



# Beechwood Primary School

[www.beechwoodschoolruncorn.co.uk](http://www.beechwoodschoolruncorn.co.uk)

Curriculum Update Issue 69- Spring Term 2017

## Welcome Back!

We hope you have all had a enjoyable and restful half term break.

### Dates for your diary

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb- Year 3 Sky Try Festival

24<sup>th</sup> Feb- Netball Residential

27<sup>th</sup> Feb- Years 4/5/6 performing at the Brindley

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> March-Year 3/4 Residential

6<sup>th</sup> March- Word Book Day celebration

28<sup>th</sup> March- Year 2 Residential

30<sup>th</sup> March- Year 1 Residential

31<sup>st</sup> March- School closes for half term



### PTA

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter, @ptabeechwood to keep up to date on all that is happening.

### World Book Day

As our Year 3 and 4 children will be on their residential on World Book Day, we are having our celebrations and dressing up on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> instead. Mrs Jones has already sent out information about this.

### Art Exhibit

Have you been to Halton Lea yet to enjoy the wonderful art work that our children and many other children in Halton have produced? If not, take a look! Over the last week of Spring Term 1, the children all walked up to enjoy the exhibit and were amazed at the different interpretations of 'A Journey to...'

### School Health Drop Ins

Just a quick reminder that the School Health Team will be in school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March for parent drop in sessions.

### British Values Week

The last week of Spring 1 was dedicated to British Values. The children loved the various activities which culminated in a Beechwood's Got Talent final!

Well done to the winner Charlotte Eley from Year 6 who won the judges over with her rendition of the 'Les Miserables' song Castle on a Cloud.

**Think for yourself, care for others**

## Reception

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| Literacy                                 | This half term our topic is all about Space, We've already had an alien called Sporkle visit our classroom and leave us some baby aliens to look after. we will be reading Whatever Next, Aliens Love Underpants and Aliens Love Underpants Save the World. We will be practising different kinds of writing, for example lists, letters, postcards, facts and stories. We will also continue to look at writing in sentences and the key features of a sentence we need to include in our work. |
| Maths                                    | This half term we will be looking at ordering numbers to 20 and saying which number is one more or less than a given number. We will be doubling, halving and sharing numbers and shapes. We will also continue to look at measures and children will have further opportunity to explore measuring the weight and capacity of different containers before comparing them.   |
| Knowledge and understanding of the world | This half term we will be learning about Space. We will find out what we already know and then find out more about the planets. We will talk about the names of the different planets and compare what they look like. We will also learn about the different shapes of the moon. Finally we will explore light and dark and talk about things that we can see in the dark or at night time.   |
| RE                                       | This half term we will further our knowledge of Jesus and think more about the question- 'How do we show that we belong?' We also look at the story of Easter and make pancakes.   |
| PE                                       | We are continuing to work on games in P.E. this half term and the children will have further opportunities to develop their throwing and catching skills. They will also develop working as part of team and understand the importance of following the rules of a game and working collaboratively with space themed games.   |
| PSHCE                                    | In PSHE this half term our topic all about celebrating children's achievements will continue. They will continue to think about what they feel they have accomplished or achieved throughout the school year so far.   |
| Expressive arts                          | There will be lots of creative opportunities this half term as children will be engaging in a range of activities, colour mixing aliens, rockets, flying saucers, space printing pictures and space rocket models. They will also have the opportunity to work together to develop further our space rocket role play area.  |



