Newsletter Issue no.1 – October 9th 2026

@beecholmeprimaryschool

Headteacher Update



I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Firstly, I would like to apologise that our first newsletter of the academic year has arrived a little later than usual. It has been an exceptionally busy start to the term as we have worked hard to settle into the new year, support our new caretaker, and ensure that the health and safety of our school site remains a priority.

Our start to the year was significantly impacted by a flood caused by a burst pipe in one of the boys' toilets. Thankfully, we are working closely with our insurance company to assess the damage and plan the necessary repairs. While this has presented some challenges, I would like to thank our staff, children and families for their patience and support.

Despite this unexpected setback, we have had a fantastic start to the year. The children have returned to school ready to learn and have settled quickly into their new classrooms and routines. We are particularly pleased with how well the children in our newly merged classes have adapted, making new friendships and embracing the opportunities their new classes provide.

Our staff began the year with training that focused on the importance of names and ensuring that we pronounce one another's names correctly. This links closely to our values of respect, belonging and inclusion. I was especially pleased to see in our recent parent survey that many families recognised how well staff know the children. Knowing our pupils as individuals and making them feel valued is something we are incredibly proud of at Beecholme.

As a staff team, we have certainly hit the ground running. Leaders have already spent considerable time in classrooms, working alongside teachers, moderating learning and supporting the quality of teaching across the school. We are delighted with the high standards we have seen so far and look forward to building on this throughout the year.

Our pupil steering group has now been selected and has already met to begin discussing its priorities for the year ahead. We are excited to see the positive difference our pupil leaders will make to the school community.

A reminder that our red and orange card system will continue this year, and notifications will be shared with parents through the Arbor Parent Portal.

As incidents can occur at different times throughout the school day, red and orange cards may not always be added to Arbor immediately and could appear at varying times during the day. Please note that class teachers are unable to discuss incidents during teaching time, as they are

committed to supporting the learning and wellbeing of all pupils. If you have any questions regarding a red or orange card, please wait until the end of the school day to speak with your child's class teacher. In the event of a more serious incident that requires immediate communication, a member of staff will contact you directly by telephone. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a positive and productive learning environment for all children.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has already completed our parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable and helps us to continue improving the school. I have shared some of the key findings within this newsletter, and the survey will remain open for another week to ensure all families have the opportunity to have their voice heard.

Welcome to this bumper first edition of our newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful start we have made to the new academic year.

Thank you Mrs Lewis

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 2026. 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.

- Friday 16th October at 9:30am
- Monday 2nd November at 9am
- Thursday 26th November 26th 9:30am
- Monday 7th December at 2:30pm

Harvest Festival



This term, we came together as a school to celebrate Harvest Festival. During a special whole-school assembly, the children learned about the meaning of Harvest Festival and discussed why it is important to support those who may need extra help within our community.

The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the celebration. We sang a range of harvest songs together, and pupils in Years 3 and 4 shared their creativity by writing and performing wonderful harvest-themed poems.

As part of our Harvest Festival, we have been collecting donations for Tooting Community Kitchen, who will use these contributions to support people in our local community who are experiencing hardship. We are incredibly proud of the kindness and generosity shown by our children and families. A huge thank you to everyone who donated. Your support will make a real difference to those in need and reflects the caring values of our school community.

Curriculum Update Autumn Term 1

We have made an exciting start to the new academic year, with children's rights and the theme of children as change-makers at the heart of learning across the school. Pupils have explored the inspiring book Children Who Changed the World by Marcia Williams, learning about young people who have made a positive difference in their communities and beyond. This work supports our continued commitment to embedding children's rights throughout school life as we work towards the Gold Rights Respecting School Award.

A highlight of the term so far has been the election of our newly formed Change Makers. Children nominated themselves for positions on our Rights Respecting Steering Group and confidently presented their ideas to classmates before taking part in a democratic vote. We transformed a classroom into Beecholmes very own voting station, giving pupils a real-life experience of democracy. Representatives from each class were elected and proudly received their badges during assembly. We look forward to seeing the positive changes they help bring about across the school community.

