



# Beechwood Primary School

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

Curriculum Update Issue 68- Spring Term 2017

Happy New Year!



We hope you have all had a magical Christmas with your friends and families. It is lovely to see the children return to school this week fresh faced and ready to learn.

## Dates for your diary

9 <sup>th</sup> Jan- Reception Learning Journey	27 <sup>th</sup> Jan- PTA Sleepover; details to follow
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan- Class 4 Learning Journey	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan- 3:30pm Y2 SATs meeting; details to follow
11 <sup>th</sup> Jan- Year 1 and 2 Learning Journey	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan- 5:00pm Y6 SATs meeting; details to follow
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan- Class 5 Learning Journey	
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan- Year 6 Learning Journey	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 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.

## Forest Schools

This half term Reception will continue their Forest Schools sessions on Monday mornings.  
Also, Class 4 will have Forest School sessions starting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

## Swimming

Year 6 will be swimming on Wednesdays from next week. A separate letter has already been issued with the full details. However, may we politely remind families that aerosols and gels are not permitted as this can affect those children with asthma.

Thank you for your support.

## Panto

Thank you to all the parents who helped out during our Panto trip to see Cinderella. The children had a great time!

## PE Kits

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school every week, and it is taken home to be washed on Fridays. May we please ask you to check if your child has a 'cover all' in their PE bag ready for messy activities!

Think for yourself, care for others

## Reception

### Spring term 1st half

Literacy	This half term our topic is all about pirates, we will be reading lots of pirate stories, creating our own treasure maps and writing about story characters. We will also begin 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 look at measures and children will have the opportunity to explore measuring the capacity of different containers before comparing them. We will also begin to look at money, using different coins to pay for items from our class shop and find the correct amount of change.
Knowledge and understanding of the world	Our topic this half term is all about our local area, children will share their ideas on what they would find in the local area and make observations on the natural surrounding environment. We will then compare our local area to other places and begin to talk about the similarities and differences between them.
RE	This half term we will be looking at Jesus and thinking about the question- 'How do we show that we belong?' We also look at the Chinese New Year celebrations.
PE	We are working on games in P.E. this half term and the children will have lots of opportunities to develop their throwing and catching skills. They will also become more familiar with working as part of team and understand the importance of following the rules of a game and working collaboratively.
PSHCE	Our topic in PSHE this half term is all about celebrating children's achievements, they will be asked 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, making pirate masks, making pirate jewellery and creating their own movable pirates. They will also have the opportunity to work together to help create our pirate role play area.

## Class Two's Topics

<b>English</b>	In English this half term we will be focusing on the story 'Farmer Duck'. The children will focus their writing this half term on: character descriptions, story writing, poetry and non-chronological reports. We will continue to develop our handwriting and spelling and in our SPaG lessons will look at using question marks and exclamation marks.
<b>Maths</b>	In Maths this half term the children will be looking at the properties of shape. They will begin by looking at solid shapes before moving on to grouping shapes. We will also explore measure, focusing on height and length. In number the children will begin to explore numbers to 40. Here we will count, write and compare numbers.
<b>Topic</b>	<u>Changes within living memory</u> Our topic this half term focuses on History. The children will explore popular toys throughout the 20th century and the early 21st century. Throughout the unit, the children will develop a range of historical skills such as: asking and answering questions, identifying and interpreting different sources and recognising change and exploring how this influences them today.
<b>Science</b>	<u>Plants</u> In Science this half term the children will learn about the structure of plants and trees and what they need to grow well. As part of this topic the children will be growing their own bean plant and will observe this closely over the half term, measuring and recording its growth.
<b>Computing</b>	The children will be practising their computer skills this half term. They will learn how to use a computer mouse or a trackpad and how to switch on and shut down a computer. They will apply their mouse or trackpad skills by launching applications, manipulating windows and opening and saving files and folders.
<b>DT</b>	In our DT lessons the children will learn about joining materials. They will design, make and evaluate hand puppets for our role play area, based on the story Farmer Duck.
<b>RE</b>	This half term we will continue with our topic of Christianity and will specifically look at importance of the church to Christians. The children will explore the question 'What do some people do because they believe in God?'
<b>PE</b>	Our focus this half term is Games. The children will learn to participate in a variety of team games, developing simple tactics for attacking and defending.
<b>Music</b>	The children will be learning about the following styles of music this half term : Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk.
<b>PSHCE</b>	In PSHCE this half term we will be looking closely at Medicines. Throughout the unit the children will learn the concept that medicines are drugs designed to keep us well and help us get better. The children will explore how medicines can be dangerous and will discuss in detail who is allowed to give them medicine.

