



Beechwood Primary School



Curriculum Update - Issue 60
Autumn Term 2015 - 1st Half Term

Have you looked at our
website?

www.beechwoodschoolruncorn.co.uk

P.E Days

Monday - Years 1 & 2

Tuesday - Year 6

Wednesday - Year 4/5

Friday - Reception & Year 3/4

Welcome Back!

It's great to see everyone back, fit, healthy and raring to go! A huge welcome to all our new families and the Reception Class children. In addition, welcome to Daniel Walsh!

Uniform

Thank you for your support with our uniform policy - the children look great! Just to remind you that all school bags must fit inside the children's trays, with a P.E bag to hang. Pencil cases are not required!

Swimming

Year 4/5 will be having their swimming lessons this $\frac{1}{2}$ term on a Wednesday afternoon. Thanks for your continuing support ensuring that the children have their appropriate kits in school. Remember, one-piece girls swim suits and fitted swim shorts for boys.

PE Kits

Please ensure that children have their full kit in school. It should be taken home to be washed on a Friday. Check that trainers still fit! Don't forget hair bobbles!

Forest Schools

This year sees Reception having Forest School all morning on a Tuesday - how exciting! Old clothes are essential and can be worn on arrival. Please remember to pack a uniform for the afternoon.

What's New?

The children are really enjoying the new log climber on the playground. We are impressed with how responsibly they are behaving on it. Please ensure that you supervise your children if they choose to climb on it before or after school.

Think for yourself. care for others.

Reception

Literacy	<p>For our literacy this half term, we will begin to look at the stories of Percy the Park-keeper. Children will become familiar with the main character in the books and talk about the main events in the stories. We will be developing predicting skills and responding to a text.</p> <p>We will learn and recognise some letters of the alphabet and the children will become familiar with writing and forming them. Where appropriate, some children will be encouraged to blend the sounds they know.</p>
Mathematics	<p>This half term we will be focusing on working with number. The children will practise recognising and naming their numbers to 20 through a range of activities, including ordering numbers, matching numbers to the correct quantities and answering number problems. Through their play, the children will begin to work with shape, developing their understanding of common 2D shapes.</p>
Physical development	<p>Our topic this half term is dance, where children will be encouraged to move to music in different ways and work with other children to sequence movements in time to a range of music. We will also use a programme called 'Write Dance' to develop pencil control through large movements!</p>
Knowledge and understanding	<p>This term we will be finding out all about the harvest festival and how people celebrate it. We will look at the different foods people eat during harvest and the meaning behind the festival. We link to Autumn through our Percy stories and forest schools. The children will begin to find out and talk about what happens in Autumn and how the weather changes at this time of year. We will also look at local wildlife.</p>
Communication and language	<p>The children will be encouraged to speak in a range of group sizes, with both their peers and adults. We will focus on turn taking and listening and responding to others. Staff and buddies will model appropriate language.</p>
Personal and social	<p>We will be looking at the topic of "Good to me" 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.</p>
Expressive arts and design	<p>There will be lots of creative opportunities this half term as children will be engaged in a range of activities including, making Autumn collages, modeling with dough and simple weaving skills. The children will also work together to design and create a role play area in forest schools.</p>

Class Two's Topics

English	<p>This half term we will be working together to use pictures and images to predict what might happen in a story and what the characters will be like. When we read a story together, we will be developing our descriptive language to describe dramatic scenes and also begin to understand how to write an explanation text.</p> <p>We will also continue to develop our handwriting and grammar skills.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths this half term we will be focusing on counting, addition and subtraction and shape. The children will be looking at the ordering of larger numbers and will learn to add and subtract using objects or a hundred square. During Shape the children will be asked to identify a range of 2d and 3d shapes and will also discuss the properties of these shapes using language such as face, side, edge, corner and vertices. Throughout all of these topics the children will be encouraged to solve problems related to these.</p>
Topic	<p>Our topic this half term is 'Explorers' where we will think about where we could explore and what we could find there. We will also learn about famous explorers and places they discovered. We will take a look at different countries and places and compare them.</p>
Computing	<p>Connected to our 'Explorers' topic, we will be learning how to use digital cameras to take photos of our explorations around the school grounds and uploading them onto the computers. We will also be making sure that we know how to log on to a PC independently and save work.</p>
RE	<p>This half term we will be thinking about what it means to belong to something starting with any clubs and teams that we are members of. This will then lead onto to thinking about what it means to belong to a religion.</p>
PE	<p>Dance is our focus this half term, which is well timed with the new series of 'Strictly Come Dancing' appearing on TV. We will perfect a range of skills covering a range of dance genres learning how to keep a good rhythm and beat to the music.</p>
PSHCE	<p>We will use lots of discussion time to share our thoughts about going for goals and what we want to achieve. We will think about what we can do to achieve those goals and how we can help each other.</p>
Music	<p>This half term the title of our music topic is 'Hey You!' Here the children will look at historical musical styles. Our focus will be Old School Hip Hop. During this the children will listen to, recite, compose and perform a range of Hip Hop music.</p>