Alongside the election of our Change Makers, pupils also nominated themselves to become House Captains. Children shared why they felt they would be strong leaders and role models before taking part in a whole-school democratic vote. We are delighted to announce that our newly elected House Captains are now proudly wearing their badges. We look forward to seeing them develop their leadership skills and make a positive contribution to school life throughout the year.
Our focus on identity and belonging has also been a key part of learning this half term. Children completed a homework project exploring the meaning, history and significance of their names. We were delighted by the wonderful response from families, and some of the completed projects now form a vibrant display celebrating the diverse cultures, identities and stories that make up our school community.

On Friday 3rd October, we came together for a special Harvest Assembly, where children learned about the importance of harvest time and how communities can support one another through acts of generosity and kindness. Pupils had the opportunity to see the wonderful donations collected from across our school community and reflected on how these contributions will help those in need. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all families for their generous donations and support.

Children have already enjoyed a wide range of learning experiences this half term, including learning in Computing, Science and Religious Education. October also marks the beginning of Black History Month, when children will learn about the achievements, contributions and experiences of Black individuals and communities throughout history and in the present day. During our History block, each class will be learning about a significant individual who has made a lasting impact on the world. We have selected people from a wide range of backgrounds, countries, careers and experiences. These include individuals who have made important contributions in areas such as science, sport, music, the arts, entertainment and the military. We have also included representation of neurodiversity, helping children to recognise that people think, learn and experience the world in different ways. Our aim is for children across Years 1–6 to learn about a diverse range of Black role models and to explore not only their achievements, but also their journeys, challenges, resilience and the positive impact they have had on others. Through this learning, children will have opportunities to discuss themes such as identity, belonging, equality, perseverance, courage and inclusion in an age-appropriate way.
This year, classes will be learning about:

- **Early Years: Notting Hill Carnival -** Caribbean culture through music, dance, art, costume and food
- **Years 1 and 2: Bob Marley** – Jamaican musician, singer and songwriter
- **Year 3: Mae Jemison** – American engineer, physician and the first Black woman to travel into space

- **Year 4: Muhammad Ali** – American boxer, activist and humanitarian, who is believed to have had dyslexia

- **Year 5: Lilian Bader** – One of the first Black women to serve in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War

- **Year 6: Trevor Noah** – South African comedian, author and television presenter who has spoken openly about living with ADHD

As part of our commitment to promoting equality, inclusion and respect, we will also be taking part in Wear Red Day on Friday 16th October. This day provides an opportunity for us to stand together against racism and celebrate the diverse community we are proud to be part of.
Children are invited to come to school wearing **something red** to show their support.

Our enrichment programme is already thriving, with pupils enjoying a wide range of clubs including Sports Club, Board Game Club, Singing Club, Dance Club and Sketching Club. It has been wonderful to hear pupils performing songs at Singing Club and to see so many children engaging enthusiastically in extracurricular activities. We are also delighted that some pupils have begun piano lessons, and Rocksteady will soon be visiting to introduce children to opportunities within the school band programme. In addition, the whole school will soon be learning a children's rights-themed song. A few trips have already happened and there are many more being planned for across the year.

SEND Update

Merton mencap
Talk Autism

Talk Autism is a forum for parents and carers
of children, young people and adults with autism in Merton

Social Prescriber Merton
- a local organisation supporting families

Date
Monday 12 October 2026, 10am – 12pm

Location
Church Road Children Centre
243 Church Road, Mitcham
CR4 3BH

Details
A social prescriber is a professional who connects individuals to community activities, groups, and services that enhance their health and welfare.

We will be joined by Harriet Robinson, Social Prescribing, who will inform us about their service. This session is appropriate for parents of a child, young person & adult with autism.

The session will include details about

- **Their Team:** 12 Social Prescribers across all 21 GP practices in Merton
- **How they help patients:** Explore social factors affecting their health and wellbeing, connect families with local services and community support
- **How to access their service:** Through your GP practice
- **The sessions the provide:** Up to **6 sessions**, around **1 hour each**
- Time and space to be listened to and find the right support

Kelly will also explain in more detail what social prescribers can support with, she will also provide more details on their services and talk through their leaflets

Book your place NOW!
Book you place at this free session by phoning or emailing Maria Solari, Talk Autism Manager, or by booking online at Eventbrite

By email: maps.coordinator@mertonmencap.org.uk
Phone: 07709 715206
Via Eventbrite: Https://bit.ly/MertonMencapEvents

eventbrite

Parent Survey

A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent Parent Survey. Your feedback is incredibly important to us and plays a vital role in helping us to continue improving Beecholme. Parent voice is a key part of our decision-making process, ensuring that we listen carefully to our community and take meaningful action to make our school the very best it can be for all children.

