

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school. I hope you've all had a good rest and are ready for a busy term, culminating with some Christmas celebrations. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Parent Welcome Meeting at 9am on Tuesday September 8th when I will be covering the contents of this letter, talking a bit more about what we are doing this term and answering any queries.

I will be teaching the class this year supported by Mrs McLeod Monday to Thursday morning and Mrs Baker on a Friday morning. Mrs Presland will be assisting with Art on a Friday afternoon. Mrs Cotton, Mrs Presland, Mrs Dennis and Miss Phillips will be providing extra support and interventions over the week. We will also have volunteer assistance from Mr Preston for two afternoons.

Topics we will be covering are as follows:

Subject	Autumn 1 st half 2025	Autumn 2nd half 2025
History/ Geography	From Stone Age to Iron Age (History) Celtic Harmony, Camp Trip Adventures across America (Geography)	
RE	Is the Cross a symbol of Love, Sacrifice or Commitment for Christians? (Emmanuel Project) Christian Concept: Sacrifice	Gospel 2a.4 What kind of world did Jesus want?
Festivals	Harvest	Christmas
English Genres	Fables	Persuasion
Maths	Place Value Mental Addition/Subtraction Written Addition/Subtraction Multiplication/Division Fractions Shape	
Science	Animal Nutrition and the Skeletal System	
PSHE RSE	VIPs	Be Yourself
PE	Games Gym	Games Dance
Computing	Online Safety Touch Typing	Online Safety Email
French	Who are you?/Numbers	Parts of the body
Music	I've been to Harlem (Sing) Harvest	Chilled out clap rap Christmas
Art	Prehistoric Pots Christmas card/Christingle	
DT	Cook well, eat well	

Can I ask you to please ensure that all uniform, water bottles, trainers and plimsolls are named, as returning lost property without names eats into learning time! All children will need to have a pair of plimsolls or indoor trainers to be kept in school at all times. This is in case their outdoor shoes get wet/muddy and they need to change. Please note that school starts at 8:45 so please ensure that your child is punctual. Registers will be taken promptly and lateness recorded as per our attendance policy.

PE is on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Children will need to come to school in named PE kit on these days and have their water bottle in school which they can take into PE lessons to help avoid dehydration. (See Checklist below)

Tables (1 x 1 through to 12 x 12) will be tested on a Tuesday, there are 25 questions with 6 seconds per question (online test) as per the Y4 Statutory Multiplication Tables Check. Please use Times Table Rockstars (Garage) to practise these. Garage is adaptive and helps the children to learn the tables in a logical order, moving them on as they master them. TT Rockstars has a test (Soundcheck) with a very similar format to our weekly test, which I would encourage the children to use as well. Please ensure that the children don't invert the keyboard; they should have buttons 1, 2, 3 at the top!

We are continuing to use the Herts for Learning Essentials for Spelling scheme. Children will be assessed on a Friday on 10 spellings using the sound group that we are looking at that week, our expectation is that they have at least 5 correct in the test or they will be retested. There are some children who have 5 spellings to concentrate on and our expectation is that they have at least 3 correct in the test or they will be retested. They will have completed a variety of short daily spelling activities through the week based on the rule. Please practise writing, reading and saying the words, which are examples of the rule, at home. I have attached this term's spellings below for your information. They are also stuck in the back of the children's reading records and displayed in class. We use Purple Mash for our Computing Curriculum and children are given the option of continuing at home. They will have the login for this in their reading record. Purple Mash has a lot of fun, educational computing and maths games that the children can access.

We have regular ERIC (everyone reading in class) time. Please help your child by continuing to hear them read daily and talking to them about their books, including making predictions and talking about their preferences and giving reasons why. Please ensure their book is in school every day. In KS2 they are responsible for changing their own book when it's finished. Accelerated reader children need to do a quiz at school when they finish their book. Other children need to write a couple of sentences about the book in their reading record.

Parents are invited in to share books with the class on a Friday morning at 8:45 for 15 minutes. This is a lovely time for the children in the class to share books with each other and with you, listening to you read and reading to you.

Homework will be set weekly on Atom Learning once the children have all completed the baseline assessments for English and Maths. Atom is adaptive to the performance of the children and they are expected to do no more than 30 minutes. Please help your child to access this but they should not need help with the work and it is better for me to see that they have struggled than for you to do it for them! Passwords for Atom, Purple Mash and for TTR will be in the front cover of the children's reading journal. Please send in a photograph of your child reading for their journal as soon as possible.

Trips and workshops planned for the rest of the year will be seen on the rolling program. Over the year the cost of these trips averages to £10-£15 per term.

We are having a Parent Welcome Meeting in the school hall at 8:45am tomorrow morning, on Tuesday September 8th so I will look forward to meeting as many of you as possible then. If you have any questions subsequently please feel free to email me or telephone the office and I will respond as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Vanessa Welch

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Beech Class Checklist

Day	Reminder
Monday Mrs Welch Mrs McLeod am Mrs Presland am (interventions) Mrs Puffer pm	• Tables Test • PE (outdoors where possible) • Come wearing named tracksuit or navy shorts and white t-shirt • Wear Plimsolls or trainers • Remember earring tape if you can't take your earrings out
Tuesday Mrs Welch Mrs McLeod am Mrs Baker am (interventions) Mr Preston pm Rising Stars	• PE (outdoors where possible) • Come wearing named tracksuit or navy shorts and white t-shirt • Wear Plimsolls or trainers - Remember earring tape if you can't take your earrings out
Wednesday Mrs Welch Mrs McLeod am Mrs Dennis am (interventions)	
Thursday Mrs Welch Mrs McLeod am Miss Phillips pm (interventions) Mrs Cotton pm (interventions) Mr Preston pm	• Class Assembly
Friday Mrs Welch Mrs Baker am Mr Preston pm Mrs Presland pm fortnightly (Art)	• Reading Morning 8:45-9am • Spelling Test • DT/Art • Class/Celebration Assembly
Daily/At school	Please remember named raincoat, plimsolls/trainers, water bottle and wellies if you want to go on the field.

Websites the children will need

Times Tables Rockstars (TTR):-

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/public>

Atom Learning:-

<https://app.atomlearning.com/public/login>

Purple Mash:

https://www.purplemash.com/sch/benington-church-of-england-primary-school#