## Year Two's Topics

<b>English</b>	In English we learn how to write information texts all about pets, the children will read the lovely books, <i>Dogs</i> and <i>Matilda's Cat</i> by Emily Gravett. They will compare these books to information texts <i>RSPCA Care for Your Pupp</i> and <i>RSPCA Care for your Kitten</i> (Collins), before researching and creating their own information pages on an unusual pet. The children will also look at writing fantasy stories and will be introduced to <i>The Dragon Machine</i> by Helen Ward and other well-known dragon stories, <i>George and the Dragon</i> by Chris Wormell, and <i>The Paper Bag Princess</i> by Robert Munsch. They create a dragon and write similes to describe it. They then write dragon stories with a focus on using conjunctions to write longer sentences. 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 how to measure length. They will begin by understanding what a metre is and what centimetres are and then progress to using them in real-life contexts. They will be learning about mass in the context of kilograms and grams. They will learn how to read a scale, to compare the weight of different objects and to solve word problems relating to mass. They will also gain experience in measuring temperature. They will learn about Celsius, how to read thermometers to help them understand, and they will look at the different kinds of temperatures we can measure.
<b>Topic</b>	This term the children will be introduced to historical concepts, vocabulary and representations through exploring the ways in which life has changed over the time of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Develop a chronology of domestic life, clothes, transport, communication methods, toys and books, food and music. They will create Acoustic Telephones and go-karts. Cook up a food festival and create a museum in the classroom!
<b>Art/DT</b>	This term the children will have the opportunity to design their very own go-karts. The children will first design their own go-karts after learning about axels and cogs. They will then make it and evaluate their creation. They children will also have the opportunity to learn sketching techniques and learn how to shade looking at the light and dark.
<b>Science</b>	In science we will explore a range of materials through investigations and explorations. The children will Work on ways to test materials for elasticity and flexibility and find out which paper is the strongest. They will work in small groups to design and make a paper bridge to hold a toy car.
<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 learn different dances from all over the world. They will learn how to develop balance, flexibility, strength, technique and control. They will compare their performances with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best.
<b>RE</b>	In RE our topic is Christianity, we will investigate how and why is celebrating and remembering important in religion and worship. What do people think is important to do daily, [weekly, monthly]? [Why] are these important? Why do some people have religious rituals?
<b>PSHCE</b>	In PSHCE our topic is going to be getting on and falling out. We will focuses on developing children's knowledge, understanding and skills in three key social and emotional aspects of learning: empathy, managing feelings (with a focus on anger) and social skills.

## Class Four Year 3's Topics

<b>English</b>	In English this half term we will looking at how we can write non-chronological reports, 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 Multiplication and Division. We will begin by looking at informal methods to multiply (partitioning the tens and ones to multiply a 2-digit number by a single digit) before we move to a formal written method.
<b>Science</b>	Our topic this half term in Animals including Humans. We will be looking at the different types of skeletons animals have and how these have different purposes. We will then move onto food and nutrition. Looking at the different food groups and the importance of a balanced diet.
<b>Topic</b>	This term we are studying Victorian Life. We will start by looking at how the Victorians lived, then onto how their growth in industry and science has impacted on our lives. We will be looking at how the railways changed the way Victorians travelled and introduced the seaside holiday for the first time!
<b>Computing</b>	This half term we will be looking at creating our own videos. We will be using green screen technology to create videos linked to our History topic on Victorians.
<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>	一二三 (yī, èr, sān) - One, Two, Three In Mandarin, we are moving on to look at numbers. We will learn to count to ten and then learn about how we can use this knowledge to count all the way up to one hundred! We will also focus on Chinese New Year and why it is so important in the Chinese calendar.
<b>RE</b>	In RE, we will be retelling some Bible stories and looking at what the Bible can teach us about the world. We will then look at 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.