## Class Two's Topics

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| <b>English</b>   | In English this half term we will be focusing on all things Dinosaur! The children will begin the half term by listening to the story Dear Dinosaur, here they will learn about writing questions and using exclamation marks. The children will use a range of non-fiction books to find out information about dinosaurs and will write their own dinosaur mini book. Towards the end of the half term the children will see a surprise visitor in our playground and will learn how to write a fictional recount about what they have seen. Finally, the children will write a story with a fantasy setting based on the book 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants'. |
| <b>Maths</b>     | In Maths this half term the children will begin to explore numbers to 40. Here we will count, write and compare numbers. We will look at how to add in both 10's and 1's and will explore number patterns before moving on to solving addition and subtraction word problems. During this chapter the children will be introduced to Bar Modelling, using concrete objects.  |
| <b>Topic</b>     | Our topic this half term focuses on Local Geography. The children will explore the highlights of Runcorn and its surrounding areas. We will look at the importance of waterways and will use our letter writing skills to find out more about the Mersey Gateway. The children will find out all about the local area and will begin to use simple map reading skills.   |
| <b>Computing</b> | This half term the children will be applying skills learnt during previous computing lessons. They will create and save their own work about dinosaurs and will learn how to retrieve this, use a snipping tool and to insert this into a Word document.   |
| <b>Art</b>       | This half term the children will be looking at the work of LS Lowry. We will explore Lowry's choice of colour before moving on to drawing buildings and Matchstick People in perspective. Our unit will finish with the children creating their own Lowry inspired collage.  |
| <b>RE</b>        | In RE this half term we will be learning about Islam. The children will read stories such as 'The Tiny Ants' by Gill Vaisey, which show the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) respecting living things.  |
| <b>PE</b>        | Our unit for this half term is Invasion Games. The children will learn to work as part of a team and will be shown how to work together to aim for a goal or target. We will look at how to gain possession of a ball and how to evade a partner through dodging and weaving.  |
| <b>Music</b>     | This Unit of Work that builds on previous learning. It is supported by weekly lesson plans and assessment. All the learning is focused around two songs: Rhythm In The Way We Walk (Reggae style) and The Banana rap (Hip Hop style).  |
| <b>PSHCE</b>     | During PSHCE the children will be thinking about their feelings. We will learn to identify different feelings and will talk about how different situations make us feel. The children will even write their own feeling poem using Emojis. 😊   |

## Year Two's Topics

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|----------------|---|
| <b>English</b> | In English we will explore the senses through poetry. We will look at the Works chosen by Paul Cookson, and Raps, Riddles and Concrete by Pie Corbett. The children will read a range of different poems and learn some by heart. They will then go on a poetry walk to the playground and nature areas to collect some wonderful describing words. They will then write simple poems using adjectives and adjectival phrases. We will then explore a variety of different fables, including: The Frog and the Scorpion and The Ant and the Grasshopper. The children will write a dialogue between grasshopper's indignant sister and the cruel ant. Look at compound sentences and storytelling skills. Write a fable. The children will continue to have handwriting practice and magical spellings. |
| <b>Maths</b>   | We will continue to follow the Singapore approach to maths. We will get a better understanding of what fractions are. The children will look at making equal parts: focusing on making halves, quarters and thirds. Then the children will learn to name fractions of the same denominations. After this, they will learn about equal fractions, primarily looking at halves and quarters. They then move on to comparing and ordering fractions and counting wholes and parts. Finally they will learn to count in quarters and thirds, finishing the term by finding parts of a set and part of a quantity.   |
| <b>Topic</b>   | Through a series of lively and interesting activities the children will build their knowledge of oceans and seas around the world this term. They will begin to understand the different environments these represent and how they affect life on land as well as at sea. They will develop their geographical skills and build up their knowledge of food chains, exploration, and evolution!  |
| <b>Art/DT</b>  | This term the children will learn about the seas that surround the UK. Develop knowledge of the oceans and continents of the world. Investigate how waves are caused and how they move. Inspired by the stormy seascapes of J. M. W. Turner, use a variety of techniques to create textured watercolour paintings and turn them into sea-storm collages.  |
| <b>Science</b> | In science we will explore what makes us healthy. The children will build understanding that exercise makes the heart work harder and that it is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. They will find out about healthy lunch box foods before designing their own. They will also create a desert island in the classroom! Imagine being stranded on the island. What would make you happy? What would your needs be? Send letters in bottles across the material sea, asking for essential provisions!  |
| <b>Music</b>   | This Term Year 2 will learn how to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others. They will review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians. They  |
| <b>PE</b>      | This term the children will develop strength, balance, control and through invasion games. They will learn how to dribble, catch and throw a ball with greater accuracy. Moving onto looking at defending and attacking positions in games like netball, tag rugby and football.  |
| <b>RE</b>      | In RE our topic is Christianity, we will investigate different parables from the Bible and look at the messages behind them. The children will have the opportunity to role play the different stories and retell them in their own words. The children will also look at the meaning of Lent and Easter.   |
| <b>PSHCE</b>   | The children will be thinking about what is needed for a healthy lifestyle. The children will develop their understanding of how to maintain a healthy lifestyle in terms of nutrition and exercise. They understand that they have a level of responsibility over their own health and wellbeing. They use this knowledge to reflect on their current lifestyle and set themselves simple goals for making healthy choices.  |



