



Beechwood Primary School

www.beechwoodschoolruncorn.co.uk

Curriculum Update Issue 72- Autumn Term 2017



Welcome Back!

It is lovely to see the children return to school safely after the Summer holidays. They all look smart and keen to learn in their new uniforms! They have definitely shot up over the Summer!

We would like to say a huge welcome to the new families and children who are joining us in the Reception class. We all look forward to getting to know the children and watching them grow.

Dates for your diary

30th Sept- PTA Race Night- details to follow

11th Oct- Individual Photos

16th & 17th Oct- Parent's Evenings

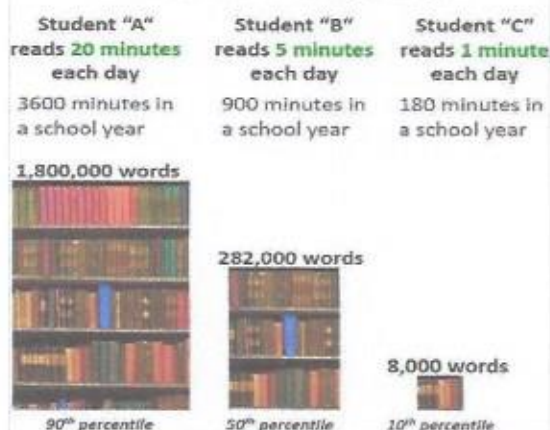
18th Oct- Year 6 Class Assembly- Year 6 families welcome

19th Oct- School closes for the children

20th Oct- Staff INSET Day

30th Oct- School opens for Autumn Term 2

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Hager & Herman, 1997)

Twitter

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter, to keep up to date with school life. We have two accounts, @ptabeechwood and @Beechwoodnews1

Home Reading

We cannot express enough the importance of your child reading at home; it sets them up for life-long learning, enjoyment and creativity! Although Americanised, the above stats make for interesting reading.

SeeSaw/Website

After a successful trial of the new app, Years 1-6 will be using the evidence app SeeSaw this year. You will soon receive an information letter explaining all they need to know. As part of using this app, and after a successful parent questionnaire, Curriculum updates and some other letters will be issued through the app to help reduce our paper usage. Alongside this, all letters, including invitations to after school clubs will be sent out via the school website. To ensure you receive these, you will need you log in details. If you can not remember your log in details, contact Miss Sturgess who will happily help.

Reception

Literacy	Since our topic this half term is 'Under the Sea' we will be reading lots of fictional sea themed stories including our whole school book 'Flotsam'. We have begun our teaching of phonics and learning some letter sounds and children will become familiar with forming and writing them.
Maths	We have begun our maths sessions looking at recognition of numbers and counting through singing songs, until our baseline assessments are complete. Then we will start a number a week, visiting shapes and patterns and the language associated with position and direction and really consolidating what each number means.
Knowledge and understanding of the world	Since our topic this half term is about 'Under the Sea' children will be finding out more about sea creatures and thinking about under the sea habitats. The children will be able to record themselves telling facts they know about sea creatures and their habitats. We will also be exploring and investigating 'floating and sinking'.
RE	This term we will be finding out about 'Christianity and God'. We will be thinking about when the important times are for our communities and especially the harvest festival and how people celebrate it.
PE	Our topic this term is dance, children will learn how to move to music in different ways and work with other children to sequence movements in time to different music.
PSHCE	We will be looking at the topic of 'A New Beginning', thinking about how the children have settled into school life, the new friends they have made and how they are all special to our reception class.
Expressive arts	There will be lots of creative opportunities this term as children will be engaging in a range of activities such as making sea creatures, mermaids and a seaside in a bottle. During our music lessons we will be listening and responding to different styles of music, listening to and learning to sing or sing along with nursery rhymes and action songs, playing classroom instruments and performing the learning that has taken place. Our topic is 'Me!' - and we will explore: growing, homes, colour, toys and how I look.

