

Beechwood Primary Academy

Weekly Newsletter

"Living, learning and thriving"



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Please follow us on the Discovery Multi Academy Trust Facebook page

18th December 2020

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL, MRS EVANS

There is never a good time to pass on this news; especially during a landscape of so many uncertainties, but at the end of July 2021 I will be taking early retirement, following ten years' service as Head of School at Beechwood.



I have been planning for some time to start a business from home, and I feel that this is my chance to combine my love for the Countryside and the animals on the farm for the next stage of my life and hopefully spend some less hectic time with my elderly mum, grandson and very patient husband Phillip!

Children and parents need to know that the process of finding my replacement has already begun and as this community deserves the very best provision from their local school, Mrs Nettleship and the Trustees will ensure that they find the best candidate for the role. The intention is that the transition of roles will be as smooth as possible and happen well before my final leaving date.

A year ago, we had an 'OFSTED inspection, the outcome being that we were still deemed to be a good school and I feel happy to be handing the reins to the new Head who will no doubt bring their own ideas and vision to continue the school's successful journey.

We have a strong and talented team at Beechwood, many of whom have worked across the MAT and part of their strength is that many of them know and live in your community and will continue to support your children with care and kindness whatever changes the school may face.

Beechwood has been known as a community based, creative school - with a few animal additions in a typical year - and more recently a Trauma informed setting, as we were one of the first MATs in the country to secure the standard for the Mentally Healthy Schools Award. Most importantly, I will be telling the new Head how involved our parents are (and will be again after the dust of Covid settles). I am sure that parents will continue to support our events and this summer I would like a big turnout for my final retirement assembly please!

Finally, I would like you to give your children an extra special hug from me this Christmas as they have shown incredible resilience in the face of this awful virus and the Newsletter and class videos, available on the website, will hopefully demonstrate that none of us in school allowed the Grinch of Covid to destroy Christmas at Beechwood. *Thank you, Beechwood Team, for making all that happen!*

I wish you all the best possible Christmas with your loved ones and a happy, healthy, New Year!

Lisa Evans, Head of School

STEM WEEK

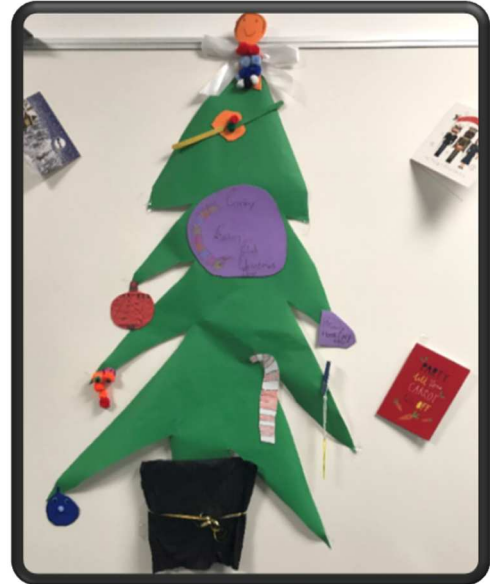
Beechwood held a STEM week at the end of October, when all the children worked really hard to catch up on all the science learning they missed out on over lockdown this year. During the week, each child decorated a spot with something they had learned in science, using a different colour for each year group.

Thanks to Ms Pinhey and Mr Hocking for bringing it all together and hanging it in the school dining room. We are sure you will agree that it brightens the space and will inspire the children.





Some of the children have made Christmas cards for Tor Care Home residents, as many of them have missed the Christmas fayres and concerts that are normally held at this time of the year.



Our young carers group 'Caring Caterpillars' made decorations on their last session this term to decorate our tree in the family room.



CONNECTING CLASSROOMS through Global Learning

Beechwood children have begun to explore our link country Bangladesh this week. Beechwood Primary Academy has linked with Uttar Khuli Nesari Government School in Sylhet.

We have completed a variety of activities and considered how people in different countries might live differently to us. "We think 'global learning' is important as finding out about how other children live and learn, we can maybe improve how we do things and maybe teach them things too." – Maddison (year 4).

We are really looking forward to developing this link further next term.



Please remember not everyone feels ok at Christmas. It is often the loneliest, hardest time to suffer with your mental health as you watch everyone around you appear to be happy and celebrating. Just because it's Christmas it's still OK not to be OK. Don't suffer in silence, you are not alone.

