

BEECH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter for Wednesday 9th September 2015

A message from Mr Woolston:- Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another busy and exciting year at Beech Green Primary School. I hope everyone connected with the school enjoyed a happy and peaceful summer break. All the children and staff have returned with great energy and enthusiasm for the year ahead, especially as there is so much to look forward to.

If this is your first year as a parent with us then I offer you a particularly warm welcome to you and your family, and I hope this will be the start of a long and successful partnership. A number of children have joined the school in different year groups and of course our new Reception pupils started with us earlier this week - they all looked very smart and raring to go!

Building Work

You will have noticed that work is well under way on construction of the new Nursery; in fact we are now just waiting on the delivery of the actual building! It's very difficult to know exactly when the new facility will be completed but we're certainly hoping it will be fully operational by the end of October. I apologise for any inconvenience caused by the necessary road works but I'm sure it will all be worth it in the end.

Eco and Garden area

Work has begun on improving our Eco and Garden area adjacent to the studio and we're hoping that this project will be completed within the next couple of weeks. We will then have to leave the area alone for a while, in order to let all the new grass grow. Eventually it will provide a fantastic extension to an outside learning and playing area.

New Staff

A number of excellent new staff have joined our school this term. Miss Kilminster and Mrs Cherrington are teaching in Y1 and Mr Morris has taken up the new position of Site Manager. All three have made a great start to their time at Beech Green and I'm sure you will join me in wishing them every success in their new roles.

Curriculum and Assessment

More detailed information will be coming home soon concerning the changes we've had to make to our assessment procedures and the slightly different way we're now teaching certain subjects. All schools now have to assess their pupils and monitor each child's progress differently in reading, writing and maths because levels have now been abolished by the Government and replaced by statements linked to "Age Related Expectations". I'm hoping to organise an information event for parents and carers within the next few weeks, in order to provide you with more detailed information and for you to ask any questions you may have.

Best wishes to all our parents and carers. Mr R Woolston - Headteacher



**You are invited to morning coffee in the ICT suite!
on Thursday 17th September 2015 from 8.40 a.m!**

It was so encouraging to read all the positive school report parent responses at the end of last academic year. Thank you for such positive feedback.

In the past we have requested parents please complete the short Ofsted ParentView questionnaire and we encourage everyone to do this. To get some more feedback forms onto ParentView we are inviting parents to join us for morning coffee between 8.40 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. in the ICT suite, where you can enjoy a coffee and biscuit and use our computers to complete the short online survey. Ofsted expect schools to have a response from parents and we need your help, so please do come along. If you can't make morning coffee then you can complete the form online at home. Thank you for your support. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

The Beech Green School weekly Wednesday Newsletter

We always try to keep parents informed of what is going on at Beech Green via the newsletter. It goes out each Wednesday so please remember to take the time to read what is happening. We hope you find the information useful. Next week we shall give you key dates for the coming year ahead.

This week paper copies will be sent home one per family, but we normally prefer to send the newsletter electronically via ParentMail2 - if you are not already signed up to this please note forms will be sent home soon, giving you more information. Alternatively the newsletter can be read from our school website www.beechgreenprimary.uk.org or a paper copy can be sent home with your eldest child if requested. Spare copies are also kept on the parents' noticeboard. Thank you for reading it and keeping up to date with school news.

ParentMail2

This electronic communication service lets us email or text parents to announce, for example, closure due to snow, or a club being cancelled. For this to work properly it is necessary that all are subscribed to this FREE service to parents. Due to confidentiality, school staff are not able to update or amend your personal details on it so please log on and check you have the correct mobile number and email address of your choice registered. Many thanks. Reception 2015 parents will be invited to join very soon.

<https://www.parentmail2.co.uk/Web/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fWeb%2fHome>

An invitation to parents of pupils in years 5 and 6

Quedgeley Learning Community (QLC) e-safety evening for parents at the Quedgeley Village Hall on Wednesday 7th October at 7pm.

