

Dear Parents and Children,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and wish you all a very warm welcome to Beech Form. This letter highlights key information for the Autumn Term.

Reading at home

Please continue to read daily at home with you child and sign next to the book title in the yellow Reading Record. Do not feel you need to read a whole book each night, it is more important to take a few minutes to discuss the book to see if they have understood what they have read. I will be further developing this comprehension through guided reading, where children can discuss texts in small groups, as well as reading individually with your child. Please ensure your child comes to school with their reading book and reading record every day to enable me to do this.

Homework

Children will be given homework once a week, in addition to their daily reading. This term, children will be given a list of spelling words or sounds to learn on a Friday to be tested the following Friday, allowing you to choose whichever day of the week most convenient to go through these with your child. Children will also be given additional tasks where appropriate to our topics such as 'find out what toys your parents played with when they were your age' or 'count how many different sounds can you hear on the way home' which should only take a few. Please do not spend longer than 20 minutes on any piece of homework.

Fortnightly progress reports

A fortnightly progress report will be sent home every other Friday from 21st September. There are no link books in Beech. If you need to get in touch, see me when dropping off or collecting your child, send a note, or book an appointment for a meeting. I was pleased to see many of you at the parents' tea and look forward to meeting you all this term.

Swimming and PE

Please ensure that children have their swimming kit on Tuesdays. PE lessons will be on Mondays and Thursdays.

Uniform

I appreciate your support in ensuring children are wearing the correct uniform to school every day. Please label all items of your child's uniform, including their PE and swimming kits, coats, bags, hats, lunch boxes, water bottles and glasses cases.

Personal possessions

Children are not encouraged to bring personal possessions into school. All equipment needed for writing and playtimes will be provided. Exceptions are items for show and tell on Tuesday's when it is your child's turn (to be announced), and a named bottle of water.

Year 1 subjects for the Autumn Term

Now that your child is in Year 1, they will be learning curriculum subjects such as history and science rather than broad areas such as 'knowledge and understanding of the world' that they were used to in Reception. They will, however, be making links between subjects through a cross-curricular theme, to make learning more enjoyable and relevant.

What we will be learning in the first half term: 'Ourselves'

- English: Stories with familiar settings, poetry using our five senses, labels and captions.
- Maths: Counting, measuring and handling data
- Science: Ourselves (living things and our five senses)
- French: Greetings, myself, counting, questioning and the world around us
- History: Toys now and in our parents and grandparents time
- Geography: The area around Avenue House School
- Personal, Health and Social Education (PSHE): New Beginnings (rules and feelings)
- Design and Technology (D&T): Eat more fruit and vegetables
- Religious Education (RE): Celebrations
Art: Self portraits and healthy food
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT): What I can use computers for

Your children will also have music and PE lessons.

After Half Term the theme will be 'Ice and Snow'.

Dates for the diary

Parents' evening: 17th October. You will receive a letter asking you to book a slot nearer the time.
Class theatre trip: 16th November. Your help and support would be most welcome.

I look forward to a happy and successful year together in Beech Form.

Miss Jodie Howard