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Beech Class Newsletter – Spring 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring term. The children have returned from the Christmas holidays full of enthusiasm.

It is great to see how much their independence has developed; coming in at the start of the day, bringing in their own belongings in the mornings, as well as changing their own books,

Curriculum

This term, our main topic is **Food Glorious Food**. We started this term off by having a taste test trying different fruits and it has given us the chance to think about what we like and dislike. Our key focus this term is Geography. We will be finding out all about different fruits and vegetables and the journey that they take to end up on our plates.

In Science, we will be learning about ourselves and our bodies. We will look at different body parts, as well as taking a look at the skeleton. We will also be exploring plants and their structure, thinking about the different parts of a plant and the jobs that they do.

In English, we will continue to look at our handwriting and reminding ourselves about capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We will work on poetry, using alliteration and rhyme, as well as exploring instructions, following them and creating our own, making sure to use imperative verbs and adverbs too.

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



During the second half of the second Spring Term, we will continue working with **Food Glorious Food**. It will see our key focus change, giving us the time to undertake a big Design & Technology project. The children will become managers, starting their own company, cooking some tasty treats as well as creating adverts, posters and packaging.

In English, we will be thinking about description and persuasive writing, linking in well with our topic.

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.



P.E.

PE will take place on Wednesday and Thursday (Spring Term 1) and Monday and Thursday (Spring 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 (shorts, t-shirt and plimsolls) and outdoor PE (jumper, sports trousers and trainers), especially now as the weather is beginning to get colder. Please make sure that all kit and uniform is named.

Contact

Should you need to contact me about any matters arising, you may email directly 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 ask that children attend school with their hair tied up to avoid any issues.



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.