



LABURNUM

PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

CHALLENGE • ACHIEVE • RESPECT • EFFORT

Beech Class Parent Briefing

**Mrs Johnston – Beech Class
Teacher**

The Beech Class Team

Mrs Johnston



Mrs Robinson



Mrs Ingram



Miss Webb



Communications



- Please contact me in person or on Class Dojo if you have any questions or concerns – we are here to help.
- Class Dojo messages should be sent to me – Mrs Johnston (Teaching Assistants have access, but will not respond to messages).
- Class Dojo – I may not be respond to messages sent outside of the core hours of 8am – 5:30pm until the next working day.
- All issues should be addressed with me initially.
- Issues raised with the school office or a senior leader will usually be passed back to me first.
- Our full Communications Policy is available on our school website.



Curriculum Overview - EYFS

- We have an exciting and full year of learning ahead – full details are available on the school website.
- This term:
 - **Communication and Language:** Daily story and rhymes are embedded in the curriculum. Talking with the children 1:1, in groups or as a whole class is also a daily activity. Listening activities and encouraging listening to each other and developing understanding of what is being said by exploring and explain new concepts, words and phrases.
 - **Physical Development:** As well as the outdoor area, we take the trikes and scooters out onto the main playground in groups for an extended ride around once a week. We will also be using our whole school PE resource very soon so watch out for dojo messages about P.E. kits.
 - Included in PD is the fine motor development of hand and finger muscles that enable children to hold and manipulate pencils, pens, paint etc.
 - **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**
 - We have a daily circle time to talk about a range of emotions, moods and experiences related to feelings, family and me – myself. We also talk about healthy lifestyles including well being.



Curriculum Overview - EYFS

- Literacy: We will be using a range of books to base our literacy activities around. This term we will be using Goldilocks and the Three Bears and No Dinner – The Story of the Old Woman and the pumpkin by Jessica Souhami.
- Mathematics: We will be mainly be exploring numbers to 5 this term and ways of representing it, adding two numbers to make it, or taking amounts away to find it. We also teach subitising (recognising amounts automatically), cardinality (the total number of times in a set) one to one correspondence, (one number for each object) as well as rhymes and games.
- Understanding the World: This area covers geography, history and science. As well as using books to explore these areas, play is integral for children to discover the world around them with adult support and guidance to ask and answer questions, allow discovery and suggest ways of solving problems.
- Expressive Arts and Design: We have already completed our self portraits and children have daily access to art resources and items for creating and designing. This also includes music and we are lucky to have inspiring music to assist us with providing this.



Current Timetable

- This is very flexible and subject change according to the needs of your children and the stage of the year we are in.

AM	9.15 – 9.40	9.40 – 11.00	1100 – 11.35	11.35 – 11.45
Registration and lunches Circle time	Phonics	Continuous provision incl. Snack Adult supported activities	Tidy up/ topic/ story	Prepare for lunch
PM	1.15 – 1.30	1.30 – 2.30	2.30 – 3.00	3.00 – 3.20
Registration	Maths	Continuous provision Adult supported activities	Reading / literacy activity	Story time and home



Phonics and Early Reading

- If you do nothing else with your child, read, read and read again.
- Reading to your child is such a vital activity for numerous valuable reasons: language, listening, imagination, vocabulary development, recall, understanding, sequencing, talking, as well as sharing valuable time with your child.
- Once your child has a book listening to your child read becomes equally important. These books can be used in a variety of ways and do not need to be read in one sitting.



Phonics and Early Reading

- Phonics is the teaching of sounds (phonemes) and letters (graphemes). There will be an additional meeting about this.
- Systematic synthetic phonics is key to teaching children reading and writing. **It provides them with strategies to decode words.**
- We use books from Active Learn (bug club) both hard copy and online.
- Children will begin to match phoneme to grapheme – single grapheme first in Phase 2 and then di-graphs (2 letters making one sound such as ‘ai’ in rain or ‘oa’ on boat).
- Tricky words - common exception words.



