‘Learning, Understanding, Achieving’

’Building secure foundations to inspire happy, healthy and successful lives’

Beighton Nursery Infant School

Newsletter - Spring 1 - February ‘25

Headteacher Message

It’s been a dark and chilly half term but the children have braved the elements for woodland walks and city visits, alike!

They’ve also recruited their Healthy Minds Champions as well as settling back into their routines after the slightly extended by snow, Christmas break.

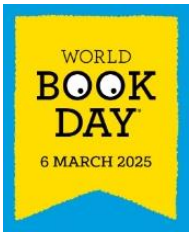
Next half term, planning and rehearsals will get underway for the annual Year 1 spring show – doesn’t time fly!

There will also be Drama Workshops, World Book Day and Science Week to name but a few of our enriching activities, to look forward to.

As you’ve probably already noticed, Easter weekend falls after the ‘Easter’ break so those celebrations will take place week commencing 14th April.

I hope you have a lovely half term holiday and I’ll see you all on Monday 24th February.

Mrs Reid - Headteacher



World Book Day – Thursday 6th March

Today, your child will come home with a £1 book token courtesy of World Book Day.
During week Commencing 3rd March we will be celebrating in all of the following ways:

- **Literacy and Illustration Workshops** - During the week each class will take part in a live event held by a children's author. Pupils will enjoy an array of wonderful authors and illustrators hosting 30-minute events, including ‘draw-a-longs’ and writing workshops.
- As part of our reading for pleasure project our Y2 children will join an event with other Sheffield schools with the **Author and Poet Joseph Coelho**.
- **Dress as a Book Character/Pyjama Day** - On Thursday 6th March, children and staff are invited to come to school either dressed as their favourite book character (and bring along the accompanying book) or wearing their pyjamas (and bring their favourite bedtime story). *A £1 donation to take part will go towards developing reading across school – please visit the School Gateway to submit your donation online.*
- **Story Time Teacher Swap** - On Thursday 6th March, teachers will all swap classes to share their favourite story with a different class.
- **The Masked Reader** - Throughout the week, children will listen to stories from some very interesting characters. I wonder if they will be able to work out who these people are before they remove their masks!

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium money is paid to school for six years from registration and is a vital source of support for parents and schools.

If your household income *ever* falls below £16,190 you can make an application for Free School Meals which if eligible, in turn entitles your child to Pupil Premium. You can either contact the school office or apply through the Sheffield City Council Website at the following link:

https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/utilities/form/schools-and-childcare/free-school-meals-start

This year's benefits include:

· Funded Learning Resource Packs
· Visits and enrichment experiences
· Extra curricular clubs
· Children's University passport and enrolment
· Free milk

Safeguarding Spot

In 2020 the DFE amended their definition of safeguarding to include mental health, adding the new line;

Safeguarding is**…'preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development'**

More attention was focused upon children's mental health and well-being, with more guidance and training introduced to support school staff to identify those children whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.
Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.
Our curriculum is very focused on educating our pupils in this area, raising awareness early, helping children to understand and articulate their emotions, as well as the strategies that can be used to support and improve our mental health.

Healthy Minds Champions

Many congratulations to this year's Healthy Minds Champions who were elected in January.
It took time and effort to put together their applications so we hope they enjoy their new role.

Children's Mental Health Week – 3rd to 7th February

We completed various fun activities throughout the week, linked to the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'.
The Healthy Mind Champions did a great job delivering the assembly with Miss Challoner.

Antisocial Parking and driving

We continue to hear from local residents about incidents of irresponsible parking and driving around school.

In addition, we have been contacted by the Lifestyle Centre with an issue that they say is ongoing but has recently come to a head.

The parent of a child who attends our school parked in their carpark and verbally abused and intimidated, one of their customers - the whole incident was captured on CCTV.

The Lifestyle Centre politely asks that parents refrain from using their carpark during school drop off/pick up and thank you for your understanding on this matter.

As ever, our advice remains that you report these incidents to those who can deal with them and hopefully improve the situation:

- **Illegal parking** - Sheffield Parking Services on **2736255**
- **Obstructions or dangerous incidents** - The Police on **101**

Governor's Spot

I thought it would be useful to share what Governors are focused on at the moment for wider context.

Funding

Given the decline in birth rate, the numbers of children coming through schools in Sheffield, and wider, is much lower than we have seen in recent years; they have declined over the last year or two and are predicted to remain low for the next few years.

Given the funding model, this places enormous pressure on the budget. The Governing Board are looking at how we can manage the school budget but ensure we have the right staffing levels to ensure we continue to offer the secure, nurturing environment we expect for our children. We're also aware of the pressure staffing reduction places on our teachers and their wellbeing remains a key focus.

New Roof

We continue to support the school in the planned works to repair our roof. This has been on the list for replacement with the council since before I joined the board, 8 years or so ago.

We are hoping that work will commence this year and at this stage envisage that it will take a minimum of around 6 months.

Unfortunately, there will inevitably be some disruption to classroom use during this period. The disruption will be planned for and kept to an absolute minimum. All arrangements will be communicated once we have received the plan of works from the supplier.

Communication

Positive engagement between the school and parents is also something we care very much about. There are a minority of communications between parents, residents and staff that are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Whether it be parking issues, where a minority of parents disrupt local residents and potentially put our children at risk, or short-term closures to school that are outside the school's control, please be mindful of how you engage with the school.

In the vast majority of cases, the sense of collaboration and courtesy is really strong. Please be polite when raising concerns and frustrations - which we understand there will be on occasions - and do so in line with our code of behaviour.

Availability

Governors are happy to engage with parents on any matter where normal channels of communication fall down.

You can contact us by email:

murrayl@beighton.sheffield.sch.uk

Liam Murray – Chair

Y1 City Trip

Back in January, the Y1s enjoyed visiting Sheffield City Centre, as part of their learning in Geography. The highlight for most children was the tram ride - especially for the children experiencing a tram for the first time! The children have used their first-hand knowledge from their learning about London and their understanding of what makes a city. They have also learnt about key landmarks in Sheffield such as the Cathedral, the Town Hall and the Winter Gardens.

Y2 Thackray Medical Museum Trip

This week, the Y2 children had a wonderful time immersing themselves in the past at the Thackray Medical Museum. Thank goodness for the NHS!

Rolling Acres Park
LOVE YOUR PARK
COME AND HELP US TIDY OUR PARK WITH YOUR FRIENDS
MAINTAINING OUR WOODLAND WALK
FEED THE BIRDS
FREE REFRESHMENTS FOR ANYONE WHO HELPS
NEW WOODCHIP IN OUR WOODLAND
TRIMMING TREES
CUTTING DOWN BRANCHES
LITTER PICKING
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TOOLS!
WEDNESDAY 19TH FEB
10-2PM
SOTHALL S20 2QB

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