Class Two's Topics

English	In English this half term we will be looking at all things Sea related. The children will start with exploring the book Flotsam, here they will learn to write labels and simple captions about what they see. After this we will move on to instructional writing before finishing the half term with poetry. Throughout all of our writing genres the children will be encouraged to use what they know about sounds to help them write independently. The children will actively be encouraged to check their own work - ensuring that all sentences start and end correctly.
Maths	The children will be starting Singapore Maths this term and will focus on learning about and manipulating numbers to 10. To begin the unit, the children will look at ordering numbers to 10 and will begin to count on and back. They will then move on to number bonds to 10 before applying these to addition and subtraction problems.
Topic	<u>Explorers</u> As part of this unit the children will have the opportunity to look at some of the greatest explorers in history. We will specifically look at : Christopher Columbus, Neil Armstrong and Robert Falcon Scott, finding out about what part of the world and beyond they explored.
Science	The children will look at seasonal changes during this unit and we will focus on learning the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name the four seasons • name different types of weather • make observations about the weather • describe the weather associated with each season • collect and record simple data • make simple observations about changes across the seasons.
Computing	This half term we will look at using a paint package. This Painting unit will teach your class basic painting skills in a painting application on a computer or tablet device. Children will use a simple painting program to paint with different colours and brushes, create shapes, fill areas, undo and redo and add text.
Art/DT	This half term the children's art work will added to our whole school Flotsam display. As a class we will look a specific sections of the book and recreate these using a range of media.
RE	This half term we will be thinking about Christianity and God. The children will look into the following question:How and why are some stories about God special/sacred and important in religion?
PE	This half term the children will be creating a variety of dance moves linked to an underwater theme. The children will be encouraged to listen and respond to music whilst working both individually and with a partner.
PSHCE	Going for Goals - In this topic the children will be looking at their strengths and areas for development. We will focus on Growth Mindset and look at how this can help us achieve both our short and long term goals.

Class Three's Topics

English	In English this half term we will be exploring stories with familiar settings. We will begin by learning the story of Lost and Found focusing on re-telling the story through role play. We will also explore a range of different stories with familiar settings through our Guided Reading sessions. As a whole school we are all focusing on the wordless book Flotsam. Towards the end of the half term we will use the story writing skills we have learnt to write our own story based on a photograph in the Flotsam book. Our SPaG focus will be a re-cap of the correct use of capital letters (including names) and full stops. As well as identifying the different types of sentences including: exclamation sentences, question sentences, command sentences and statements.
Maths	During Maths this half term the children will be looking at place value. Exploring what each value the digits hold within a number. We will move onto addition and subtraction. Focussing on putting the first number in your head and taking away/adding from this number. Moving onto formal recording using column addition/subtraction as well as number bond charts. After lots of work on this we will move onto multiplication focussing on 2, 5 and 10. This will involve a lot of time spent on looking at pictorial representations of what each timetable means and what it looks like. Exploring how it helps us to count larger amounts.
Topic	Our topic this half term is 'Explorers' where we will think about where we could explore and what we could find there. We will start by looking at what it means to be an important person. Following this we will be looking at three explorers in detail these are: Neil Armstrong, Robert Falcon and Christopher Columbus. It would be beneficial if you could research different explorers at home!
Science	In Science this half term we will be exploring living things and their habitats. We will begin by identifying living things then move onto local habitats. Additionally, we will explore what makes a micro-habitat. After this we will explore world habitats followed by food-chains.
Computing	Children will be introduced to the term 'Algorithms'. We will explore what this means and how we use algorithms daily. We will write our own algorithms and develop strategies to de-bug them when necessary. We will also look at the importance of internet safety and discuss why it's important not to share any of our information online.
Art/DT	We will be working on our section of the library display this half term. As a class we will be planning our contribution to the Flotsam exhibition in the library. We will also explore different concepts in art to enhance our creative area outside.
RE	This half term we will be thinking about Christianity and God. We'll explore what people think is important to do daily, weekly and monthly. We will look at why these things are important.
PE	This half term we will be taking part in different dance activities. We will start by exploring different movements and moving to the beat. As a class we will create a class dance and rehearse this each week. At the end of the half term we will perform the dance to another class.
PSHCE	In PSHCE this term our theme is 'Going For Goals'. We will explore making goals and how we can achieve them. We will also look at the difference between small goals and bigger goals. During this we will explore the skills we need to be successful particularly perseverance.