Class Three's Topics

English	<p>This half term we will be working together to use pictures and images to predict what might happen in a story and what the characters will be like. When we read a story together, we will be developing our descriptive language to describe dramatic scenes and also begin to understand how to write an explanation text.</p> <p>We will also continue to develop our handwriting and grammar skills.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths we will be working with numbers and discovering how they work together, place value, and what makes them special such as odd and evens, times tables and missing number sequences. Once we develop our understanding of these, we will be able to apply this knowledge to a range of calculations. We will also start to uncover methods of problem solving efficiently.</p>
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Computing	<p>Connected to our 'Explorers' topic, we will be learning how to use digital cameras to take photos of our explorations around the school grounds and uploading them onto the computers. We will also be making sure that we know how to log on to a PC independently and save work.</p>
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PE	<p>Dance is our focus this half term, which is well timed with the new series of 'Strictly Come Dancing' appearing on TV. We will perfect a range of skills covering a range of dance genres learning how to keep a good rhythm and beat to the music.</p>
PSHCE	<p>We will use lots of discussion time to share our thoughts about going for goals and what we want to achieve. We will think about what we can do to achieve those goals and how we can help each other.</p>
Music	<p>In music, we will be learning about music from around the world and comparing the different styles and themes. We will also begin to learn how to play a glockenspiel following the notation.</p>

Year Three's Topics

English	<p><u>'You're a Wizard Harry....'</u></p> <p>In English this half term we will become students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. We will look at a range of Harry Potter stories and will use these as the basis of our writing. We will begin by writing persuasive letters before moving on to descriptive writing. The children will read extracts from the text and we will focus on the author's use of language.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths this half term we will be focusing on mental calculation strategies. The children will revisit their knowledge of number facts and we will look at how we can partition numbers to help us add and subtract. We will also look at Shapes and Symmetry and begin to learn formal methods to record our work for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.</p>
Topic	<p><u>Mayans</u></p> <p>This term the children will be learning all about the <i>Mayan Civilization</i>. During the first half of this term we will focus on <i>Geography</i> and the children will begin to use maps and atlases to identify the <i>Mayan region</i>. We will look at the climate in this region and compare this to that of the UK and other countries. In DT the children will be learning about the significance of the <i>Mayan temple</i>. The children will be designing and making their own <i>Mayan temple</i> using a range of materials.</p>
Computing	<p>During the half term the children will focus on <i>Using the Internet and Communicating and Collaborating Online</i>. The children will use specified web addresses to search for information and will then work collaboratively to being to add information to our VLE page. Through this topic the children will be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find and use appropriate information • To identify how different web pages are organised e.g. graphics, hyperlinks, text • To navigate a web page to locate specific information
Music	<p><u>Headphones at the ready!</u></p> <p>In music this term the children will be exploring all things brass! Through outside tuition the children will learn to put together, look after and play a brass instrument. These instruments will be sent home so the children can practise regularly!</p>
PE	<p><u>Dance</u></p> <p>In our dance unit the children will learn to copy and create a range of moves and patterns linked to different genres of music. The children will work as part of a team to share skills and will apply these to a whole class dance.</p>
RE	<p>This half term we will be exploring Islam, comparing and contrasting with other religions and looking at key beliefs. We will be particularly focusing on the prophet Muhammad and why he is so important to Muslims.</p>
Mandarin	<p>Nǐ hǎo! This half term will serve as an introduction to Mandarin, focusing on basic greetings and understanding why it is so important to learn Mandarin. Along the way, we will be delving into life as a Chinese student and celebrating Double Ninth Festival.</p>
PSHCE	<p>Our topic for PSHE is healthy eating. We will start by looking at the five food groups and will move on to the concept of a balanced diet, designing our own meal plans and learning how to lead a healthy lifestyle.</p>