Please make a date in your diary to attend this event which parents should find very interesting in supporting their children's safety on the internet.



NEW Catering Contractor NEW Menu

Welcome to our new catering contractors and Mrs Welshman our new School Cook.

We hope your children are enjoying the tasty and nutritious meals. Many of the staff have also sampled the new and exciting menus and can confirm the meals are tasty and well prepared.

There are three choices daily, **1st = red**, **2nd = green** and **3rd = amber** just like a traffic light! Fresh salads are also available with all choices and a selection of yummy puddings.

Everyone should have a menu, but if not please ask at the school office.

School dinners cost £2.20 to children in KS2 and are universally free to KS1.

School Attendance

Each school day is made up of two sessions and every session counts towards your child's and the whole school percentage attendance.

Families new to Beech Green will soon learn that we are very encouraging of good attendance. We like the children to arrive promptly in the slot between 8.50 and 9.00 a.m. ready to get the best from the start of their school day. A child arriving after 9.00 will have missed the morning registration and not always be clear on what the coming day holds, so please aim to get to school at 8.50 a.m. to ensure being on time. Thank you.

The children receive termly GOLD, SILVER or BRONZE awards for good attendance and we also have prizes and a shield presented at the end of each academic year. Good luck everyone... let's see if this year we can beat last end of year's percentage.

Also on the subject of attendance, to remind everyone that this year the Government has significantly increased the threshold for what is now considered to be persistently low attendance (PA), from 85% to 90% - equivalent to one day per fortnight. Therefore, from now on when we meet to discuss attendance issues, we will be monitoring everyone whose attendance is below 95% rather than below 90%, with a view to highlighting any issues before they become PA.

Thank you for your understanding and support regarding these important matters.

Holidays in Term Time

Following the changes in 2013 to the Education Regulations Act 2006, schools are only able to authorise holidays in term time under **exceptional** circumstances. If you think that might be you then please call to the school office to collect and complete a 'Holidays in Term Time' form, which needs to be done at least 2 weeks before the planned absence.

Any holidays not deemed exceptional will be marked as 'unauthorised absence' and could result in a penalty fine.

Drinks and Snacks in School

A reminder of our school policy regarding break time healthy snacks - such as fruit, cereal bar, breadsticks etc., from Monday to Thursday, with other options such as crisps restricted to a Friday treat. Sweets are not permitted in school on any day. We would also strongly recommend that children bring **only water** into school to drink, as another measure to improve their health and to reduce the number of sticky spills and problems with ants. The drink should be in a spill proof container (no glass bottles, cans or cartons thank you).

Class Teachers 2015/2016:

CLASS 1 - Rec	Miss Owen
CLASS 2 - Rec	Miss Whitfield
CLASS 3 - Year 1	Mrs Cherrington
CLASS 4 - Year 1	Miss Kilminster
CLASS 5 - Year 2	Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Weeks
CLASS 6 - Year 2	Mrs Hannaway
JUNIOR 1 - Year 3	Mrs Nuttall
JUNIOR 2 - Year 3	Mrs Evans
JUNIOR 3 - Year 4	Mrs Earl and Mrs Suwart
JUNIOR 4 - Year 4	Mrs Gough and Mrs Campbell
JUNIOR 5 - Year 5	Miss Grainger
JUNIOR 6 - Year 5	Mrs Dyer and Mrs Millington
JUNIOR 7 - Year 6	Mrs Goodfellow
JUNIOR 8 - Year 6	Mrs McGill and Mrs Campbell

Data Checking Sheets - IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Next Monday your child/ren will be bringing home a Data Checking Sheet. This shows the current information we hold for your child - please check the details are correct and return to your class teacher by return with amendments. **Please still sign and return the form even if all the details remain unchanged. If you would rather collect your sheet from the office then please call in by lunch time on Friday.** We will also now be collecting email addresses in our school data so please update. Thank you.

