Beech Class Autumn 2025

Through Faith and Nurture, We Thrive
'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10
Be Loving
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Positive
Be You

English

The class books for this term are 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl to complement our themes of adventure and 'Plants'; this is supplemented by Marcia William's 'Ancient Egypt – Tales of Gods and Pharaohs' for non-fiction reading. Initially, the writing will focus on letter writing, when the children will use the models found in the story of 'The Gardener' by Sarah Stewart. We will then be teaching the children how to enhance characterisation and narrative writing based on the story 'Cinderella of the Nile'. Our first poetry unit will see the children writing poems about Autumn and Winter using personification and similes. After half term they venture 'Inside the Pyramid' for exciting adventure writing. Our instructional writing will link with DT when they are constructing their shadufs. The final poetry section will focus on the poem 'A Night Before Christmas' and a lovely retelling of 'A Christmas Carol' by Tony Mitten. Each week on a Friday, the children will investigate a spelling rule to apply to their writing in class and it is taught each morning when we learn rules and practice words sight words. We also focus on handwriting, especially in Year 3, where we encourage children to focus on using continuous cursive letter formation.

Religious Education

This term will start with a philosophy enquiry asking 'What do we mean by truth? Is seeing believing?' The children will compare beliefs in different religions such as Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. They will learn about the difference between knowledge, belief and opinion and the complex nature of concepts such as truth and reality. They will have debates about and begin to use philosophical language. They will then go into depth focusing on Sikhism and their beliefs God as Supreme Truth, Ultimate reality and Sustainer of all things. The second half of the term will be spent on a Christian enquiry, 'What s the most significant part of the nativity story for Christians today?' The children will look at the symbolism in Christianity and the story itself as well as exploring the concept of 'The Trinity' in more depth. They will then design their own gifts for the world, to make it a better place.

History/Geography – Ancient Egypt

This term we will start by looking at Egypt as a country and investigating it's ancient history. We will do this using artefacts from Saffron Walden Museum., books and other research techniques The children will study aspects such as: Egyptian life, society, pyramids, pharaohs and myths. They will learn about the different growing seasons, understand the problems of building a pyramid and how to make a mummy. Later in the term, they will debate issues such as the right of archeologists to enter tombs and remove their treasures. The topic is part of most of our subjects, including songs about mummification in Music, shadufs in DT, reading about the Gods and Pharaohs.

Ways you can help at home

Please read each night with your child—we check the planners each Friday morning.
Each Wednesday the spellings will come home in a handwriting book. Please just write a sentence containing that spelling so the child is familiar with the word. This is also vital handwriting practise.
Times tables awards—learn tables please! We will send home more information but we test the tables on a Wednesday weekly!
Creative homework is over a six week period and we expect a child to complete roughly half an hour a week—this can be on long or short projects.
Conquering Rickling leaflets have been given out for the year.

PE—Thursday and Friday

Remember water bottles/ no earrings, hair to be tied back.

The children will be swimming all term on Fridays and will focus on improving their stokes and stamina. Please remember the pool does not allow children to wear bikinis and insists they have hats and goggles. Please wear PE kit for ease of changing! Their other PE session will focus on Tag Rugby where they will learn to work as a team and how to pass and catch accurately. After half term, the Thursday PE will focus on the fast moving sport of netball. In both sessions the focus will be on team games, learning to pass effectively and the rules of how to play the game.

Music

The first half of the term is centered around a section called 'The Environment' where the children learn songs and add accompaniment. The will also learn songs associated with their topics. In the second half of term bodies. In other sections, they will compose, learn how to perform songs and poetry as well as learning to layer rhythms.

Maths and Mathematical Reasoning

In each lesson, the children will use resources that combine reasoning and fluency to ensure that they are secure with different types of questions. We will be starting with 'Number and Place Value' including some work on Roman and even Egyptian numerals. The more confident children will learn about larger numbers and ordering numbers to 10,000 and beyond. In 'Calculations', we will gradually introduce and reinforce compact methods for all four operations so the children can answer the varied fluency questions. In all lessons there will be elements of problem solving and reasoning. We will cover other sections such as fractions, area (Year 4 only) and measurement We send home weekly tables work for our tables awards where they can earn badges and even medals. The children are given Mathletics logins but there is no expectation for them to complete work, it is there for reinforcement as necessary. Similarly , they have a login for Times Tables Rock Stars which can be used to practice their tables during the week.

Science

We are starting the term with the topic 'How Does Your Garden Grow?' and will be visiting Wicken Fen later to learn about the plants in a contrasting habitat to our local area. During this topic, the children will study different types of plants and learn the general structure and function of each part. We will be growing a number of plants in class as well as studying our playground trees as they change through the Autumn months. The second topic is 'Amazing Bodies' and will cover topics such as digestion, healthy eating, and the role of the skeleton and muscles. This have a practical session where the children will learn to take their own pulse and monitor their own fitness over a set of weeks.

Computing

We are starting the term by learning how to be safe online. Children will learn how to research safely online and learn the SMART rules for safety.
This is followed by a section on learning how to make video trailers for books using the iPads and a video of our school. Finally, they will be programming in Scratch.

PSHE

In the first half of the term, the children will be learning about friendships and how to be a good friend. And act as a team
After half- term, the children will be learning about taking responsibility for their own safety. Both in school and in outdoor situations,

MFL – French

We start by learning greetings and how to answer the register each morning. During other lessons, the children are focusing on 'Le Navet Geant' to fit in with the plant theme. We hope by the end will be able to follow the instructions in French to make turnip soup. They will also learn how to say the French alphabet, different vegetables, days of the week.

Art and DT

We are starting the term by focusing on a craft and design, where the children will make their own ancient Egyptian scrolls. They will be inspired by their visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum in October. Where they will be painting on real papyrus. Later on in the term, they will complete a course of drawing sessions focusing on tone, texture and proportion. In DT they will adapt a recipe for Egyptian bread using seasonal vegetables and make Egyptian collars in sewing. During the final section, they will create and design their own shadufs using plywood, and joining techniques carefully assessing their ability to move water.