



BEECH HILL NEWS



Friday 5th July

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all well and I would like to thank you for your support throughout what has been a very busy year for the school as well as the Trust. As I am sure you are aware from our spring Trust Newsletter, we have grown from two to now five schools - Beech Hill, Bradshaw, Dean Field, Heptonstall and Shirley Manor. As a result, the Trustees and I have agreed for me to step away from my role as Headteacher to take on the full time Chief Executive Officer role of the Trust. This involves me working with all the schools in the Trust including Beech Hill and ensuring that we are providing the best possible education for pupils in all the 'Family of Learning Trust' schools.

I have had the huge compliment and privilege of being the headteacher of Beech Hill School for over a decade now and I can say with all honesty that I have really enjoyed the experience. I am extremely proud of our staff, pupils and school community. Our school is very unique and a true representation of Multicultural Britain embracing the values of honesty, tolerance and respect. I have so many things to be grateful for; not many Headteachers have the experience of working with a staff team who are willing to go above and beyond to give our children memorable experiences. I joined the Year 5 children on the recent London trip, as I always do, and saw this first hand. I cannot thank you as parents/carers enough for the support you have shown me over the years. I will never say I got everything right all the time but I did strive to do my very best and I will continue to serve the community through my new role.

Although I am sad to be leaving my role as the Headteacher, my journey at Beech Hill does not end here and, as CEO, I will still be involved with strategic decisions and school improvement at Beech Hill. I am pleased to inform you that there won't be any changes as we have already been moving gradually to the succession plan so that Mrs Bowling and Mrs Cockroft (Deputy Headteachers) can take on the role of Co-Headship. I will continue to support them as they embark on their new roles as Co-Headteachers and would like to congratulate them. We have worked very closely as the senior leadership team and they, alongside the Assistant Headteachers Mr Hoyle and Mrs Creighton, have supported me over the last 5 years.

I will continue to be based at Beech Hill and look forward to continuing to share the successes of the school as we move into a new era.

Yours faithfully

Shameem Hussain



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OPAL Project

Our Outdoor Play and Learning project, to enhance the playground experience for all children, will start fully in September 2024 and our hopes are that it will change the way we think and how we play together.

To facilitate this project, we are looking for families to donate items to support us as the project grows and to enhance your child's playtimes.

We are looking for donations of the following items which will enable your children to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime →

Any donations need to be in good working order - not broken or damaged.



St. Anne's Beach

On Monday 1st July, year 2 went to St Anne's for a fun-filled day playing on the beach.

The children made sandcastles, flew kites and played a variety of games such as boules and skittles. Some children even buried their friends in the sand and created sand angels. Despite the weather, the children never complained and had the best time. They created memories to last and have been talking about it ever since.

A huge thanks to all members of staff that came to the beach and helped to make it so memorable. The children behaved impeccably well and did Beech Hill proud. Well done to you all!



House Points

These children have all been awarded a **bronze** certificate for receiving **50** House Points.

Subhan A

These children have all been awarded a **silver** certificate for receiving **100** House Points.

Donatello N
Sohan K

These children have all been awarded a **platinum** certificate for receiving **300** House Points.

Adam P
Rania A

Bradford Literature Festival

Some of the year 5 children visited the Bradford Literature Festival at Bradford University on Monday. The children had the opportunity to listen to different authors speak about their books, their inspiration and the writing process. We heard from Liz Flanagan, Trish Cooke, Ashley Thorpe and Saviour Pirotta.

The children loved listening to Saviour Pirotta tell them different Greek myths and where he found the inspiration for his books. They had the opportunity to ask the authors questions and it was great to hear the inspiration behind 'The Golden Horsemen of Baghdad' as it is a text we read in English. The children were extremely enthusiastic and represented Beech Hill amazingly!



Lights, Camera, Score

We are extremely proud to share our final animation from the Lights, Camera, Score project with Three Stones Media:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/nxWaQCc9bv>

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/LvYpoAXGFL>

Well done to the whole of year 4 who came up with fantastic original ideas and delivered them confidently! Thanks to Lucy, Greg and all of the team who made this possible.



Attendance Update

24.06.2024 - 28.06.2024

Attendance last week was much better than the previous week. Well done to those classes who achieved above 95%.

It would be great to see all classes achieving above the national average in the last two weeks of term.

If you need would like to discuss your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Farhat Hussain, attendance officer on 01422 345004.