Beech Green Holiday Club

This academic year holiday club will only open during Easter (but not the Bank Holiday on Easter Monday), and the first four weeks of next summer holiday, from Monday 25th July 2016. It will not be open for any other of the school holidays.

Reception Children 2016 - Do you have a child born on or between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012? **If so, your child is due to start school next September! Please call into the school office if you have not yet completed a registration form for your child.** If you have a brother or sister already at school, you still need to register your pre-school sibling (it is not automatically done)!

Y6 - Secondary Transfer 2016

All the current Y6 should now have received their letter explaining how to apply for a secondary school/academy place for September 2016, together with a link to apply on line (the preferred method) or from where to download the Common Application Form. www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Please also note that secondary schools/academies are holding open evenings this autumn. Please check when the school of your choice is holding an open event.

All Y6 parents need to be aware that their application, whether made electronically or on paper, must be made no later than the closing date of 31st October 2015. This is extremely important as any applications received after this date will not be considered until after 1st March 2016.

Whole School Club List for Autumn term has gone home!

If your child wishes to join one of these clubs, please return your form by tomorrow as club memberships will be sorted on Friday, ready for most clubs to start next week!

If your child is down to join a club please assume it is on unless we ParentMail2 to say it has been cancelled or postponed for whatever reason.

Emergency Medical Permission Forms

A form will soon be sent home to the parents of children for whom we do not currently hold an emergency medical permission form, which is used in the unlikely event of a medical emergency. These need to be completed and returned to the class teacher as soon as possible please.

Consent form for school trips and other off-site activities for 2015/2016

Today we have sent home with all children, (*other than our new starters who have already completed their form*), a consent form for this year which needs to be read, signed and returned to your child's class teacher as soon as possible please. This form gives permission for your child to take part in outings which will occur during the school year. Each major trip, e.g. Caerleon Museum outing, will still be notified to parents with a letter giving the cost of the trip. All parents will be requested to pay this amount for the trip to be viable.

This procedure will save you time filling in lots of forms through the year and it will also save us time collating them all. We then simply print off from our computer records the current contact details we hold for your child (as and when a trip takes place), so please remember to let us know of any changes to phone numbers!

An invitation from the PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association)

Welcome back to the new school year and a very warm welcome to all the new parents of Beech Green pupils. We would like to invite any parent or carer of a child here at Beech Green to our first PTFA meeting of the year on Wednesday 16th September at 6.30pm. Refreshments will be served. Please do join us.

Musical Instrument Tuition



Drum lessons begin today and guitar lessons tomorrow (Thursday 10th).

Woodwind and strings start again on Monday 14th September. Piano lessons

TBA. If you enquired about your child receiving piano lessons this year, you will be contacted shortly about this. If you enquired about tuition in a different

musical instrument and have not yet been contacted, please come to speak to me. For any other issues concerning music tuition, please come to me (either in person or in writing) rather than the school office. Thank you! Mrs McGill, KS2 Music Co-ordinator

Adult Education in Gloucestershire at Severn Vale School

Gain maths and English qualifications - Wednesdays 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, starting 16th

September. Phone 01452 583800 or email adedmathsandenglish@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Autumn Fayre - Saturday 12th September

Adults £2.50 - children under 12 free - www.sueryder.org/leckhamptonautumnfayre

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING FOR SALE YOU CAN ADVERTISE IT HERE FOR £1 – ads to the office	
<i>Did you get your post this week?</i>	
KS1	KS2
Whole School Club List	Whole School Club List
	Y4 Swimming lessons
Consent Form For School Trips And Off-Site Activities	Consent Form For School Trips And Off-Site Activities



Finally - Congratulations to The Queen

Today is an historic day as Queen Elizabeth II becomes the longest reigning UK monarch.

The Queen will have reigned for 63 years and seven months - calculated at 23,226 days, 16 hours and approximately 30 minutes at about 17:30 BST today.