning. We also believe that homework should be enjoyable for children and their families, and not put undue pressure on family life. Please find attached to this weeks bulletin a copy of our new homework policy with more information and guidance.

The NSPCC offers some great advice and support to parents and children about keeping safe online including free online safety resources such as setting up parental controls, online games and video apps, starting conversations about online safety as well as offering a free online safety webinar which you may find helpful. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>.

Don't forget, we are supporting Wear It Pink Day on Friday. All children and staff are welcome to come to school wearing as little or as much pink as they would like. If you would like to make a donation to this charity please send this into school with your child.

Just to remind you that we break up at 3.15pm on Friday for half term. Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable half term break.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 30th October.

Kind regards,

Miss S E Hunter, Headteacher



NOTICEBOARD

ATTENDANCE AWARD:



The class with the best attendance across the whole school last week was Eagles with 98.6% attendance.

Well done Eagles!

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER VISIT

The school photographer Stanley Baker will be in school on the morning of Wednesday 8th November to take individual/sibling photo's of the children, for parents to purchase.

FUN EVENTS AT THE WOODLEY AND TWYFORD LIBRARIES IN THE RUN UP TO HALLOWEEN

Please follow the link for more information: [Spooky Halloween Picture Trail](#) and [October Half Term Activities](#)

EQUIPMENT

Please ensure your child comes to school equipped for the day, with their coat, jumper, lunch, water bottle and any other equipment they need. We politely ask that requests to drop items in for children are kept to an absolute minimum as the office staff are very busy.



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 unfortunately JUST below our target!

Star Pupils—w/c 09/10/23

Butterflies— Reggie
Robins — Muhammad S
Rabbits— Reeva
Hedgehogs— Noah
Badgers— Omar
Foxes— Kieron-Lewis
Woodpeckers – Phoenix

Owls— Will have 2 star pupils next week
Kites— Jaiarna
Falcons— Musa
Hawks —Will have 2 Star pupils next week
Eagles— Olivia
Well done to all of our Stars!

Over the last week at Beechwood.....

Foundation Stage have read the story 'Pumpkin Soup'. This has inspired lots of exciting learning, including the children making their own pumpkin soup, drawing pumpkins with pastels and writing shopping lists and recipes. The children were really proud of their tasty soup and enjoyed sharing their thoughts about it! In maths the children have been learning about subitising. We hope all our children and families have a lovely half term!

Years 1 and 2 have been having a great time during D.T. week. They have transported themselves back to Thomas Farriner's bakery where they have made chef hats, tasted bread and will soon be making bread. In English, the children have been turning their news broadcasts into newspaper articles. Well done for all your super work, the year 1 and 2 team hope you all have a lovely half term!

Year 3 wrote some fantastic information texts in English and have been working on addition and subtraction skills in maths. For D.T. week in preparation for making their models the children have been researching how Stonehenge was made.

Year 4 are starting their new maths unit on area. In English, it is the final week of the children's two week looking at setting descriptions in narrative texts. Their assessment piece is based on spooky settings, since it seems the right time of year for these! The children are also starting their new guided reading text, *The Butterfly Lion*, by Michael Morpurgo. Their major focus this week is on their D.T. week project; using cross stitch to produce a Roman pattern inspired mosaic. The children will be working on these every afternoon this week and are very excited about creating these.

Year 5 have designed a new planet in English, and have started to plan their information text about it. In science, the children explored why craters on the moon's surface are different shapes and sizes. For D.T. week, the children have planned and are currently making their own spooky pop up books, which they are looking forward to selling on Friday.

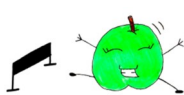
Year 6 are coming to the end of their unit on the four operations in maths and have grappled with multi-step problems and explored reasoning from known facts. In English they have independently written the next chapter of *The Midnight Guardians* titled, 'The Underground Fortress.' During humanities lessons the children have learned about the other countries that supported Britain during World War 2 and explored how this changed cultural diversity of British society.