Year Four's Topics

English	<p><u>The Firework-Maker's Daughter</u> We will be looking at <i>The Firework-Maker's Daughter</i> by Philip Pullman in English this half term. This story follows a young girl called Lila who longs to become a firework-maker like her father, but first she must embark upon a perilous journey! We will begin by reading the story, making predictions and inferring information, moving on to creating our own Asian setting descriptions, letters from one character to another and will be developing our use of drama to depict a scene.</p>
Maths	<p>In maths this half term we will begin by revisiting place value to ensure our understanding of partitioning, before moving on to written calculations working towards column addition and decomposition. We will also spend time each day on mental calculations so make sure to practise those maths monsters and of course be prepared for our weekly game of Times Ball!</p>
Topic	<p>This term the children will be learning all about the Mayan Civilization. During the first half of this term we will focus on Geography and the children will begin to use maps and atlases to identify the Mayan region. We will look at the climate in this region and compare this to that of the UK and other countries. In DT the children will be learning about the significance of the Mayan temple. The children will be designing and making their own Mayan temple using a range of materials.</p>
Science	<p>Year 4 will be working with Mrs Kidd and their focus will be teeth! How do we look after them - brushing, good/bad choices?</p>
Computing	<p>During the half term the children will focus on <u>Using the Internet and Communicating and Collaborating Online</u>. The children will use specified web addresses to search for information and will then work collaboratively to being to add information to our VLE page. Through this topic the children will be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find and use appropriate information • To identify how different web pages are organised e.g. graphics, hyperlinks, text • To navigate a web page to locate specific information
Music	<p><u>Whole School Music Tuition</u> The children in Year 4 will continue with their whole class Flute tuition. They will build and expand on the skills learnt last year and will learn how to perform as part of a group.</p>
PE	<p><u>Dance</u> In our dance unit the children will learn to copy and create a range of moves and patterns linked to different genres of music. The children will work as part of a team to share skills and will apply these to a whole class dance.</p>
RE	<p>This half term we will be exploring Islam, comparing and contrasting with other religions and looking at key beliefs. We will be particularly focusing on the prophet Muhammad and why he is so important to Muslims.</p>
Mandarin	<p>Nǐ hǎo! This half term will serve as an introduction to Mandarin, focusing on basic greetings and understanding why it is so important to learn Mandarin. Along the way, we will be delving into life as a Chinese student and celebrating Double Ninth Festival.</p>
PSHCE	<p>Our topic for PSHE is healthy eating. We will start by looking at the five food groups and will move on to the concept of a balanced diet, designing</p>

Year Five's Topics

English	<p><u>Percy Jackson</u> In English this half term we will be learning about myths and legends focusing on the novel Percy Jackson and the lightning thief. The children will explore information texts using the Greek mythical creatures as inspiration. They will consider formal and informal language; explore modal verbs; revise a wide range of punctuation; write information texts in different styles; travel in time and share everything they have learnt in a show-stopping exhibition for the school. They will explore, read and listen to a range of ancient legends and myths in order to invent their own story. Once they have created their own legend they will turn it into an animation developing their speaking and listening skills.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths this half term we will be begin by revisiting partitioning, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The children will be looking at adding and subtracting numbers with up to six digits, including numbers with decimals, using the efficient written methods. To identify and estimate numbers using different representations. They will learn to write and calculate mathematical statements for multiplication and division and continue to solve word problems.</p>
Topic	<p>In topic this half term the children will be focusing on developing a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of the Maya Civilisation. They will learn the social, cultural and political aspects of the Maya's Civilisation; how they lived, hunted, what they believed in and the hierarchy of their society. They will note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. Understanding how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources. They will construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They children will also design and create their own Mayan mask and design and build their very own Mayan temple.</p>
Science	<p>This half term Year Five will be finding fascinating facts about the Sun, Moon and Earth and develop an understanding of day and night, the four seasons and the Moon's phases. The Sun and the planets making up our Solar System are investigated, along with the other stars in their constellation. They will create drawn scale models of the earth, moon and sun and use a trundle wheel to measure scaled distances between them. The children will shed light on why day and night occur on Earth and why day length changes throughout the year. They will investigate movement and length of shadows during a sunny day - a sundial. They will also blast off to the far-flung corners of the galaxy to find out more about the planets that make up our solar system.</p>
Computing	<p>This term we will continue to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation. They will analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve such problems. They will evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems.</p>
Music	<p>This year Class 5 will continue to either learn the flute or play in the orchestra. They will perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians. They will also learn how to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others.</p>
RE	<p>This half term we will be exploring Islam, comparing and contrasting with other religions and looking at key beliefs. We will be particularly focusing on the prophet Muhammad and why he is so important to Muslims.</p>
PE	<p>This half term we will be looking listening to a variety of popular songs and adding our own dance moves to them. At the end we will then have our very own Beechwood dance off, showing off our dance moves we have learnt throughout the term. The children will also be swimming every Wednesday, they will continue to learn the four different strokes and gain confidence in the water.</p>
Mandarin	<p>Nǐ hǎo! This half term will serve as an introduction to Mandarin, focusing on basic greetings and understanding why it is so important to learn Mandarin. Along the way, we will be delving into life as a Chinese student and celebrating Double Ninth Festival.</p>
PSHCE	<p>Our topic for PSHE is healthy eating. We will start by looking at the five food groups and will move on to the concept of a balanced diet, designing our own meal plans and learning how to lead a healthy lifestyle.</p>