## Year 3 Class Four's Topics

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| <b>English</b>   | In English this half term we will finish our work on instruction writing and stories in a familiar setting. In each topic, we will be furthering our skills of selecting the most appropriate fronted adverbial, correctly punctuating speech and using different sentence types. In reading, we will be developing our skills as predictors and looking for hidden meaning in stories to help our inference skills. |
| <b>Maths</b>     | During Maths this half term we will continue our journey with Singapore Maths by looking at Measures, converting between different units of measurement and solving problems with measures.  |
| <b>Science</b>   | Our topic this half term is Plants. We will be looking at the different parts of flowering plants, the conditions needed for growth and we will be planting our own seeds to watch how seeds transform into fully grown plants!  |
| <b>Topic</b>     | In topic, we continue our work on the Victorians. We will be using our Mary Berry skills to make a Victoria Sandwich. We will also spend time looking at Queen Victoria herself!   |
| <b>Computing</b> | This half term we will be looking at creating our own videos. We will be using green screen technology to create adverts for the delicious Broth we made last half term!   |
| <b>Art/DT</b>    | Art and DT this half term will link to our instruction writing in English. We will be looking writing instructions for the traditional Victorian foods we make.  |
| <b>Mandarin</b>  | <u>你多大 (nǐ duō dà) - How Old Are You?</u><br>We are going to use our knowledge of numbers this half term to ask and tell somebody your age in Mandarin. We will explore new phrases and practise our pronunciation as well as learning some new characters along the way!  |
| <b>RE</b>        | In RE, we will be continuing our work on the Church and how this influences our lives.   |
| <b>PE</b>        | The children will develop their Gymnastic lessons this half term and will focus on applying different gymnastic shapes to both large and small equipment.  |
| <b>PSHCE</b>     | In PSHCE this half term the children will be discussing different relevant topics on relationships, bullying and peer pressures.   |

## Year 4 Class Four's Topics

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|------------------|---|
| <b>English</b>   | <p>This half term, we will be discussing inventions and imagine what life would be like to go to school in the future - will it be better in the future? We will also explore the book <i>Leonardo da Vinci for Kids, His Life and Ideas</i> and write an imaginative autobiography about our lives now and in the future.</p> <p>We will also be furthering our understanding of comprehension skills to answer a variety of questions on a range of different texts including poetry.</p>   |
| <b>Maths</b>     | <p><i>Well done to all of the children who worked so hard on their Maths Monsters last half term - it really made our focus on fractions so much easier! I cannot wait to see how many of you receive badges in the next assembly. You should be proud of yourselves!</i></p> <p>This Half Term we are moving to the Singapore Maths approach as we deepen our learning about decimals. The children will be posed with lots of questions through the term as they demonstrate their explaining and reasoning skills. We will also continue to push the Maths Monsters...remember, the expectation is that by the end of Year 4, the children will know ALL of the times tables and be able to apply them to division and mental math questions with speed and accuracy! We are nearly there!</p> |
| <b>Science</b>   | <p>Our topic this half term is Plants. We will be looking at the different parts of flowering plants, the conditions needed for growth and we will be planting our own seeds to watch how seeds transform into fully grown plants!</p>  |
| <b>Topic</b>     | <p>In topic, we continue our work on the Victorians. We will be using our Mary Berry skills to make a Victoria Sandwich. We will also spend time looking at Queen Victoria herself!</p>   |
| <b>Computing</b> | <p>This half term we will be looking at creating our own videos. We will be using green screen technology to create adverts for the delicious Broth we made last half term!</p>   |
| <b>Art/DT</b>    | <p>Art and DT this half term will link to our instruction writing in English. We will be looking writing instructions for the traditional Victorian foods we make.</p>  |
| <b>Mandarin</b>  | <p><u>你多大 (nǐ duō dà) - How Old Are You?</u></p> <p>We are going to use our knowledge of numbers this half term to ask and tell somebody your age in Mandarin. We will explore new phrases and practise our pronunciation as well as learning some new characters along the way!</p>  |
| <b>RE</b>        | <p>In RE, we will be continuing our work on the Church and how this influences our lives.</p>   |
| <b>PE</b>        | <p>The children will develop their Gymnastic lessons this half term and will focus on applying different gymnastic shapes to both large and small equipment.</p>  |
| <b>PSHCE</b>     | <p>In PSHCE this half term the children will be discussing different relevant topics on relationships, bullying and peer pressures.</p>   |



