



Newsletter Issue no.6 - 15th December 2023



@beecholme



@BeecholmeSchool

Head of School Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

This will be my last newsletter for this academic year and WOW, how quickly has that term gone! I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term as your Head of School, and I want to take this opportunity to thank all the children and families for making me feel so welcome. I am extremely excited to see what the new year brings and how we can continue to make the school a wonderful place for our children. This is a gentle reminder for all our parents to complete the parent survey that was recently sent out - it should only take a short time and gives you the opportunity to have your voice.

<https://forms.gle/bJNXvdZCpSQpGkE98>

Hopefully, like me, you are feeling very festive and jolly after all of the wonderful performances that we have been able to share over the last couple of weeks. I would like to personally thank all the staff and parents who have contributed, but most importantly the children for their hard work. The singing, dancing and acting was outstanding. I think we have some future stars among us!

The winter fair was a complete success, and we raised approximately £1,000 which is going towards the outside areas at Beecholme; including a new outside provision for our Reception and Nursery children and completing some crucial works in the pond area to ensure this can be enjoyed by all the children. Everyone involved had a wonderful time making cakes, playing games and even visiting Santa. If you paid for a ticket for Santa but didn't manage your visit, then your child's gift will be coming home in their book bag this week. Thank you once again for all our wonderful staff and parents who helped bring it all together.

On Monday we have Motion Dance visiting our school to promote their new street dance and yoga clubs to the children. Some of the feedback we have received from the parents' survey is the opportunity for more expert after school clubs which we are hoping to be able to provide. This has been communicated to parents previously but if you do wish to sign your children up for either of these clubs then please use the link below.

[Beecholme Primary School \(Mon 8th Jan 2024 - Tue 19th Mar 2024\) | Motion Dance | Powered by ClassForKids](#)

In January we will start the year as we mean to go on in terms of uniform. Children should come into school in the correct uniform and should bring their PE kit in separately for PE days only. As part of this ongoing uniform drive, we have started to notice children not bringing in their book bags or rucksacks. It's important the children do have a book bag or rucksack as they will need it to be able to bring things to and from school, including letters, homework and reading books. Please make sure your child has one ready for January.

Next week is the last week of term and this is a gentle reminder that we break for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 21st December at 1.45pm, please note Afternoon Little Acorns does not run on this day. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 9th January as Monday 8th January is a staff training day.

Please also remember the deadline for Reception places for September 2024 is 15th January - we look forward to seeing lots of our Nursery families apply.

I hope everyone has a restful break and a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Kind regards,

Mrs Hayley Lewis

Head of School



Final Week of term activities



Christmas Party

On Monday 18th December your children will each bring home an empty paper plate for them to fill with goodies for the Christmas parties on Wednesday 20th December. This plate is just for your child to consume so you can choose to fill it with snacks of your choice. Of course, we welcome fruit, veg, sandwiches, crisps and biscuits. Please remember we are a nut free school so no treats that contain nuts. Your children can also bring in a special drink for the party – no cans, fizzy drinks or glass bottles please. On Wednesday we welcome children to wear their own clothes or their party outfits!

Winter Disco

On Tuesday 19th December we will be holding our annual Winter disco. EYFS/KS1 will be held at 3pm-4.30pm and KS2 4.40pm-6pm. For those children in EYFS and KS1 they can bring their disco clothes to school to get changed into at the end of the day. *Please pay for your disco ticket on ParentPay before the event. The children will each get a bag of crisps, drink and a glow stick on the night.*

Attendance at Beecholme

At Beecholme we strive for the best education for all the children and to ensure this is happening, we need to ensure the children are in school EVERYDAY – unless there are situations like being unwell meaning they can't come to school.



I am sure you have all identified the current drive for attendance, including our whole school attendance letter and attendance letters for those dropping below 96% which is our whole school target. We will continue to do this and to monitor the children's attendance to ensure we are in line with or above national averages. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance, then please do speak to someone at school about it.

Please support us, to support YOUR children in having the education they deserve.

To promote attendance, I will be sharing the attendance figures with you each week. We will share the attendance figures for each class and share which class have won our Beecholme Bears – Bobby and Polly, and in addition which children will receive extra playtime for their good attendance in school. If you could share this with your children, as we do in assembly time, to promote each classes attendance this will be most helpful.

Week beginning 11/11/23

Reception - 89.6%

Year 1 – 95.4%

Year 2 – 93.6%

Year 3 – 93.7%

Year 4 – 95.8%

Year 5 – 97.7%

Year 6 – 95.8%



And the winner with the best attendance this week is: Year 5

Curriculum Update

What an exciting term we have had at Beecholme! It has been filled with school trips and visits, including theatre shows, museums and workshops and a book festival. Children have created some fantastic art projects, including a new whole-school installation which you may have spotted in our school hall. From Science fairs and world food tastings, to Windrush week and the Christmas trail, our pupils have certainly been busy.

Spring term has plenty more excitement and lots of new learning to bring including food technology week (look out for an email detailing what your child will need to bring), Children's Mental Health Week and some exciting STEM challenges. Keep up-to-date with all that is happening via your child's class blog.

Club letters will be going home next week and the first clubs of the new term will begin on Monday 15th January.



Open Days - Mrs Lewis

At Beecholme Primary School we are excited to announce our open mornings and tours for prospective parents and children for September 2024. Please speak to your family and friends and tell them we are looking forward to welcoming them face to face on the dates below. If they wish to attend a school tour, then please contact the school office: 0208 640 4795.

Tour times and dates:

Open Day and Tour:

Monday 18th December 2023 at 9:30am

Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 9:30am

If these dates are not suitable then please call the school office or email to discuss a different time to visit.



How can I deal with an autistic meltdown?

Autistic meltdowns are a response to the mind or body feeling overwhelmed. They may appear to happen without warning.

All children have meltdowns, but if you have an autistic child these may be stronger and more frequent. Your child may also need more recovery time. Some of the usual calming strategies may not be effective. Learning about what causes your child's meltdowns and how to calm them can help you to support your child.

Meltdowns are different to tantrums, which are a response to a child not being able to do what they want.

How you can help

Help your child find a safe space. They won't be capable of listening, so don't try to reason with them. Talking about what's happened can come later once they've calmed down.

Stay calm and close at hand during the meltdown. Some children like to have their back stroked. Others may not want to be touched but need to know you're close. If your child isn't too upset, you could offer a distracting game, toy or task. At other times you may just need to ensure they're safe, then let them release whatever they're feeling.

Having a meltdown can be exhausting. Let your child calm down before speaking to them and offering them some water or a healthy snack.

Coping skills

Get to know which situations trigger your child's meltdowns. Then reduce or remove the triggers you can control. For example, avoid crowded markets and shop at quieter times. You can also:

- Get your child in the habit of talking about feelings.
- Let them see the positive ways you handle stressful emotions.
- Pick a 'frustration signal' your child can use to show when they're feeling overwhelmed.
- Find some calm-down routines, like deep breaths, clapping patterns or counting to 10.
- Practise calm-down routines while your child is feeling calm and secure.

Important Dates for the new term



Tuesday 19 th December	Winter Disco (EYFS and KS1 3.15/KS2 4.45)
Thursday 21 st December	Last day of term 1.45 finish
Tuesday 9 th January	First day back for pupils
Monday 15 th January	Deadline for application for Reception places Food technology week
Friday 2 nd February	Parents evening sheets to go up
Monday 5 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 8 th February	Parents Evening
Monday 12 th - Friday 16 th February	Half term holiday
Monday 19 th February	Back to school