



Welcome to Beech Class

2021 - 2022

Adults in Beech Class

- ▶ There are 4 different adults that the children in Beech Class will be in regular contact with in our classroom setting.
 - ▶ Miss Taylor – class teacher
 - ▶ Mrs Burns – class teaching assistant
 - ▶ Miss Cross – class teaching assistant
 - ▶ Mrs Franklin – Thursdays only – PPA cover

Continuous provision in Beech Class

- ▶ We have adopted a whole class continuous provision approach here in Beech Class. This is very rare in a key stage 2 setting however we are definitely seeing the benefits of this way of working. The children have followed this approach in Birch and Oak class and the continuity allows their learning to develop further.
- ▶ The children will have maths focus groups everyday alongside a variety of writing challenges every week.
- ▶ We follow the curriculum through learning challenges. Every week the children will be required to complete a history or geography challenge, a writing challenge, a science challenge and then another challenge that will be focused on a different area of the curriculum.
- ▶ When the children are not working in a focus group they will have the freedom to independently explore their learning through the provision.

Resources in Beech Class

- ▶ The children in our class are very fortunate to have such wonderful resources to extend and develop their learning.
- ▶ We do ask that from time to time, if you have anything spare at home, any cooking and baking donations are greatly appreciated. I will ensure there is milk and butter in the classroom but the children do love to cook so keeping this area well stocked would be amazing!
- ▶ This is also the same with woodwork. If you ever have any spare pieces of wood or materials these donations will be fantastic.

Expectations

- ▶ The children have now made the jump into key stage 2 or even further into key stage 2. There is naturally an increased focus on the depth and detail of the children's writing alongside a deeper level of comprehension with the texts they are reading and application of their mathematical knowledge to harder problems.
- ▶ Independence – through the continuous provision way of working and the jump into key stage 2, independence is key. The children will slowly start to take more and more responsibility for their own learning. There is also a very high expectation of the level of learning they are carrying out independently when they are in the provision and not in a focus group.
(Cooking, building, painting, printing etc.)
- ▶ Independent journals are a huge factor of the children's learning. They are expected to keep these journals extremely neat and to take great pride in their independent learning, documenting everything that they do.
- ▶ Children must be regularly reading and practicing their times tables both in school and at home. By the end of year 4 children should be fluent in their times tables.

Year 4 multiplication check

- ▶ A few years ago the government introduced a multiplication check for all year 4 children. This check will happen around June time in the summer term.
- ▶ The children will be tested on 25 multiplication questions from any times table up to 12×12 . They get 6 seconds to answer each question.
- ▶ We will be practicing times tables with the children every day in school but it is also very important that they are practicing at home too.
- ▶ This is not a pass or fail assessment, it is just a check to see how well they know their times tables before they move into upper key stage 2 where this knowledge becomes invaluable.

Our curriculum in Beech Class

- ▶ We follow a cross curricular approach to our learning here in Beech.
- ▶ Our focus text for this term is 'Pebble in my Pocket, a history of our Earth'. This story links very well with our history topic of prehistoric Britain and our science topic of the rock cycle.
- ▶ All of the children's curriculum learning will be completed in their curriculum journals.
- ▶ Their maths and RE learning will remain in their separate books.
- ▶ This term in maths year 3 will be focusing on addition and subtraction and year 4 on place value.

Reading

- ▶ In Beech Class the children will have opportunities to read at regular times throughout the week. Every week we also aim for each child to have the opportunity to read with an adult.
- ▶ Children will be assessed on their reading and given a reading age. The children will then be able to choose from a variety of appropriately staged reading books to bring home to read too. We will regularly assess the children's reading ages every half term.
- ▶ In year 3 and 4 we begin to follow our reading scheme of Destination Reader. This scheme focuses on a range of reading skills and this will happen for half an hour at the end of every day.
- ▶ Reading books should be returned and changed by the children **at least every Monday**.
- ▶ Please can you make a note in the children's contact books when they read at home of how long they have read for and what they are reading too.
 - ▶ You can help to deepen their understanding of texts by questioning them on what they are reading as they go!

PE and forest school

- ▶ The children will have PE and forest school every week.
- ▶ Our PE and forest school day in Beech class is on a Friday. The children should come into school wearing their PE kit and can stay in this all day.
- ▶ The children have fantastic forest school opportunities with Mrs Broad and will also have PE with myself and with George, our PE coach.

Homework

- ▶ Homework will be set every Monday and will be due in on the following Monday. This is the same expectation with reading books.
- ▶ Every week, unless anything else is communicated, homework will follow the same format.
- ▶ Every week the children will be set three different pieces of homework. These will all be based online.
 - ▶ Spelling shed
 - ▶ Times tables rockstars
 - ▶ Mathletics

The children will have their log on for each of these platforms stuck into their contact books.

Year 4 residential trip

- ▶ The year 4's have a fantastic opportunity this year to come on our residential trip. We will be going to Kingswood activity centre in Ashford.
- ▶ This trip will be on Friday 8th October – Sunday 10th October.
- ▶ We will leave straight after school on Friday and will return around 1-2pm on Sunday.
- ▶ Full payment is required by the end of September.
- ▶ This is a fantastic opportunity for your children to gain a higher level of independence. They will be able to take part in a range of team building activities and will put their skills to the test.

General reminders

- ▶ Blazers must be in school everyday alongside full uniform.
- ▶ Contact books must be brought into school everyday in case there is anything we need to communicate.
- ▶ Lateness and attendance will be monitored.
- ▶ Promoting independence.

Questions

- ▶ Does anyone have any questions for myself, about our learning, Beech Class or this year in general?