### Year 4 Class Five's Topics

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| Literacy | <p>This half term, we will be discussing inventions and imagine what life would be like to go to school in the future – will it be better in the future? We will also explore the book <i>Leonardo da Vinci for Kids, His Life and Ideas</i> and write an imaginative autobiography about our lives now and in the future.</p> <p>We will also be furthering our understanding of comprehension skills to answer a variety of questions on a range of different texts including poetry.</p>  |
| Maths    | <p><i>Well done to all of the children who worked so hard on their Maths Monsters last half term – it really made our focus on fractions so much easier! I cannot wait to see how many of you receive badges in the next assembly. You should be proud of yourselves!</i></p> <p>This Half Term we are moving to the Singapore Maths approach as we deepen our learning about decimals. The children will be posed with lots of questions through the term as they demonstrate their explaining and reasoning skills.</p> <p>We will also continue to push the Maths Monsters...remember, the expectation is that by the end of Year 4, the children will know ALL of the times tables and be able to apply them to division and mental math questions with speed and accuracy! We are nearly there!</p> |
| Topic    | <p><b>The Victorians</b></p> <p>This half term we will continue our Victorians topic and look closely at Victorian holidays. We will compare Victorian holidays to those that we may experience today, looking at the use of bathing machines. The children will be writing their own postcard as if they are on holiday within Victorian times. We will then move onto looking closely at the schooling and whom this was available to whilst looking at some of the Victorian toys which may have been found during the school days too.</p>   |
| Science  | <p><b>Forces</b></p> <p>After we have completed the lesson on properties of materials the children will be moving onto understanding of forces. During these lessons they will be completing experiments which will help them to understand the range of different resources which can cause impact.</p>   |
| RE       | <p><b>Islam - Religious Teachings</b></p> <p>During this half term the children will be looking at the stories of Islam and how these affect the daily life. The main questions we will be answering is if these should affect today's laws.</p>   |
| PE       | <p><b>Dance</b></p> <p>This half term we are taking inspiration from the current rugby and are creating dances with a haka twist. The children will begin by learning the haka from New Zealand and as the weeks progress they will then start to use their own improvisation to develop and create new moves which they could use in their own groups haka, thinking about what this dance is for and what it represents.</p>   |
| PSHCE    | <p><b>Good to be me</b></p> <p>The children will be looking closely at a range of emotions this half term and their feelings. They will think about how different people react to different emotions and when they may be experienced. We will start with looking at guilt to develop an understanding of this emotion</p>   |
| Music    | <p><b>Brass</b></p> <p>The children will continue to practice songs for their first show this half and will be looking at learning and using the notes they have been taught. Throughout all of their music lessons the children are encouraged to read the given music and notations.</p>   |
| Mandarin | <p><b>宠物 (chǒng wù) – Pets</b></p> <p>We are going to recap pets in Mandarin this half term and focus on sentence structure. We will look at how to use pronouns and verbs to ask and tell someone what kinds of animals we have as pets at home.</p>  |

