

Beeches Infant and Junior Schools

Weekly Newsletter



16th January 2026

Issue 2

Beeches Road, Birmingham B42 2PY | Infant Telephone: (0121) 360 4222 | Junior Telephone: (0121) 272 5888

BEECHES BUSY KIDS CLUB

The junior school's before-and-after-school club, Beeches Busy Kids Club, is expanding and will welcome children from the infant school from Monday 19th January. There is a lot of information around this available on the infant school's ClassDojo feed. Sessions are charged at £5.50 for the morning and £11 for the afternoon, and childcare vouchers are accepted. If you have any queries about this, please contact the junior school on the phone number above or by email: enquiry@beechesjnr.bham.sch.uk

We have been informed that Inspired Children's Club will cease to operate at the infant school after today (16th January).

We understand that the situation has been challenging for families and hope that this new offer will bring about some peace of mind for the future.

BOOK FAIR

The junior school will be hosting the book fair from Monday 9th to Thursday 12th February after school. It will be open after school each day for about 20 minutes and throughout both junior parents' evenings (Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th February.) The book fair will be cashless - we will be taking card payments only.

Infant school families are very welcome to attend but please note that the books may not be suitable for your child's stage of reading development. The books are likely to be aimed at children in Years 2 to 6.

RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

The junior school has signed up to the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch 2026! This is a national survey in which the children will look at and attempt to identify different birds that visit our school. You can take part at home over the weekend of 23rd-25th January - click here for more information: <https://www.rspb.org.uk>

YEAR 3 WORKSHOP

Last week's newsletter stated that Year 3 will have a parent workshop on Thursday 22nd January. This was incorrect - we apologise for any inconvenience. The next Year 3 workshop will be on Thursday 26th February at 9.00am.

Following Year 5's workshop this week, there are lots more coming up, all at 9.00am:

Thursday 26th February: Year 3

Thursday 5th March: Year 4

Tuesday 17th March: Whales

Wednesday 18th March: Seals

Thursday 19th March: Dolphins

ONLINE SAFETY

Yesterday, the junior school published a letter on ClassDojo regarding online safety. The letter is attached to this newsletter. This is a really important and growing issue, and the response we usually get from parents and carers when issues arise is shock and surprise - there is a lot of naivety about online dangers.

Anything your child does on a device with a connection to the Internet poses dangers to them.

For example, many very innocent-seeming games have chat functions, and that is where we are seeing a lot of the issues that are coming up among our children.

Please monitor your child's online activity closely and please don't assume that your child couldn't be involved, either as a victim or perpetrator.

We are here to support you. We are hoping to organise a parent workshop in the coming weeks with our friends at Compass. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please come and talk to us.

OH NO THEY DIDN'T!

Regrettably, the Snow White pantomime scheduled for this Tuesday had to be postponed due to ill-health among the Funtime Theatre team. They have rescheduled and will be performing for us on the afternoon of Tuesday 3rd February.

FUNDRAISING FOR THEATRE VISIT

On 2nd December 2026, Years 2 to 6 (current Years 1 to 5) will be visiting the theatre to watch Peter Pan. We are aiming to pay for every child's ticket through fundraising opportunities and may need to ask for contributions towards travel. This means we need to raise around £10,000, of which we have already raised £3,555. There will be further fundraising opportunities. If you have any suggestions as to how we could raise the funds, email Mrs Flint: I.flint@beechesjnr.bham.sch.uk.

WEAR RED FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

On Friday 13th February, in both schools, pupils can come to school wearing red or heart patterned clothing for Valentine's day. This is to help raise funds for the Peter Pan trip in December 2026. If your child wishes to come to school in red, please make a contribution of at least £1. Cash donations will be collected on the day (Junior parents can also pay via SchoolMoney).

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

If you have a secondary school child who comes to collect their younger siblings from our school, please ensure they are aware of the expectations of their conduct on our site. In particular, make sure they wait on the junior playground and not immediately outside the classrooms.

