

Beech Green Primary School

"Respect, Achieve, Belong"

Newsletter for Thursday 2nd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a delight to teach all this week; there are many advantages to stepping back into the classroom. Firstly, the opportunity to see first-hand what pupils are learning and how well they are working. To me, as the Headteacher, the quality of education we offer is a fundamental priority. It might seem obvious, but it can easily be forgotten amongst other stresses and demands on time.

I have to be honest that after years of headship, my teaching is at best rusty, but the way our curriculum is structured, the high quality planning and cohesion means that I (or other teachers) can walk into the room and teach children something new, safe in the knowledge that we are continuing the curriculum for the class and building on what they have learned before! This is what makes it delightful; knowing that the pupils can achieve more, make mistakes and learn is a joy. It is our purpose and passion.

Once again, we've had significant number of staff out of school this week, but I hope that it has not been obvious to you as parents; the teaching staff continue to work relentlessly to plan, to teach and to cover each other to ensure that the children are continuing to learn. The Beech Green community continues to amaze us all, as it pulls together in these challenging times.

We are continuing to update our curriculum information, knowledge organisers and plans on the website, please have a look. Click on the links for each year group to find out more
<https://www.beechgreenprimary.co.uk/ourlearning>

What we do at Beech Green



We introduced Read Write Inc. just over two years ago: it has transformed how we teach phonics, reading and writing. It is a scheme that gives all the staff the structure, resources, knowledge and confidence to teach every child how to read. It simply works: we have seen a significant improvement in learning and progress for our youngest children. Being able to read and write fluently is the key to all other subjects.

If you would like to know more there is information available on the Read Write Inc. website but you are also welcome to email teachers who would be happy to explain further.
<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents-copy-2/>

It's nearly Christmas!

- We have a few things up our sleeve to make the last week special for all the children.
- **Christmas cards**, you are welcome to send these in from Monday 13th December, but we are encouraging children to make an environmental choice and sign the giant card in their classrooms.
- Wear your **Christmas jumper** on Christmas lunch days 8th or 9th December – see below about the change to Christmas dinners days (now over 2 days!)
- We're anticipating a **special visitor** on Thursday 16th December. If we're lucky he'll be with us all day and after school. Year 3 and Year 4 will be helping to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to the front playground from 3 p.m. to 3.20 p.m. If you have a child in Year 3 or Year 4 you will be able to collect them at 3.20 p.m. They will sing from 3pm until the playground is empty. If you'd like to stay to watch please keep your distance from others. We've really had enough COVID for one term thanks!
- Friday 17th is a whole school reward morning, non-school uniform or Christmas jumpers, each class might add other treats please look out for a parent mail. **School ends at 1.30 p.m.**

Christmas Dates

Wednesday 8th December – Reception and KS1 Christmas Dinner

Thursday 9th December – KS2 Christmas Dinner

Thursday 16th December - we are welcoming a special visitor! Year 3 and Year 4 are performing a couple of Christmas songs at the end of the day.

Friday 17th December – End of Term **School ends at 1.30 p.m.**

Stay and Play Sessions

More than half of our year groups have enjoyed their first OPAL Stay and Play sessions this week. Thank you to all those parents who have joined us already; these photos offer a tiny glimpse of what we have on offer every day for play. We look forward to welcoming families from the remaining year groups next week.

Y4 - Monday 6th December

Y5 - Wednesday 8th December

YR - Thursday 9th December



School Christmas Dinners – Important information... 8th and 9th December!

Due to the high demand for Christmas dinners, Caterlink will now serve them over 2 days.

Wednesday 8th December – Reception and KS1 Christmas Dinner day – the kitchen cannot also run the normal menu on this day, so...

FSM children will be given a packed lunch

KS2 and everyone else who has not already pre-ordered a Christmas Dinner, will need to bring a packed lunch from home.

Thursday 9th December – KS2 Christmas Dinner day – the kitchen cannot also run the normal menu on this day, so...

FSM children will be given a packed lunch


Reception, KS1 and everyone else who has not already pre-ordered a Christmas Dinner, will need to bring a packed lunch from home.

Would KS2 parents please ensure you have at least £2.34 on your child's ParentPay account

FABG Christmas Hampers

The hampers have been packed (they look fantastic), please look out for raffle tickets on sale. Details are below...

Sorry no card payments available for this one



FABG Christmas Hampers

One hamper per class to be won

£1 per ticket

No limit to how many tickets you can buy

Tickets available from Mon 6th - Fri 10th December

Please send your ticket money into school in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name & class plus how many tickets you would like

The Teachers will collect and pass on to us

Draw will be in the last week of term (exact day to be confirmed)



Thinking of our Neighbours at Chestnut Court

Once again we have created an advent calendar window at Chestnut Court; we have also donated a FABG hamper for them to raffle.

Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) Scheme

During the December holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council is providing vouchers to parents who have signed up to the Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme. These vouchers are provided by Gloucestershire County Council as part of its commitment to 'no child goes hungry'. The vouchers are funded through COVID-19 grant funding they have received and is separate to that of the term time free school meals.

Parents who have signed up to the scheme will receive a voucher for £30 for each child who is eligible for FSM which will cover both weeks in the December holidays.

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register, they have already been included, but, to ensure they get all who are eligible, they are encouraging new parents to sign up as soon as they can. Applications for Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers for the December holiday period is open from **Tuesday 30 November until midday Monday 13 December**. Voucher emails will be sent out between **13 and 15 December**. If parents apply after the deadline, they cannot guarantee delivery of vouchers before 25 December.

For more information and for sign up if you haven't already please visit the website: the [Holiday Free School Meal vouchers page on](#) .

Please contact childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk if you have any queries not answered on the Holiday Free School Meal vouchers page.

Gloucester Foodbank – Certificate of thanks

The Foodbank has contacted us to say fantastic work Beech Green. The total weight of our harvest donations in 2021 came to 118.6 kg. This generosity is greatly appreciated by the Foodbank team and those they are able to help.

Flu Immunisation Catch Up Sessions

Children who, for one reason or another, recently missed their flu immunisation, should have received a letter informing parents on how to access a catch up clinic. Basically this is the information you need to know...

“The NHS have a selection of clinics that are available to book into over the Christmas Holidays. Parents can contact us on 0300 421 8140 if they wish to book their child into one of those clinics.”

If parents have any questions, please feel free to contact 0300 421 926 – where someone will be able to help. Immunisation Team - Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust

Free Active Advent Calendar!

Fitting in with our whole-school physical activity drive with Beech Green SWEAT, you may wish to try this FREE Active Advent calendar from imoves. It includes 'fun, elf-y and educational' activities and should be compatible with any device. All you have to do is sign-up for free at www.activeadvent.fun

Mr Dawson

Found Woggle and that Lost Bear

At the recent remembrance event in school, someone left their woggle behind. Mrs Simmonds has it safely in the school office. Used to tie a neck scarf at Brownies, Scouts, etc!

The lost teddy bear is also sitting outside the office waiting to go home.

Please phone the school office, if you can help rehome either of these items.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who has been able to donate a shoe box or items for this year's appeal. Mrs Frost has asked we remind you, that **Monday 6th December is the last day to bring in your donations.** Thank you.

admin@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk

covid19@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk

Beech Green Careline – 24-hour answerphone – 01452 722697