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Beech Class Newsletter – Autumn 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year!

The children have settled well into the classroom and we're looking forward to an exciting year ahead with lots of learning opportunities.

Curriculum

This term our main topic is **The Egyptians and Me**. We'll also be learning about ourselves, how we learn, what we like and dislike, as well as what we are good at. We will learn a little about how to keep ourselves safe on the computer, keeping ourselves safe outside in different environments and who to turn to if we need help. In English, we will begin by looking at handwriting and reminding ourselves about capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We will explore stories with a familiar setting mainly focusing on 'We're going on a bear hunt' and the other variations that there are. We will also be looking at 'Dogger', thinking about setting and character descriptions.

Our key focus this term is Geography. We will be exploring our local area, looking at the village and where we live too. We will move further afield and begin to look at the UK, developing our map skills. The children will look at the geography around Egypt, comparing the weather, the location and the animals that live there.

For more information, you can view our Topic Wheel displayed in the window and on the website.

The second Autumn Term will see our key focus change, giving us the time to look at the History of Ancient Egypt. We will also be able to use a variety of materials within Art as we experiment with writing using hieroglyphics, creating our own Egyptian jewellery and lots more. In English, we will be thinking about poetry, in line with poetry week, as well as reports and letters.

We will then be working hard on a Lower School Christmas production, as well as learning all about Christmas and what it means to different people.

Daily Arrangements

The children have been extremely sensible when lining up on the playground and entering the classroom independently.

Due to Beech Class and Maple Class being in the same area, we would appreciate you waiting on the playground to collect your child at the end of the day to prevent confusion and crowding.

Staff will only release a child through our gate when an adult is there to receive them, so please ensure we know who is collecting your child at the end of the day. If there are any changes to your usual routine, please let us know in the morning on the usual form next to the door. If things change unexpectedly during the day, please feel free to email these changes to me or the office.

Staffing Arrangements

On Thursdays, the children will have PE with a sports coach from Club Energy. On Friday mornings, the children will have music with our specialist music teacher, Mrs Broadhead. We are all committed to the care and education of your children and meet regularly as a team to plan; discuss children's progress and share information.

Reading Books

Children will bring home their reading diary and a reading book. Please listen to your child read regularly - talking about the story and helping them with new and unfamiliar words and understanding. Children should bring their reading diary and reading book into school every day, as this means we can read with them whenever we have an opportunity. The children know which colour box they should choose their reading books from and the children are encouraged to use their independence in changing and choosing their own books. We suggest that they do so first thing in the morning, at lunch time or at the end of the day (we will remind them too!) We will also suggest changing their reading book once they have read it with an adult in the classroom.

We will let you know when we think your child is ready to move on to the next band of books – but if at any stage you are worried about your child's reading, then please feel free to make contact about this.

Homework

The homework can be found on Beech Class page on the website. It gives the children the opportunity to enhance their own learning, as well as giving them the opportunity to choose to challenge themselves. The children should report back/hand in any work that they have done at home on Wednesdays to allow time for marking before being given back on a Friday. The children will continue to bring home a homework book which can be used to present their work. Please help your child to complete homework tasks if they need it, but as far as possible let the work be their own. If you have any comments (e.g. they find something very difficult, or have really enjoyed something) please jot us a note in their homework book.

PE

PE will take place on Wednesday and Thursday (Term 1) and Monday and Thursday (Term 2) but it is essential that children have kit in school every day. Please make sure that children have suitable clothing for both indoor and outdoor PE, especially now as the weather is beginning to get colder. Please make sure that all kit and uniform is named.

Outdoor Learning

Tuesday will see the opportunity for outdoor learning when it is suitable. It is an opportunity to develop teamwork, solve problems and develop creativity. Outdoor learning happens whatever the weather, so it is important that children have appropriate clothing available in school. They will need: trousers/tracksuit bottoms, a jumper, a waterproof coat and wellingtons, plus hats and gloves as the weather gets colder. These clothes need to be separate from PE clothes as they are likely to get wet and muddy! Please make sure this kit and bag is named.

Contact

Should you need to contact me about any matters arising, you may email direct on the following email address:

EJon1120@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk

Please be aware that messages may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as I will be busy teaching. We will try to reply to you within three working days. Obviously, if the matter is more urgent, then you should contact the school office or speak to one of us at the start of the day.

Reminders

- **Packed Lunches** – Please can we remind you that the school requests that **packed lunches do not contain nuts**. We also ask that grapes or cherry tomatoes included in lunch boxes are cut in half to help prevent choking.
- **Snacks** – We provide a variety of fruit for children at morning break, so other snacks aren't necessary. **Do let us know if your child has any food allergies or intolerances.**
- **Water Bottles** – Please make sure children have a water bottle with them every day (separate from any drink in their lunch box) as this allows them to access water as and when they require it. Please note these bottles should only contain water (not squash or juice).
- **Wellingtons** – As the weather gets colder and winter sets in, we aim to have outdoor play as much as possible so please make sure that your child is prepared by providing wellies and a warm, waterproof coat.
- **Absence and sickness** – Please let the office know if your child is absent. The HPA guidance states that it must be 48 hours before your child will be able to return to school after sickness.
- **Hair** – We suggest that children attend school with their hair tied up to avoid any issues.

I am very much looking forward to working with you and your child in Beech Class. Please remember that I am always available after school (or before for more urgent problems) if there's anything you would like to discuss.

Yours,

Miss E. Jones.