Class Six's Topics

<p>Literacy</p>	<p>In literacy this half term we will be using the story of the 'Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' as our focus. We will be reading this book as a class and then creating a range of writing focused around the story. We will be completing drama and hot seating activities as well as writing letters from a character's perspective and writing detailed character descriptions.</p> <p>This year the children will be having a big focus on spelling, therefore the children will be given a spelling sheet on Friday which will have activities and spelling for them to practice, they will then be tested on these spellings the following Friday. These spellings will always be linked by a spelling pattern e.g., drop the e and add ing in make. However they will also be provided with some of the year 6 curriculum words which they will all need to learn.</p>
<p>Maths</p>	<p>Number</p> <p>We will begin the year with a focus on number ensuring that all children have a secure understanding of place value and the variety of calculation methods. Children will be regularly set tasks throughout the year on 'My maths' to secure their understanding of topics being covered in class but do remember that you can access and select your own work at home too.</p>
<p>Topic</p>	<p>Mayans This topic will last two half terms which means the children will be able to learn in depth about The Mayans. We will initially look at the world and consider where the Mayans may have inhabited and we will then look at The Mayans in comparison with other famous parts of history. The children will be creating Mayan masks, Mayan temples and some great artwork in this similar style. As part of our DT this half term we will be creating a variety of foods, which will help the children to understand the foods eaten and created during this time in history.</p>
<p>Computing</p>	<p>Programming and control This term the children will be looking at a variety of computing skills, they will be beginning by focusing on movement and control. In order to start this topic we will be given a presentation, this will help us to understand the importance of control and programming and how this links to computer games and coding. We will eventually be creating our own games using coding on a variety of medias including computers and I pads.</p>
<p>RE</p>	<p>The importance of Muhammed to Muslims In this unit the children learn about the life and teachings of Muhammed and develop their understanding of why he is significant for Muslims. They explore the idea of role models and how Muhammed provides a role model for Muslims. They explore the concept of revelation and religious experience, including the importance of quiet contemplation.</p>
<p>PE</p>	<p>Gymnastics We will be focusing on linking a range of movements together using different ways of travelling, we will also be thinking about different variety of balances and using our partner's body when creating a range of counter-balances. We will then progress to create short well-performed sequences, which we will think about how to improve further, and possibly doing these sequences to music.</p>
<p>PSHCE</p>	<p>Healthy Lifestyles This term's topic is entitled 'Healthy lifestyles' initially we look at the importance of a healthy lifestyles including food choices and a good range of exercises. The children will be learning about the different food groups and will be completing some homework based on food groups/food diaries. We will then also consider a healthy lifestyle by discussing our teeth and the importance of ensuring personal hygiene too.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>Sound Start</p> <p>The children will continue to receive weekly instrument lessons on a Thursday morning. During this time the children will be learning a range of notes and songs. They look forward to performing for you on a number of occasions this year so that you can see the progress they have made.</p>