Class Four Year 3's Topics

English	In English this half term we will exploring Stories with familiar settings. We will be using our school book Flotsam to create our own stories set on a beach. Our stories will include a problem and a solution. We continue to improve our written skills by writing in the past tense, using speech and developing our fronted adverbials. We will be learning how to use our senses to excite the reader in descriptions and sense poems; all relating to our rivers and coast theme.
Maths	During Maths this half term the children will continue to follow Singapore maths. The children will be looking at counting in different amounts and then will move onto place value.
Science	This half term, children will be focusing on the topic of Plants during their Science lessons. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate what plants require in order to grow well. Furthermore, they will have chance to predict what will happen in an exciting investigation into the transportation of water within plants. They will work in a hands-on way to identify the parts of a flower, and will explore the different stages of the life cycle of a flowering plant.
Topic	Linking with our book Flotsam, the children will look at coasts and rivers. The children will explore the features of a river and all the benefits that rivers and coasts bring. The Children will complete field work to understand how rivers flood and become polluted and the effects it can have on us. These topics will be combined with English to allow children to write for a range of different purposes.
Computing	This half term the children will be recapping the E-Safety rules that they should follow before moving onto programming and algorithms. Children will be involved in designing, creating and analysing computer games which they make using Scratch.
Art/DT	In DT this half term the children will be looking at making sculptures of fish. The children will be using the inspiration of Flotsam to create fish made from chicken wire. Children will also use green screen technology to recreate some of the scenes from the book.
PE	The children will focus on dance and movement this half term, they will be combining their topic and Flotsam story to create dance routines based on a river. Children will also participate in gymnastics.
PSHCE	In PSHCE this half term the children will be thinking about how to live a healthy life. Children will explore eating, exercise and health and hygiene.

Class Four's Year 4's Topics

English	This half term, we will be exploring Stories in Imaginary Worlds. We will begin by studying texts (with the same genre) to identify the structure. Then the children will create their own stories, focusing on creating captivating setting descriptions. During the final weeks of the half term, the children will use their developing descriptive skills to create shape poetry. Our SPaG lessons will focus on progressing dictionary skills.
Maths	During Maths, the children will be exploring numbers to 10,000. They will begin the term by counting in hundreds and twenty-fives, before eventually counting in thousands, sixes, sevens and nines. We will also focus on the exploration of numbers by ordering and comparing. By the end of term, children will be estimating the sum of three and four-digit numbers.
Science	Our Science topic for this half term is Animals including Humans. We will be learning about our teeth, including how to look after our them. We will be investigating the effects that different liquids have on our teeth. We will also be travelling on an exciting journey through the digestive system!
Topic	Linking with our book Flotsam, the children will look at coasts and rivers. The children will explore the features of a river and all the benefits that rivers and coasts bring. The Children will complete field work to understand how rivers flood and become polluted and the effects it can have on us. These topics will be combined with English to allow children to write for a range of different purposes.
Computing	This half term the children will be recapping the E-Safety rules that they should follow before moving onto programming and algorithms. Children will be involved in designing, creating and analysing computer games which they make using Scratch.
Art/DT	In DT this half term the children will be looking at making sculptures of fish. The children will be using the inspiration of Flotsam to create fish made from chicken wire. Children will also use green screen technology to recreate some of the scenes from the book.
PE	The children will focus on dance and movement this half term, they will be combining their topic and Flotsam story to create dance routines based on a river. Children will also participate in gymnastics.
PSHCE	In PSHCE this half term the children will be thinking about how to live a healthy life. Children will explore eating, exercise and health and hygiene.

Class 5 Year 4's Topics

Literacy	This half term, we will be exploring Stories in Imaginary Worlds. We will begin by studying texts (with the same genre) to identify the structure. Then the children will create their own stories, focusing on creating captivating setting descriptions. During the final weeks of the half term, the children will use their developing descriptive skills to create shape poetry. Our SPaG lessons will focus on progressing dictionary skills.
Maths	During Maths, the children will be exploring numbers to 10,000. They will begin the term by counting in hundreds and twenty-fives, before eventually counting in thousands, sixes, sevens and nines. We will also focus on the exploration of numbers by ordering and comparing. By the end of term, children will be estimating the sum of three and four-digit numbers.
Science	Our Science topic for this half term is Animals including Humans. We will be learning about our teeth, including how to look after our them. We will be investigating the effects that different liquids have on our teeth. We will also be travelling on an exciting journey through the digestive system!
Topic	Rivers and Coasts This half term the children will be completing a Geography focused topic on Rivers and Coasts. The children have already created a range of questions which they would like to answer about this topic. We will begin by comparing rivers and coasts and discussing how we can tell the difference. The children will learn about the features of rivers whilst also learning about a range of large rivers in the UK. Finally the children will be working on their understanding of the water cycle in order to understand how rivers are formed.
Computing	The children will be linking their computing skills to their RE this half term where they will continue to create posters and videos which will be used to persuade others and their peers to act in an inspiring way.
RE	What do God's stories teach us? This term we will be debating 'what does it mean to be inspired?' Using bible stories the children will learn of how Jesus inspired Christians.
PE	River dance This half term the children will be looking at using the river dance as inspiration for Irish dancing. The children will be learning the basic steps which they will then begin to develop further into short routines.
PSHCE	Going for goals This term's topic is entitled 'going for goals' in this topic the children will be looking at setting their own targets and goals for both the short term and the long term. The children will study different ways in which they can reach their goals and the traits that they need to use to do so.
Music	This half term the children will begin whole class clarinet lessons, during this half term they will begin to understand the positioning and how to play single notes on the clarinet. Slowly building up to playing short songs too.
French	Greetings As French will be new to most of the children, during this half term the children will be learning about how to greet different people in French and practising the pronunciation alongside their classmates. The children will then begin with the opportunity to write some basic French phrases too.