## Class 4 Year 4's Topics

<b>English</b>	<p>Year 4 will be continuing their adventures with Alice this half term. They will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of writing genres such as Diary and letter writing in a range of contexts. They may also have to prove they can recall instruction writing methods if they want to enjoy a tasty tea party treat!</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>This Half Term is all about Fractions in Year 4. We will start by refreshing our memories of what fractions are and simple equivalent fractions. Would you rather half a chocolate bar or 2 quarters? The children will be posed with lots of questions like this 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 their times tables and be able to apply them to division and mental math questions with speed and accuracy!</p>
<b>Topic</b>	<p>This term we are studying Victorian Life. We will start by looking at how the Victorians lived, then onto how their growth in industry and science has impacted on our lives. We will be looking at how the railways changed the way Victorians travelled and introduced the seaside holiday for the first time!</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 videos linked to our History topic on Victorians.</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>一二三 (yī, èr, sān) - One, Two, Three</p> <p>In Mandarin, we are moving on to look at numbers. We will learn to count to ten and then learn about how we can use this knowledge to count all the way up to one hundred! We will also focus on Chinese New Year and why it is so important in the Chinese calendar.</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p>In RE, we will be retelling some Bible stories and looking at what the Bible can teach us about the world. We will then look at 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>

## Class 5 Year Four's Topics

<b>Literacy</b>	<p>Year 4 will be continuing their adventures with Alice this half term. They will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of writing genres such as Diary and letter writing in a range of contexts. They may also have to prove they can recall instruction writing methods if they want to enjoy a tasty tea party treat!</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>This Half Term is all about Fractions in Year 4. We will start by refreshing our memories of what fractions are and simple equivalent fractions. Would you rather half a chocolate bar or 2 quarters? The children will be posed with lots of questions like this 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 their times tables and be able to apply them to division and mental math questions with speed and accuracy!</p>
<b>Topic</b>	<p><b>The Victorians</b></p> <p>This term the children will be looking at the lifestyle and history of Victorians. We will begin by looking at Victorian London and its place within the historical timeline. The children will look closely at Queen Victoria and her reign. We will then continue to research the work houses as well as the railways and Victorian holiday towns.</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p><b>Properties of materials</b></p> <p>Our science skills we be tested this half term looking at the different properties of materials. We will discover dissolving, filtration and evaporation of different materials. We will investigate whether changes made are reversible or irreversible.</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p><b>Jesus</b></p> <p>This half term the children will be looking at Jesus as a human or a God? They will be identifying Jesus' personality based on the stories that he told and the messages that they gave. The children will then consider other famous Christians and their teaching and also their own perception from other people based on what they say etc.</p>
<b>PE</b>	<p><b>Net and Wall games - Tennis</b></p> <p>This half term the children will be learning about the skills needed for tennis. They will look at the use of forehand, backhand and serve and how to apply these to a game situation. There is a big focus on hand-eye co-ordination and working with others as we will be playing doubles as well as singles. We will end this topic by looking at scoring and taking part in a small competition.</p>
<b>PSHCE</b>	<p><b>Good to be me</b></p> <p>This half term the children are looking at their own feeling and how their feelings can affect the decisions they make as well as the feelings of others. We will be looking at how to agree and disagree with others in the right way.</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p><b>Brass</b></p> <p>So far Lucy has been really impressed with year 5 - they are making good progress. The children have been working hard to learn to read music over the last term and hopefully they will begin putting this into practice when they continue practicing at home. The children will begin playing songs where each section play different parts of the music.</p>
<b>Mandarin</b>	<p><b>颜色 (yán sè) - Colours</b></p> <p>We are going to recap the colours in Mandarin this half term and focus on using them to describe everyday objects around us. We will also revisit the importance of Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated.</p>