Home Learning Expectations Reception

- Children are expected to practise core skills every week:
 - Reading - ideally daily, but at least 5 times a week with an adult.
 - Sound books and words relating to phonics being learnt.



Reading:

- All learning becomes more easily accessible when you read fluently. It allows you to focus on comprehension and taking on board what the information is, whether that be a story, poem, recipe or information.
- EY and KS1 plus less confident readers should be reading daily to an adult to see the most benefit and progress.

TEN AMAZING BENEFITS OF READING BOOKS



- Strengthens your writing skills
- Improves your memory and focus
- Enhances your imagination
- Increases your vocabulary
- Expands your knowledge
- Stimulates your brain
- Boosts your mood
- Deepens empathy
- Helps you relax
- Lowers stress



Statutory Assessment from the DfE

- Reception Baseline Assessment
- Undertaken in the first three weeks of term to assess a 'starting point' for each child.
- 2 aspects to the baseline one related to language and understanding and the other related to maths.



Uniform Expectations: Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2

- All children are expected to wear the correct school uniform:
 - Grey shorts/ trousers/ skirt or pinafore dress
 - White polo shirt - plain or with school logo
 - School jumper or cardigan with school logo
 - Sensible black shoes (not trainers)
 - Grey socks or tights
 - In the Summer Term, navy blue and white checked gingham dresses may be worn
- Sports and PE Kit:
 - School sports shirt (navy and red) with school logo, navy shorts or jogging bottoms, navy socks, plimsolls or trainers. School jumpers, fleeces or plain navy blue jumpers may also be worn on PE days.



Please contact us if you need help – we do have some very good quality second hand uniform available at a very low cost.



PE and Physical Activity

- PE in Reception begins in Autumn 2 – we will let you know when.
- In addition to PE lessons, we expect all children to engage in additional physical activity. This can be in their play, but also through specific activities such as, ‘The Golden Mile,’ which takes place most days and builds fitness and stamina for all children.



Health and Safety

- For safety reasons children should not wear jewellery in school. If your child has pierced ears, then studs only are accepted.
- A child may wear a watch, but the school cannot accept responsibility for it.
- Long hair (shoulder length or longer) should be tied back with red or navy bands.



Food & Drinks (snacks and lunchtimes)

- No nuts or foods containing nuts.
- Healthy Snacks:
 - Provided for all children in N-Y2, but children may also bring their own snack.
 - Not provided Y3-6. Children are encourage to bring their own snack.
 - All snacks must be a piece of raw fruit or vegetable – no other snacks will be permitted.
- Water Bottles:
 - All children should bring a water bottle – this should contain water only.
- Lunch:
 - Reception – Year 2 may have a funded school meal or a packed lunch.
 - Year 3-6 – school meals are no longer funded – consider applying for Free School Meals.
 - Packed lunches should be balanced and healthy and contain no more than one cake/chocolate item.



Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

- Contact Central Bedfordshire Council if you think you might be eligible:

Qualifying benefits to receive free school meals

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children in Year 3 and over are:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

How to apply for free school meals

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call us on **0300 300 8306**. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

**Central
Bedfordshire**



Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

- All children eligible for Free School Meals receive:
 - An individual plan to support learning,
 - Reduced price school visits,
 - Free Milk at morning break (if requested),
 - Free School Lunches,
 - A yearly uniform voucher,
 - Free access to Breakfast Club every day,
 - Reduced price after school clubs,
 - A termly book linked to in-class learning (to keep forever)
 - Additional support in discussion with the Class Teacher and Pupil Premium Lead (Mrs Dawes).



Educational Visits this year:

- Autumn Term: Date – St Albans Cathedral
- Summer Term: Date – Standalone Farm / Safari Stu
- We are hoping to visit the local area including a river walk, a picnic in the Sand hills and Sandy library.

Children eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant (Free School Meals) pay reduced costs for school visits – we want all children to take part, so please contact the school office or your child's class teacher if the cost of a school visit is causing an issue for you.

Payment plans are set up for all residential visits as these are more expensive.