Year Five's Topics

Literacy	This half term the whole school text that year five will be looking at is 'Flotsam' the children will begin with learning about diary entries and using these to write a diary entry from the perspective of the boy. WE will then look at balanced arguments and relate this to rubbish which has been dumped within the sea and how this can affect the se life and final the children will look at writing poetry about the beach and seaside in order to present during our Flotsam displays. Keep an eye out on Seesaw for our English work which we will be working on.
Maths	Number We will begin the year with a focus on number ensuring that all children have a secure understanding of place value, discussing 6 digit numbers and then working on rounding these numbers too. The children will look at addition methods both written and mental and will then begin to apply these skills to problems and showing their good understanding. The children must continue to work on maths monsters and their time tables on a regular basis in order to support their learning as the year progresses.
Topic	Rivers and Coasts This half term the children will be completing a Geography focused topic on Rivers and Coasts. The children have already created a range of questions which they would like to answer about this topic. We will begin by comparing rivers and coasts and discussing how we can tell the difference. The children will learn about the features of rivers whilst also learning about a range of large rivers in the UK. Finally the children will be working on their understanding of the water cycle in order to understand how rivers and formed.
Computing	The children will be linking their computing skills to their RE this half term where they will continue to create posters and videos which will be used to persuade others and their peers to act in an inspiring way.
RE	What do God's stories teach us? This term we will be debating 'what does it mean to be inspired?' Using bible stories the children will learn of how Jesus inspired Christians.
PE	River dance This half term the children will be looking at using the river dance as inspiration for Irish dancing. The children will be learning the basic steps which they will then begin to develop further into short routines.
PSHCE	Going for goals This term's topic is entitled 'going for goals' in this topic the children will be looking at setting their own targets and goals for both the short term and the long term. The children will study different ways in which they can reach their gals and the traits that they need to use to do use.
Music	This half term the children will begin whole class clarinet lessons, during this half term they will begin to understand the positioning and how to play single notes on the clarinet. Slowly building up to playing short songs too.
French	Greetings As French will be new to most of the children, during this half term the children will be learning about how to greet different people in French and practising the pronunciation alongside their classmates. The children will then begin with the opportunity to write some basic French phrases too.

Year 6's Curriculum

English	This term we will be using the book Flotsam to lead the way. We will be focussing on writing balanced arguments around marine issues and tightening up our skills of using our language and descriptive choices to create images in the reader's head. In reading, we will be focussing on author's intent and how we can link this into our written work.
Maths	Year 6 will be continuing their Singapore Maths journey they began last year. Together, we will be looking at Place Value, the different operations and will be getting to grips with the Bar Model and how to use this to support our problem solving. We will be focusing on division and multiplication, as recent tests have highlighted these as areas to develop.
Topic	<u>Rivers and Coasts</u> This term, we will be linking everything around the Flotsam book. We will be learning about the rivers and coast lines that make up the UK. In art, we will be building up our section of the whole school display through our design technology skills; sewing for example.
Science	<u>Living Things And Their Habitats</u> In science we will explore living things and their habitats. We will look at how living things are classified into groups and will create our own creature to fit into one of these groups. We will also study the work of Linnaeus and how he has influenced classification systems.
RE	<u>Is Life Like A Journey?</u> This half term we will be looking at how Christians worship God. We will discuss the journey Christians take in their devotion to God focusing on their arrival and the significant events that take place along their journey.
MFL	<u>Greetings</u> This will be our first term learning the French language, so we will be looking at how to greet each other in a polite manner.
PE	As well as our weekly swimming session, this term Year 6 will be focusing on Dance.
PSHCE	<u>New Beginnings</u> In PSHCE we will be focusing on the transition into Year 6. We will discuss the responsibilities we will face this year and how we can set a good example to the rest of the school. We will talk about any worries for the year and how we can support each other in overcoming them.