

Tuesday 8th September 2020

Welcome to Year 5 - Beech Class!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and to Year Five! The last few months have been challenging and strange for all of us. While I am sure that there are still many questions, concerns and anxieties around returning to school, I am really excited to begin this 'new' journey at school with the Year Fives. Some things will be a little bit different however, I am confident that the classroom is as safe as possible and that we will still get to do many fun and engaging activities at school.

In Beech Class we will be focusing on **Marvellous Me** this half-term. We will be exploring 'What makes me 'me'?', thinking about our whole being and doing a lot of wellbeing and mindfulness activities that will include some Yoga, outdoor activities and art. For some of the upcoming activities, could you please try to send the following into school, over the course of the next week:



- 1 x small yoghurt pot (washed with soapy water)
- 1 x old pair of tights
- Wool or coloured yarn

(Your child will keep this items in their tray, ready for when we do the activities.)

Please find the Topic Web, outlining what we will be doing in class this half-term, on the school website and on Class Dojo.

Our Topics for the year are:

	Topic	Shared Class Reading Book
Autumn Term, 1 st Half	Marvellous Me	Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf
Autumn Term, 2 nd Half	Vile Victorians	Street Child by Berlie Doherty
Spring Term, 1 st Half	Mayans	Skellig by David Almond
Spring Term, 2 nd Half	Out of this World (Space)	Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Summer Term, 1 st Half	A Voyage of Discovery (Charles Darwin and our environment)	Floodland by Marcus Sedgwick Charles Darwin: Discover the World of Darwin Through the Diary of a Ship's Boy by Alan Gibbons
Summer Term, 2 nd Half	Groovy Greeks	The Adventures of Odysseus by Hugh Lupton, Daniel Morden



Water bottles

Each child needs to bring their own water bottle to school each day. This should be named and should be filled before coming to school. They will take these home each day so that they can be **washed with warm, soapy water**.



Dress warmly

The Year Five classroom is in the mobile. We will be keeping the classroom warm, set to a constant temperature however, we will also be keeping all doors and windows open for good ventilation. This means that the class can get rather chilly at times! Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately each day - a vest underneath their school polo shirt and a jumper. They can take layers off and store these in their tray but we can't provide any spare jumpers.

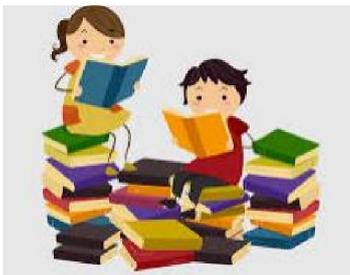
LOtC Kit

We will be going outdoors as much as possible, especially for play and lunchtimes. If it is raining, we will be wrapping up and getting some fresh air. So, please ensure that your child brings their waterproof coat, waterproof trousers, spare socks and wellie boots to school. These must be named and can be left on their coat peg.



P.E.

We will be having P.E. lessons on a **Wednesday**. Beech Class has the hall all day on a Wednesday, allowing us to still access and do many of the REAL P.E. activities, as well as to do indoor P.E. if the weather is not good. *Please send your child into school wearing their P.E. kit as well as a warm tracksuit every Wednesday.* All items of clothing must be named. Also, if your child has lace-up trainers, please ensure that they are able to do up their own laces - we are not allowed to help them with this.



Reading

We will be doing LOTS of reading in Year Five. I will also be using a variety of text types in class: poems, newspaper and magazine articles, online texts as well as a range of fiction and non-fiction books. I would encourage you too, to get your child to read lots of different types of books and other age-appropriate reading materials at home. We constantly encounter signs, forms, names and many other things to read as we go about our day-to-day lives; I would like for the Year Fives to feel like confident readers who can have a go at any reading. With this in mind, we will both read and learn lots of different reading skills throughout the year.

I will be issuing each child two reading books on a Monday - one to take home and one to keep at school. The children will be able to do Accelerated Reader quizzes on a Thursday, when Beech Class has the laptops. Books can be handed in on a Friday, once the book is fully read. (I will then quarantine the books over the weekend, ready for re-issue the following week.)

Can my child read a book they already have at home? I strongly encourage children reading books that you may buy for them or that you have borrowed from the local library. I would also strongly encourage you to please read WITH your child - they are not too old to be read with or to be read to!

Recording Reading: We will be keeping their Reading Records at school and I will be recording their books/reading in them. We would still love for you to record what your child is reading at home and will be using Class Dojo. I have created a Portfolio called 'Reading at home' - post a picture of the book or write a short note and share it with me online.

Homework

Homework is changing, in part. We will not be doing homework in a homework book but, instead, using Class Dojo. The focus for homework will be learning our weekly spellings, practising our times tables and related facts and **READING!** From time to time I will post a suggested task or challenge on Class Dojo and would love for these to be shared online, placing them in the Dojo Portfolio I will create for each task or challenge. Please do support your child with their homework.



I am looking forward to a busy year in Year Five, with lots of focused and engaging learning taking place while still having lots of fun together. If you have **any** questions or are concerned about something, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by either e-mailing (e-mail address below) or by phoning Mrs Cameron-Heffer to arrange a time when I will call you.

Kind regards,

Mrs D. Dafforn

Beech Class Teacher

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