Group	% Attend
Halifax 3	87.6
Halifax 4	91.8
Halifax 5	90.5
Wales	98.9
Northern Ireland	98.6
Switzerland	98.4
Nigeria	94.2
Canada	98.0
Jordan	94.5
Mexico	92.4
Morocco	91.8
South Africa	95.7
Australia	96.7
Denmark	87.5
France	92.2
Tanzania	98.7
Egypt	97.1
Totals	94.5



	Poor attendance, I am very concerned.
	Below expectations, I am worried.
	Best chance of success, well done.

TT Rockstars Most

Improved Accuracy

Year 2 - Moeen S (Canada)

Year 3 - Simona H (Jordan)

Year 4 - Vanessa R (Australia)

Year 5 - Mohammed H (France)

Class with the most active

players

Australia



Relaxed SENDays

Please find below, information around relaxed days for families with children who have special needs at Eureka! the national children's museum in Halifax.

They are called 'Relaxed SENDays' which are designed for children with special needs at the heart of them.

For more information, please follow the link:

[Relaxed SENDays](#)



Dinner Menu w/c Monday 8th July

3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Fish Fingers 2, 5	Homemade Chilli Con Carne & Rice Or Chicken Nuggets 5	Roast Chicken Dinner & Yorkshire Puddings 5, 10, 12	Homemade Chicken Curry Naan Bread 5	Pizza 5, 10
	Cheese & Onion Rolls 3, 4, 5, 10, 12	Homemade Cheese & Onion Quiche 5, 10, 12	Vege Nuggets 5	Samosas 5 Homemade Bhajis Savoury Rice	Homemade Macaroni Cheese 5, 10 Garlic Bread 5, 10, 14
Vegetables	Chips Beans	Potato Wedges Peas Carrots	Roast Potatoes Broccoli Mixed Veg	Ziggy Fries Cauliflower Mixed Veg	Curly Fries 5 Beans Sweetcorn
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches Allergies for the daily items available on request				
Dessert	Sweet Waffles 4, 5, 10, 12	Marble Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Parkin 5, 10, 12	Bakewell 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12
	Strawberry Swirls 10	Angel Delight 10	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Jelly	Vanilla Ice Cream 10

If you require an allergy list please email kitchen@beechhillschool.co.uk

If you would like to take part please follow the below link:
[Summertime Book Review Competition](#)

**Schoolreaders**
improving literacy • increasing life chances

**SUMMERTIME
BOOK REVIEW
COMPETITION**



The Summertime Book Review Competition is back!

Win a full library of 200 books for your school, and the winning KS2 class will get the chance to talk to 'Skandar' author A F Steadman!

What could you win?

A F Steadman is the globally bestselling author of the 'Skandar' series, a gripping story set on a mysterious island off the British mainland and featuring young unicorn riders.

Skandar and the Unicorn Thief received widespread acclaim and went on to scoop the prestigious Waterstones Children's Book of the Year 2022. The second instalment of the series, Skandar and the Phantom Rider, followed in 2023 and the third, Skandar and the Chaos Trials, published in April of this year. The fourth book, Skandar and the Skeleton Curse, will be out on 10th October this year.

With thanks to our partners at Wob, the two winning schools will each receive the fantastic prize of 200 books to boost their school library! The winning pupils will each receive a certificate and a £25 book voucher.



When by?

All entries need to be submitted by 5pm
on Saturday 30th September 2024!



Important information

This is a competition for pupils of primary school age in the UK. By entering the book review competition participants and their parent(s) or guardian(s) are deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions.

The child's name and age and an adult's contact details must be included with each entry. Please also include the name and town of the entrant's primary school so we can contact them. Any entries will be anonymised if publicised, see T'c and C's for more information.

You can use one of the templates on our website, one from your school, or create your own.

**Send entries by e-mail to admin@schoolreaders.org or post them to:
Schoolreaders, Bedford Heights, Brickhill Drive, Bedford, MK41 7PH.**



To find out more visit www.schoolreaders.org

For full details about the competition; suggestions for what to include in your review; templates; and terms and conditions, visit: <https://www.schoolreaders.org/bookreview>

National Online Safety - Weekly Information

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ONLINE TROLLING

The term "trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

24/7 CONTACT

The internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

HATE SPEECH

Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial slurs, homophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/online-trolling

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