## Year 5 Class Five's Topics

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| <b>Literacy</b> | <p><b>Street Child</b></p> <p>This half term the children will continue to look at the book 'Street Child' written by Berlie Doughty. They will begin by learning about different types of persuasive writing where they will be writing persuasive adverts for different foods and also writing persuasive letters from the point of view of the characters. After this, the children will begin with narrative where they will be given the opportunity to work on writing their own story from within historical times and settings.</p>    |
| <b>Maths</b>    | <p><b>Decimals</b></p> <p>This half term the children will begin using singapore maths to develop their understanding of decimals. We will begin by looking at decimal and fraction equivalents, writing and comparing decimals too. The children have been introduced to using deeper learning skills in order to develop their understanding better. This will give the children the opportunity to explore and develop a good understanding of decimals/fractions and then moving onto percentages too.</p>                                 |
| <b>Topic</b>    | <p><b>The Victorians</b></p> <p>This half term we will continue our Victorians topic and look closely at Victorian holidays. We will compare Victorian holidays to those that we may experience today, looking at the use of bathing machines. The children will be writing their own postcard as if they are on holiday within Victorian times. We will then move onto looking closely at the schooling and whom this was available to whilst looking at some of the Victorian toys which may have been found during the school days too.</p> |
| <b>Science</b>  | <p><b>Forces</b></p> <p>After we have completed the lesson on properties of materials the children will be moving onto understanding of forces. During these lessons they will be completing experiments which will help them to understand the range of different resources which can cause impact.</p>   |
| <b>RE</b>       | <p><b>Islam - Religious Teachings</b></p> <p>During this half term the children will be looking at the stories of Islam and how these affect the daily life. The main questions we will be answering is if these should affect today's laws.</p>   |
| <b>PE</b>       | <p><b>Dance</b></p> <p>This half term we are taking inspiration from the current rugby and are creating dances with a haka twist. The children will begin by learning the haka from New Zealand and as the weeks progress they will then start to use their own improvisation to develop and create new moves which they could use in their own groups haka, thinking about what this dance is for and what it represents.</p>   |
| <b>PSHCE</b>    | <p><b>Good to be me</b></p> <p>The children will be looking closely at a range of emotions this half term and their feelings. They will think about how different people react to different emotions and when they may be experienced. We will start with looking at guilt to develop an understanding of this emotion</p>   |
| <b>Music</b>    | <p><b>Brass</b></p> <p>The children will continue to practice songs for their first show this half and will be looking at learning and using the notes they have been taught. Throughout all of their music lessons the children are encouraged to read the given music and notations.</p>   |
| <b>Mandarin</b> | <p><b>宠物 (chǒng wù) - Pets</b></p> <p>We are going to recap pets in Mandarin this half term and focus on sentence structure. We will look at how to use pronouns and verbs to ask and tell someone what kinds of animals we have as pets at home.</p>  |



## Year Six's Topics

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| English   | <p><b><u>Balanced Argument</u></b></p> <p>We will be looking at balanced arguments this term, focusing on the changing the language of our writing to suit the level of formality required. We will also develop our understanding of cohesion, demonstrating how we can ensure that paragraphs link within a piece of writing. Our focus for our balanced arguments will be on whether orcas should be kept in captivity, researching and exploring this issue to support both sides of the argument.</p>            |
| Maths     | <p><b><u>Ratio, Proportion and Shape</u></b></p> <p>In maths, we will start this half term looking at ratio and proportion, applying this to both amounts and measurements. We will then move on to cover shape, focusing particularly on circles (relationships between the circumference, diameter and the radius) then will learn about rules for angles in shapes. We will end this half term by developing our knowledge of position - looking at both reflection and translation across all four quadrants.</p> |
| Topic     | <p><b><u>The Victorians</u></b></p> <p>We will continue with our topic of Victorians, focusing particularly on the scope and power of the British Empire. We will also learn about the important inventions during Queen Victoria's reign and how these developments have influenced our lives today.</p>   |
| Science   | <p><b><u>Evolution and Inheritance</u></b></p> <p>In science this half term, we will continue to look at evolution. We will begin by finding out about Charles Darwin and how he came to develop his theory of Evolution. We will also look at how we have evolved from our more primitive ancestors and will put forward ideas as to how we think we will evolve in the future!</p>  |
| Music     | <p><b><u>Soundstart (Band)</u></b></p> <p>Year Six will continue to learn how to play band instruments. Make sure that you continue to practice at home and we will work with our specialist music teachers on a Thursday to learn to play together.</p>  |
| PE        | <p><b><u>Swimming</u></b></p> <p>Year Six will continue swimming this half term. You must remember to bring your swimming kits and towels each week ready to head down to the pool for a full hour session every Wednesday.</p>   |
| RE        | <p><b><u>What should our attitudes be on our journey?</u></b></p> <p>This half term we will continue to talk about how life is a journey and will discuss what our attitudes should be towards this journey. We will be shifting our focus to Islam and will explore the ways in which a Muslim's journey is similar and dissimilar to our own.</p>   |
| Mandarin  | <p><b><u>宠物 (chǒng wù) – Pets</u></b></p> <p>We are going to recap pets in Mandarin this half term and focus on sentence structure. We will look at how to use pronouns and verbs to ask and tell someone what kinds of animals we have as pets at home.</p>  |
| Computing | <p>This half term we will continue to combine our computing and writing skills to complete our How to Guides for the simple coding program Scratch. We will be using a range of computing skills to create the guides whilst also maintaining KS2 writing skills. Once complete, we will also look to creating video blogs to explain how to create Scratch animations which the children will safely publish on the school website. Keep your eyes out for the Scratch masterclasses!</p>                            |