We were delighted that the survey responses were overwhelmingly positive. It was wonderful to see that children are happy at Beecholme, with one parent commenting that "the staff are friendly, the senior leaders are actively involved in the school community, and my child is exceptionally happy at the school."

The survey also showed that children feel safe, valued and that they belong at Beecholme. Parents told us that they feel we teach children how to behave positively and respectfully, while also supporting their wellbeing. Most importantly, many of you said that you would recommend Beecholme to your family and friends, which is something we are incredibly proud of.

Thank you for your continued support, honesty and partnership. By sharing your views, you help us celebrate what is working well while identifying areas where we can continue to grow and improve. Together, we can ensure that Beecholme remains a happy, safe and successful place for every child.

There is still time to complete the survey. See the link below:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/0ytL68FTCx?origin=lprLink

As with any worthwhile parent survey, it is important for us not only to celebrate what is working well, but also to listen carefully to where you feel we can improve. Your feedback helps us to reflect on our practice, identify priorities, and continue to develop the school for all children and families. Below, we have highlighted some of the areas you identified as opportunities for improvement, along with the actions we are taking to address them and further strengthen the provision at Beecholme.

What we could do better at:	**What we will continue/plan to do to make this better at Beecholme:**
A small number of parents expressed uncertainty about whether the school has consistently high expectations for all pupils and whether their child is making good progress in their learning.	• Deliver year group and curriculum workshops for parents, providing a clear understanding of age-related expectations, learning outcomes and how children are challenged to achieve their full potential. • Hold SATs information sessions for parents, outlining assessment requirements, expected standards and the support in place to help pupils achieve success in statutory assessments. • Continue effective communication during parents' evenings by sharing individual targets, next steps in learning and clear information about pupils' progress towards age-related and greater depth expectations. • Introduce new termly curriculum newsletters that outline key learning

	for each year group, highlight opportunities for challenge and greater depth, and explain how ambitious outcomes are promoted across the curriculum. • Include a focus for reaching greater depth standard on our school improvement plan to support the knowledge and understanding in this area for staff.
A small proportion of parents were uncertain about their child's understanding of their rights and their ability to have their voice heard within the school.	• To address this feedback, the school will deliver a Rights Respecting Schools workshop for parents to increase awareness of our rights journey and provide a deeper understanding of how children's rights are embedded throughout the curriculum, school culture and daily practice. This will help parents to better understand how pupils learn about their rights, develop their voice, and contribute to the school community. This meeting will be held on Monday 19th October 2026.

Important Dates



Tuesday 13th October 2026	Individual Photo
Wednesday 14th October 2026	Rocksteady Assembly
Friday 16th October 2026	Wear Red day Open morning at 9.30am
Monday 19th October 2026	Rights Respecting Parent Meeting
Tuesday 20th October 2026	CO2 Safety Workshop
Wednesday 21st October 2026	9.30am – 11.30am Parent SEND Event at New Valley Primary School or on Teams (please see the letter for the Teams link) CO2 Safety Workshop Movie Night at School
Thursday 22nd October 2026	INSET day – no pupils in school
Friday 23rd October 2026	INSET day – no pupils in school
Monday 26th October 2025 - Friday 30th October 2026	Half Term
Monday 2nd November 2026	Open morning at 9am
Monday 9th November 2026	3.30-5.30pm Parents' Evening
Tuesday 10th November 2026	Years 5 and 6 cinema trip 3.30-6.30pm Parents' Evening
Wednesday 11th November 2026	Year 6 Armistice Day Ceremony Years 1 and 2 cinema trip
Friday 20th November 2026	World Children's Day
Thursday 26th November 2026	Opening morning at 9.30am
Wednesday 25th November 2026	Years 3 and 4 cinema trip
Friday 27th November	Flu Programme in School
Monday 7th December	Year 3 visiting the library Open afternoon at 2.30pm
Tuesday 8th December 2026	Winter Disco 3.15 - 4.30pm
Monday 14th December 2026	EYFS and Year 1/2 Nativity Performance 9am and 2pm
Tuesday 15th December 2026	KS2 Christmas Singing Performance 9am and 2pm
Thursday 17th December 2026	Winter Fair