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INFANT SCHOOL

STARS OF THE WEEK

For 'Being Enthusiastic'

Crocodiles: Anaya Dolphins: Sadie
Monkeys: Christian Seals: Zephan
Tigers: Aizah Whales: Vaani
Owls: Freddie
Parrots: Umaymah
Penguins: Amelia

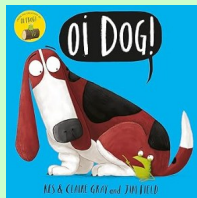
GOLDEN CHILD OF THE WEEK

For Good Behaviour

Crocodiles: Jace Dolphins: Phoebe
Monkeys: Jackson Seals: Alayna
Tigers: Leon Whales: Sulaymaan
Owls: Ali
Parrots: Isla
Penguins: Esa

BOOK OF THE WEEK

"Oi Dog!" by Kes & Claire Gray and Jim Field, chosen by Owls



DIARY DATES

Tue 3 Feb, 2.00pm	Snow White Pantomime in school
Fri 6 Feb	Number Day
Fri 13 Feb	Wear red for Valentine's Day
Fri 13 Feb	Break up for half term
Mon 23 Feb	School reopens
Thu 5 Mar	World Book Day
Tue 17 Mar, 9.00am	Whales maths parent workshop
Wed 18 Mar, 9.00am	Seals maths parent workshop
Thu 19 Mar, 9.00am	Dolphins maths parent workshop
Fri 20 Mar	Comic Relief
Wed 25 Mar, 2.00pm	Year 1 Easter production
Fri 27 Mar	Last day of term
Mon 13 Apr	Start of summer term
Thu 21 May	Teacher Day - school closed
Fri 22 May	Teacher Day - school closed

JUNIOR SCHOOL

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

3KP: Faizan 5C: Arta
3L: Sofia 5L: Cody
3SP: Amara 5W: Ripley
4A: Umar 6M: Anah
4F: Joseph 6P: Mohammed
4S: Jackson 6S: Zaki

TEAM POINTS

1. Team Cadbury 469
2. Team Zephaniah 399
3. Team Malala 393
4. Team Lewis 363

DIARY DATES

Mon 19 - Fri 23 Jan	Year 5 Bike Right
Tue 27 Jan	Year 6 visiting Fortis Academy
Thu 29 Jan	Year 4 Buddhism visitor
Fri 30 Jan	Year 5 visiting Fortis Academy
Fri 6 Feb	Number Day
Mon 9 - Thu 12 Feb	Book Fair in school
Tue 10 & Wed 11 Feb	Parents' evenings
Fri 13 Feb	Wear red for Valentine's Day
Fri 13 Feb	Break up for half term
Mon 23 Feb	School reopens
Thu 26 Feb	Year 3 parent workshop
Thu 5 Mar	Year 4 parent workshop
Thu 12 & Fri 13 Mar	Year 4 residential visit to Woodlands
Fri 20 Mar	Comic Relief
Mon 23 Mar	Year 5 visit to Space Centre
Fri 27 Mar	Last day of term
Mon 13 Apr	Start of summer term
Thu 21 May	Teacher Day - school closed
Fri 22 May	Teacher Day - school closed

Beeches Junior School

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Tel: (0121) 272 5888
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Co-Headteacher: Mr Mike Smart
Co-Headteacher: Mrs Lara Flint
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Steve Ellis
Chair of Governors: Mr Andrew Thorp



15th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are having recurring issues regarding inappropriate online behaviour between some of our children. This has particularly flared among children in Year 5 recently but we have seen similar issues across the school.

These issues are distressing and potentially damaging for children. They are also taking up a significant amount of time in school: in the last week, we have reviewed 83 screenshots and four lengthy recordings, held four parent/carer meetings and exchanged numerous emails and ClassDojo messages. While we are happy to give our time to supporting families with difficulties, this is not sustainable for our team and it is detracting from the work we are able to do with children in school.

The most effective way to prevent these kinds of issues is by monitoring and responding appropriately to your child's online activities when they are at home. If you are concerned about preserving your child's privacy, or if they get upset with you and tell you that no-one else's parents look at what they're doing online, we know it can be difficult. There is definitely a point at which parents and carers need to start to let go of some of the control and that will be different for different children – but it should not be while they are of primary school age. **All primary-age children should have all their online activity closely monitored.**

Unkind behaviour online refers to actions or messages on the internet that are hurtful, disrespectful or harmful to others. It can range from subtle negativity to significant abuse.

If your child is experiencing any of these behaviours, please encourage them to do the following:

- Don't engage with unkind actions - it often fuels the issue;
- Use **block, mute, and report** tools;
- Save evidence if behaviour is serious;
- Seek support from a trusted adult;
- Be kind and model respectful behaviour.

In the coming weeks, we will be providing additional PSHE lessons to help with this issue and we are hoping to arrange an online safety workshop for parents to attend. We will also help as best we can when situations occur and support you with implementing the above strategies, but we can only support with finding the solution – we cannot monitor what your child is doing outside school hours.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please speak to Mrs Liddington, Mr Smith or your child's teacher. A useful advice sheet is on the next page of this letter.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Smart
Headteacher



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

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