

BEECHES

GREEN PAGES

Issue 2

16th September 2021

HANDWRITING

Last Friday, at our training day, the staff were trained in a new approach to teaching handwriting. As a result of this, the children will have seen some changes this week. First of all, we are having a short daily handwriting lesson to teach and embed the new approach. Second, the layout of the lines in children's books has changed. Third there is an emphasis on their seating position while they write (ask them about BBC and TNT!). While this may seem unfamiliar to the children at first, we are confident that this will help all our children to write in a manner that is comfortable and efficient for them and will enable them to produce writing that is neat, joined and legible, and that they can take pride in. Thank you for your understanding last week - it wasn't ideal starting with a four-day week. We hope you enjoyed the long weekend with the children.

PCR TEST RESULTS

We currently have a few children off school isolating and it is important that you inform us if your child has any Covid-19 symptoms: a new persistent cough, a high temperature or a change in taste or smell. If your child has any of these symptoms whilst at school, we will contact you and ask you to collect them and get a PCR test. Your child must not attend school if they have any of the above symptoms and will only be permitted to return once they receive a negative PCR test result; we will not accept a LFD test result. Other children in the class will continue coming to school unless they also develop any symptoms. We will continue to keep you updated on our current covid measures and urge any parents who have not yet had the vaccine to take this up as soon as possible. While we are enjoying the lack of restrictions, we are ready to put them back in place if needed.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

The school office is open from 8.15am until 4.00pm Monday to Friday during term time. Outside those hours, our phones are disabled and you will not be able to get through. You can send emails out of hours but there is no guarantee they will be looked at until the next working day.

FRIDAYS

Thankfully, we have our Fridays back and we will be open for the full day each Friday. Of course, if the Covid situation deteriorates, we may have to consider the half days coming back... but we hope not. Children should be in school for five full days a week and we are delighted to be able to provide that again. Thank you for your co-operation during our Friday afternoon closures.

FRIDAY CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

We are delighted to be able to invite you to come to our assemblies on Fridays when your child has been chosen as Pupil of the Week. Other than in unusual circumstances, we will let you know on Wednesday afternoon if your child has been chosen. The assembly takes place at 9.05am every Friday in the hall. Currently, we are only having half the school at a time in the hall for assembly with the other classes watching in the classroom, but all the children who are receiving awards will be present. We understand people are busy and it is difficult with two days' notice but please try to send someone along if you can. It does make a big difference to the children to see you there.

CONGESTION

Thank you for your patience at the start of term while we've been getting used to different arrangements at the start and end of the day. Your feedback is always welcome. It seems that the start of the day is running quite smoothly but at the end of the day we did have a couple of issues. We are now opening the Sandy Lane gate when the children leave school; when you come to collect your child, you need to enter via Beeches Road and come to the playground. When you have your child, you have the option of leaving via Sandy Lane or via Beeches Road. This seems to have eased the congestion and made the situation safer for everyone. In Year 5 and 6, if you want children to go home alone, please email Mrs. Liddington: c.liddington@beechesjnr.bham.uk

FIDGET TOYS

There has been an increase in children bringing in fidget spinners and poppers. We recognise that for a minority of children, such items can aid learning, concentration and wellbeing. If you feel that this is the case with your child, please contact your child's teacher or Mr. Ellis to discuss it. Fidget toys should only be brought in with the agreement of the teacher or Mr. Ellis, and if agreement is given, only one, reasonably-sized, quiet item should be brought. Thank you for your co-operation.

HEALTHY SNACK

Please ensure your child has a healthy snack for morning playtime. Please do not send crisps or chocolate as a morning snack. Fruit or a low-sugar cereal bar would be ideal. Thank you for your support.

DIARY DATES

Tue 21 Sept	<i>Professor McGinty visiting Year 4</i>
Thu 7 Oct	<i>Professor McGinty visiting Year 5</i>
Tue 19 Oct & Wed 20 Oct	<i>Parents' Evenings</i>
Mon 25 Oct - Fri 29 Oct	<i>Half Term - School Closed</i>
Mon 8 Nov	<i>Year 5 Diwali assembly</i>
Tue 9 Nov	<i>Photographer in school</i>

BEECHES BRILLIANT READERS

Year 3: Noah (3SP)	Year 4: Eloise (4RW)
Year 5: Max (5SM)	Year 6: Renesmee (6KA)

TEAM POINTS THIS WEEK

1	Team Cadbury (Red)	710
2	Team Zephaniah (Green)	693
3	Team Lewis (Blue)	591
4	Team Malala (Yellow)	580

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

3AL: Kristian	4AP: Lena	5CL: Sahej	6IS: Bahram
3AP: Miller	4KP: Jaipal	5CS: Evan	6KA: Abir
3SP: Hamida	4RW: Alfie	5SM: Dylan	6LA: Arib

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