House Points

**Outstanding
Oranges**
234



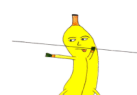
**Amazing
Apples**
164



**Super
Strawberries**
208



**Brilliant
Bananas**
300



Congratulations to Brilliant Bananas for collecting the most house points this week

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 19th October	— Flu Nasal Immunisations
Friday 20th October	— Wear it Pink (charity day)
Monday 23rd—Friday 27th Oct	— Half Term
Monday 30th October	— Children back to school
Tuesday 31st October	— NSPCC Workshops for Years 2, 5 & 6 NEW
Wednesday 1st November	— Year 5 Residential Meeting—3.30pm NEW
Tuesday 7th November	— Open Morning for prospective parents (booking required)
Wednesday 8th November	— Individual School Photos Kites Class Assembly @ 2.30pm
Friday 10th November	— Remembrance Service at Woodford Park War Memorial—whole school
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



Homework Policy

At Beechwood we believe that homework supports children's learning and helps them to develop key skills they need. It also develops independent learning skills, including good habits of organisation and self-discipline, which are an essential part of learning. We know that homework provides opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning. We also believe that homework should be enjoyable for children and their families, and not put undue pressure on family life.

Homework at Beechwood includes:

Reading

- Daily home reading: Beechwood provides home reading books and reading records which are closely matched to children's attainment levels. These books should be read daily, either independently or aloud to an adult. The child or adult should then write a comment on the reading in their reading record, which will support the teacher with the child's reading assessment. Books are changed regularly. Parents are encouraged to use local libraries to supplement their children's reading.

Other Curriculum Areas

- In Foundation Stage: At the start of the year the children will receive a weekly 'Phonics Home Learning' pack which explains the sounds and letter formation rhymes and gives words for the 'Fred Talk' games. The pack also has handwriting practice sheets for the 4 letters the children have been learning that week. This will last for 9 weeks, until all sounds in Set 1 have been covered.
- In Key Stage 1: Homework is set on a Friday and is due back in on a Wednesday. Children will bring home a list of spellings each week- 5 words for Year 1 and 10 words for Year 2, as well as two maths tasks relating to the weeks learning and one grammar task. Optional oral activities are also sent home.
- In Key Stage 2: Homework is set on a Friday and is due back in on a Wednesday. All children will receive a list of spellings to practice at home. Children will also be set a maths task either on Purple Mash or on paper, depending on which fits the learning best. Year 6 homework is set using the CGP books.
- All children in school have a log on for Purple Mash where children can develop their computing skills through this online programme. The ability to programme is a key skill for the modern world and will equip pupils with the skills needed for the world of work.

Time Allocation

- All Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 children are expected to read five times a week, but we highly recommend they read daily.

Expectations

- Children are expected to complete their homework and return it to school on the day it is due in. House points, praise and positive reinforcement will be used as an incentive to encourage children to complete homework.
- Completed and returned homework will be marked by the class teacher, who will address any misconceptions which have been identified.
- In Foundation Stage, children can bring completed sheets in to show their teachers if they wish but they will not be formally marked.

Additional Information

- Teachers will set home-work at a level which is achievable for the child.
- Additional materials such as age-related learning objectives, vocabulary words, phonics sounds and times tables may be sent home to be support parents with their children's learning.
- Teachers will not provide additional homework at parents' request.
- Parents may provide their children with additional revision or homework books to complete at home, but these will not be marked by the teacher.
- Where a child is absent from school for a prolonged period of time, teachers may set home learning for them to do to ensure that the child does not fall behind with their learning.

October 2023



**How can we remember things
that were important to us?**

Seaside Zip Wire?



Pictured: A view of Scarborough. **Source:** Canva.