## Year Five's Topics

<b>Literacy</b>	<p><b>Street Child</b></p> <p>This term the children will be looking at the text of 'Street Child' based in the Victorian times looking at the different lifestyles. The children will begin with a focus on Newspaper reports where they will learn the skills and features before they begin to apply these to their own writing. We will then work alongside a visiting poet to further develop the children's poetry skills, hopefully creating some fantastic Victorian based poems.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	<p><b>Fractions</b></p> <p>We will begin by recapping our previous knowledge of what fractions are and will be working on finding the equivalent fractions using a range of resources as well as ordering and comparing fractions with different denominators. When learning about fractions there is a big focus on understanding times tables and number facts so please continue to work with your children on the rapid recall of these at home. Although our main area of teaching this half term will be fractions it is imperative that the children continue to practice their 4 methods of calculations regularly at home.</p>
<b>Topic</b>	<p><b>The Victorians</b></p> <p>This term the children will be looking at the lifestyle and history of Victorians. We will begin by looking at Victorian London and its place within the historical timeline. The children will look closely at Queen Victoria and her reign. We will then continue to research the work houses as well as the railways and Victorian holiday towns.</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p><b>Properties of materials</b></p> <p>Our science skills we be tested this half term looking at the different properties of materials. We will discover dissolving, filtration and evaporation of different materials. We will investigate whether changes made are reversible or irreversible.</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p><b>Jesus</b></p> <p>This half term the children will be looking at Jesus as a human or a God? They will be identifying Jesus' personality based on the stories that he told and the messages that they gave. The children will then consider other famous Christians and their teaching and also their own perception from other people based on what they say etc.</p>
<b>PE</b>	<p><b>Net and Wall games - Tennis</b></p> <p>This half term the children will be learning about the skills needed for tennis. They will look at the use of forehand, backhand and serve and how to apply these to a game situation. There is a big focus on hand-eye co-ordination and working with others as we will be playing doubles as well as singles. We will end this topic by looking at scoring and taking part in a small competition.</p>
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<b>Mandarin</b>	<p><b>颜色 (yán sè) - Colours</b></p> <p>We are going to recap the colours in Mandarin this half term and focus on using them to describe everyday objects around us. We will also revisit the importance of Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated.</p>

## Year Six's Topics

<b>English</b>	<p><u><b>Macbeth</b></u></p> <p>In English, we will continue to explore the world of Shakespeare through Macbeth. We will begin this half term by writing our own spooky ghost stories at Halloween, incorporating some of the more creepy parts of Macbeth as inspiration. We will then move on to look at newspaper reports and will report on the events that led to Macbeth's death. Finally, we will delve into poetry, looking particularly at slam poetry and some of Shakespeare's famous sonnets.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	<p><u><b>Fractions</b></u></p> <p>In maths, we are moving on to investigate fractions. We will learn how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions and will look at converting fractions to decimals. Keep practising those written calculation methods and multiplication and division facts at home because they will become more important than ever as we tackle challenging fractions problems.</p>
<b>Topic</b>	<p><u><b>London</b></u></p> <p>Now that we have learned about the geography of London and its famous landmarks, we are moving on to explore its history, focusing particularly on the Black Death. We will learn about the outbreak of this deadly disease and how it spread across Europe. We will research how its symptoms manifested in the infected and its effects on the population of London.</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p><u><b>Electricity</b></u></p> <p>In science we are going to learn about electricity. We will learn about how electricity is produced and transported and will investigate different ways to set up a circuit. We will discover the correct symbols and use these to draw an accurate scientific diagram of an electrical circuit.</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p><u><b>Soundstart (Band)</b></u></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>
<b>PE</b>	<p><u><b>Football</b></u></p> <p>Our focus for PE this half term will be football. We will practise skills and control and will learn more about the different positions in a game of football. We will play a variety of games and have matches to apply the skills that we learn along the way.</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p><u><b>Can People Really Change?</b></u></p> <p>This half term we will continue to look at Christianity, focusing particularly on Jesus during this important time of the Christian calendar. We will discuss the impact that Jesus had on his followers and what we can learn from the way that he lived his life.</p>
<b>Mandarin</b>	<p><u><b>你住在哪儿(nǐ zhù zài nǎ er?) - Where do you live?</b></u></p> <p>We are going to learn how to say the names of different countries in Mandarin this half term. We will learn to ask somebody where they live and how to respond. As Christmas approaches, we might even learn a new Christmas carol and, of course, we will relearn 我们祝你圣诞快乐 (Women Zhu Ni Shengdan Kuaile).</p>
<b>PSHCE</b>	<p><u><b>Getting On and Falling Out</b></u></p> <p>In PSHCE we will be focusing on our relationships with others. We will discuss how we can be a good friend to others and what we can do to overcome disagreements and arguments.</p>