Samaritans : 01752 221666
Childline : 0800 1111
National Suicide Prevention Line 1- 800 273 8255

Most importantly Through the Emergency Duty services We will be available to assist.

Stay safe this this Christmas, not just physically but mentally too.





Some of our Service children received Christmas craft bags made by the Scrap Store and funded by the Armed Forces Covenant. They also had an envelope with a gift from The Aggies team.

CLASS CHRISTMAS CAROL VIDEOS

Please see the school website www.beechwood-primary.co.uk to watch the children's Christmas carol singing videos in the "Children's section". Happy Christmas!

COMMUNICATION - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you are not receiving emails, letters or newsletters from school, please ensure that you have activated your child's Parent Pay account. All parents who have not activated their Parent Pay have been sent activation letters this week explaining how to set this up. Thank you.



LUNCH PAYMENTS

Please ensure your child's Parent Pay lunch account is topped up and any outstanding money cleared before the end of term.



Thank you.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Please be reminded that applications for Primary School Admission places are now open. Applications need to be completed by **Friday 15th January 2021**. Please see more information on:-

primary.admissions@plymouth.gov.uk



DIARY DATES

(These dates may be subject to change)



2020/2021

Thur 17th Dec	Last Day of Term
Mon 21st Dec to Mon 4th Jan	Fri 1st Jan - CHRISTMAS BREAK
Mon 15th Feb to Mon 22nd Feb	Return to school
Fri 2nd April to Mon 3rd May	Fri 19th Feb - HALF TERM
Mon 31st May	Non Pupil Day
Mon 26th July to	Fri 16th April - EASTER BREAK
	Bank Holiday
	Fri 4th June - HALF TERM
	Tues 7th Sept - SUMMER BREAK

ARGYLE TRUST COMMUNITY

DISABILITY SOCCER ROADSHOWS

Football activity session for children ages 7-15 with a disability.



Monday 21 & Wednesday 30 December



10:00 - 13:00



Manadon Sport Hub



£ 8 per day

<https://argylecommunitytrust.co.uk/soccer-roadshows/at-manadon/>

Have a great Christmas Break!
Mrs Evans - Head of School

COVID-19 INFORMATION PAGE

CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as possible.



Catch it! Bin it! Kill it!

We are entering the cold and flu season and with the current situation regarding Covid 19, it is even more important that children remember the Catch it! Bin It! Kill it! routine.

This, along with regular handwashing throughout the day is a vital way to reduce the transmission of infection, not only for Covid but also colds and flu during these challenging times.

Please reinforce the Catch it! Bin It! Kill it! routine with your children at home.

Thank you.



If your child has:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in, sense of
smell or taste

This could be a sign of
coronavirus

Book a test

If your child has:
a runny nose, is sneezing or
feeling unwell
But they don't have:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in,
sense of smell or taste

These are
not normally symptoms of
coronavirus

Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial
111 or see your GP

NHS APP

The new NHS Covid19 app is now available to download.

This app is available for anyone **aged 16 years and above**. Please follow the link for further information.

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/pdf/introducing-the-app.pdf>

DFE HELPLINE FOR EDUCATION

The DfE have set up a helpline for Education advice regarding the Covid-19 virus for staff and parents.

Phone : 0800 046 8687

Email : DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours : 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

COVID TESTING - CALL 119

If parents or carers are unable to book a local Covid test slot, then they can use the email below explaining that the test is for a child attending a Plymouth school. The CCG team will triage those families with children and adults with symptoms and book them in for a test and provide information on how to get to the site. A priority is given to key worker parents, to help support the local key worker workforce and get staff back to work.

d-ccg.cornwalldevon.urgenttesting@nhs.net

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR HOME SCHOOLING DURING ISOLATION OR QUARANTINE



For children who are self-isolating or quarantining, we are pleased to direct you to the following link for Home Learning:-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zknj4xs>

Please click on the appropriate year group and you can access lots of activities for your child. Your child's teacher will also be in contact on eSchools or tapestry and they will be happy to answer any questions or respond to messages relating to Home Learning.

If you require any information about logging into eSchools or Tapestry, or any information about your child's learning while they are away from school, please do not hesitate to contact the school office who can make sure your query is directed to the teacher. Thank you.



For upcoming events for the Plymouth Schools Sports Partnership or to read some of our blogs, please visit www.yourschoolgames.com and search for our school.
<https://www.yourschoolgames.com/> <http://www.plymouthssp.co.uk/>