It has recently been reported that plans to build a 650m zip wire in Scarborough, North Yorkshire have been submitted. Big Bang Promotions, an adventure tourism and activity provider, has said it would like to build four zip lines, each 650m in length in the seaside town! The company says the experience would start in front of the town's Open Air Theatre in North Bay and head towards the Scalby Mills miniature railway station, offering 'panoramic views out over the North Bay' along the way. The clifftop zip line adventure experience would launch from a temporary, steel-framed, 33m-tall tower, which can be put



Pictured: A person on a zip wire. **Source:** Canva.

up in two weeks and taken down in less. The tower has already been used for a zip wire in London. The ride would end at a similar, but shorter, 17m-tall tower, where the rider would be given the choice to exit through the tower or take a further 'drop ride' down to the ground! The application is currently pending consideration with North Yorkshire Council and the local planning authority, so their decision is awaiting.

Is a long, high zip wire your idea of fun? Would you like to go on something like this?

'Paddington Bear' welcomed at Chester Zoo

A 10-year-old, rare, spectacled (also known as Andean) bear has moved into Chester Zoo to join their breeding programme. Oberon, nicknamed Obe, has been described by team members at the zoo as the perfect match for their resident female, Pacha. Zookeepers hope the pair will have cubs together and this will increase the numbers of the last remaining short-faced bear. The bears, who get their name from their distinctive fur pattern that gives the appearance of 'spectacles' on their nose, originate from South America and were made famous by the character, Paddington Bear. Scientists estimate that there are only 10,000 Andean bears alive today. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the bears as Vulnerable to Extinction. The English zoo says Obe is vital to the survival of his species and that it is excited he is getting his 'bear-ings' at his new home. 'Male Andean bear Oberon has settled in nicely since arriving here in Chester, spending his time exploring, climbing trees and checking out the sights and scents of his new home. His arrival is an exciting new chapter for Andean bears in European conservation zoos like ours,' reported Mike Jordan, Director of Animals and Plants at Chester Zoo on the zoo's website.



Pictured: Andean bear Oberon.
Source: Chester Zoo Facebook page.



Astronaut and two cosmonauts land in Kazakhstan after being stuck in space



Pictured: NASA astronaut Frank Rubio in Kazakhstan as he landed back on Earth.
Source: NASA X page.

A NASA astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts have returned to Earth after an unplanned extended stay in space. The trio, who were stuck in space for just over a year, have safely landed in a remote area near Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan. The original mission was scheduled to last 180 days. American astronaut, Frank Rubio, has set a record for the longest US spaceflight, after being away from home for 371 days. They couldn't come back to Earth from the International Space Station as planned because their original return capsule was hit and damaged by space junk. The Soyuz MS-23 capsule was then launched in February as a replacement to bring Frank

and cosmonauts, Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitri Petelin, back to their home planet. Since launching from Kazakhstan in September last year, the crew have logged 253 million kilometres and travelled around the world nearly 6,000 times. Astronauts and cosmonauts do the same work in space. The difference in their job titles is due to who they have been trained by - Astronauts are trained by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), ESA (European Space Agency), CSA (Canadian Space Agency), or JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency). Cosmonauts are trained by the Russian Space Agency.

Last week's topic:

Can anyone break a world record?



We think that as long as someone works hard, and has talent they will be able to break a world record!

Year 5 Hawthorn Class

Yes, anyone can break a world record. Even if it [is] crazy, and you're the first person to do it/have the longest record to do it etc., it is still a record.

Jayden

Yes, because if you practice you make perfect.

Kenza

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



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Picture News Ltd,
Colber Lane,
Bishop Thornton,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR

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TAKEHOME

16 - 22
October



**How can we remember things
that were important to us?**



In the news this week

The tree at the centre of the world-famous 'Sycamore Gap' on Hadrian's Wall, England, has reportedly been deliberately felled on the night of 28th September and was discovered by walkers the next morning. The National Trust said it was 'shocked and saddened' by the felling of the tree, which won English Tree of the Year in 2016.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Is there a place in your local area that is very special to you? What is it that makes it special?
- How do you think the people living close to Sycamore Gap will be feeling? How do you believe the legacy of the tree could be remembered?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

