

Beech Class Newsletter - Autumn 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to school! We hope that you have had a restful summer. It has been lovely to see the children and hear all about what they have been doing over the holidays and we are looking forward to a busy and exciting term ahead in Year 1/2!

Miss Cridland

Topics

This term, our topics will be '**Into the Blue**' (the geography of coasts and bodies of water) and '**Things That Go**' (the history of transport). Where appropriate, subjects will be taught linked to these topics. Please see the topic web for more detailed information.

Book Bags



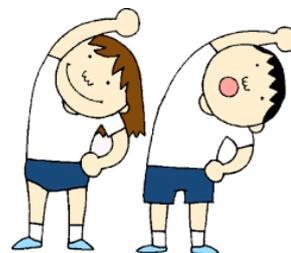
Children should bring their school bag in **every day**. This will be hung on their peg in the cloakroom. Please provide an identifiable water bottle and a snack for morning break; fruit will also be available as an additional snack option and the milk scheme will run this term (please speak to the office for further details regarding payment). Year 1/2 children will eat lunch in the hall at 12 noon this year.

Children's spelling test books, reading books and Home School Journals will be issued inside a durable, named plastic bag. Please keep these items together in this bag to enable us to access them quickly if needed during the school day.

PE Sessions

Beech- P.E days are Monday from the second half of the autumn term* (Miss Cridland) and Tuesday morning (Cambridge United).

To help your child with these sessions please ensure that they wear clothes that enable them to dress and undress themselves **independently**. Clothes must be **clearly named**. No earrings on P.E. days please. If children have newly pierced ears, please provide microporous tape so that the earrings can be covered. **Please ensure that children have suitable outdoor kit and footwear.**



**In the first half-term, Beech Class children will be participating in Forest Schools for a half-day session every Monday from 6th September to 18th October inclusive. Further details will be sent in a separate letter.*

Indoor Shoes

Children need **named** hard-soled indoor shoes to wear inside the school building. They must also be appropriate for occasional outdoor use in the event of a fire drill or walking across the courtyard, for example.



Lost Property

Please make sure that all items of clothing are **named** so that they can be quickly returned if misplaced.

Homework

Homework tasks will be assigned on Google Classroom each Friday to be handed in by the following Wednesday.

Children will be tested on their spellings on the following Thursday. Tests will be completed in a spelling test book that will be sent home so that you can see your child's results. We would appreciate it if this book could be kept in your child's book bag. Please do not use the test book for spelling practice.

Communication

Each child will be given a named Home School Journal (HSJ) where reading and any non-urgent communication can be recorded. Please ask children to give their HSJ directly to me if there is a specific message that you wish me to see that day.

During term-time, I am available for short conversations at the cloakroom door at the start and end of the day or by telephone via the office and by e-mail at ecridland@bottishamprimary.org from Monday – Friday between 8.00 – 17.00. Please note that I may not always be able to respond during the school day however. As per Anglian Learning policy, e-mail acknowledgements are guaranteed within two working days and a response within five working days. I will of course endeavour to respond as promptly as possible.

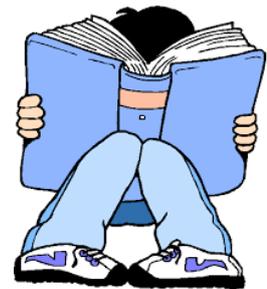


Autumn/Winter Weather

We will be taking lots of opportunities to learn outdoors this term, but the weather will undoubtedly be chilly, wet and windy at times. Please make sure that your child has a **named** coat each day and wears appropriate shoes to school so that they are prepared for any eventuality.

Reading Books

This year, we will be returning to our previous reading book allocation system whereby we will only change books when they have been read twice (up to and including BB7). To enable us to change books quickly, reading books and HSJs will be given out to children in a sturdy, named plastic bag. Please don't throw these away! If they wish to change their book, they will be asked to place these bags, containing their reading book and HSJ, in a designated book change box and teachers will check that books have been read twice before changing them. Children will receive their first reading books to take home by Friday 3rd September, but as we will be assessing children's reading levels throughout the first weeks of term, we may allocate their first reading book based on their previous reading level at the end of the summer term.



We will routinely assess children's phonetic decoding, fluency and comprehension skills to determine when they are ready to move to the next book band in line with KS1 policy, but please do contact me if you have any queries regarding their reading progress. As well as daily phonics sessions, all children take part in guided reading sessions to learn specific reading skills each week.

Teaching Staff and Timetables

Class Teacher – Miss Cridland

PPA Release Cover Teachers – Miss Dille / Cambridge United (Tuesday am)

Please note that teaching staff may not be in school during their PPA release-time this half-term. We can be contacted via e-mail during this time, however.

Rules and Routines

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me should you require any further information about the rules and routines in class this term. Regular and thorough handwashing, respiratory hygiene and classroom ventilation will continue to be key protective measures in class and staff will still be wearing masks when moving around the school, but the children will no longer be taught in bubbles. The layout of the classroom has also changed with a carpet area and group teaching tables now back in use.

Some Autumn 1 Dates for Your Diary (further details to follow)

Beech Class Forest School – Mondays from 6th September to 18th October inclusive

Roald Dahl Day – Monday 13th September

Non-Uniform Day in aid of the Trussell Trust – Friday 24th September