



BEECH HILL NEWS



Friday 17th January

Important Dates

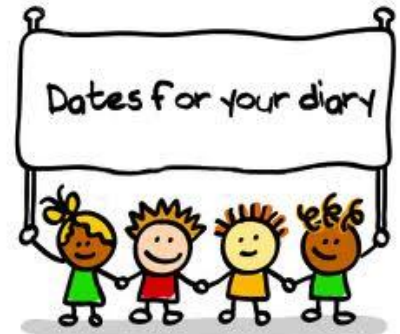
Tuesday 21st & Thursday 23rd Jan - Y3 Parent Lunches
****Thursday 23rd Jan - Phonics Parent Meeting (please note date change)****

Wednesday 29th Jan - Y2 Family Learning Workshop

Tuesday 4th February - Nursery Aspirations Day

Tuesday 11th & Thursday 13th Feb - Y4 Parent Lunches

To be rearranged - Y5 river/canal trip (please look out for messages on Seesaw)



FAMILY OF LEARNING TRUST



FAMILY OF LEARNING TRUST- SPRING 1

20 JANUARY - 23 JANUARY 2025

* ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE *
PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE * THE WINNING CLASS WILL HAVE
THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER PUPIL *
ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR FULL DETAILS AND RULES *



TTRS Competition

Next week, children from all of the schools in the Family of Learning Trust can take part in a Trust wide Times Tables Rockstars competition.

Competition times will be from 7.30am- 8pm each day.

Any game can be played and their result will count towards their score.

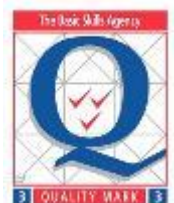
There will be certificates and house points for the top 3 players in each class.

Who will be crowned 'Top of the Rocks'?



Beech Hill School
Mount Pleasant Avenue
Halifax
HX1 5TN
Tel: 01422 345004

Website: www.beechhillschool.co.uk
Email: admin@beechhillschool.co.uk



Attendance

After a tricky start to the new year, we now expect attendance to be excellent as pupils return to school. We believe school really is unmissable so pupils can engage, learn and make progress. Missing unnecessary days in school has a detrimental impact on a child's learning and can lead to children not fulfilling their potential. Excellent attendance not only this week, but for the rest of the term, will support your child getting back into routine with their education and ensure that they keep working towards achieving their true potential.

If you are planning a leave of absence during term time, or require any support in relation to attendance in general, please get in touch with our Attendance Officer, Mrs Farhat.



Please may we remind you that school starts at 8:35am. The gates are locked at 8:45am.

Bowling Event

On Tuesday we had a group of young people take part in a bowling festival which was held in the alleys of the Electric Bowl. For some it was the first time they had ever played. There was some friendly competition with other local schools present. Our children had a slow start but gradually grew in confidence with every shot they took. They were constantly working on their technique and adapting their body to ensure they were giving themselves the best chance possible to knock as many pins down. In what was an incredibly fun morning, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were grateful for the experience.



The Big Garden Birdwatch

The Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.



It's easy to take part. Simply choose an hour between 24-26 January 2025 and count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony, or in your local park, (only count birds that land) and then tell them what you saw. Even if you saw nothing, it still counts. You need to sign up using the link <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>.

Halifax Community Fridge Visit



On Wednesday this week, it was wonderful for a group of year 6 children to visit Halifax Community Fridge and help out with serving. The children learnt about how the initiative works and that donations can be dropped off at any time during the day and left behind the shed.

The children really enjoyed meeting and greeting members of the public and helping to find the produce they required. On Wednesdays, hot food is also served; this was another task that the young volunteers helped with. We received a very warm welcome from the fabulous team who all give up their own time to support their local community. Year 6 described it as a very wholesome experience and are keen to return.



"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

Dinner Menu w/c Monday 20th January

3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Nuggets 5	Homemade Lasagne 5, 10 Southern Fried Chicken Poppers 5, 8	Fish Fingers 2, 5	Homemade Chicken Pie 5, 10, 12 Chicken Sausages 5	Pizza 5, 10
	Vegetable Pasta Bake 5, 10	Quorn Nuggets 5	Homemade Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry Rice	Vegan Rolls 4, 5	Homemade Creamy Broccoli Pasta 5, 10
Vegetables	Ziggy Fries Beans Sweetcorn	Potato Wedges Mixed Veg Peas	Potato Puffs Sweetcorn Broccoli	Roast Potatoes Carrots Cauliflower	Potato Cubes Beans Peas
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	Treacle Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Parkin 5, 10, 12	Chocolate Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12
	Chocolate Swirls 10	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Cheesecake 5, 10	Jelly	Vanilla Ice Cream 10

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

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

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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Gold Book Nominations



Pellon Lane - Izaan K for always following the nursery rules and for joining in with activities with lots of enthusiasm.

Halifax 1 - Rhea D for her fantastic number work. She has worked very hard in maths this week looking at composition to 5, figuring out different ways to make the number 5. She also always helps her friends with their learning!

Halifax 2 - Muhammad O for making lots of progress in his phonics.

Halifax 3 - Salihah Q for writing a fantastic list of zoo animals independently.

Northern Ireland - Aliyar A for always coming to school with a smile and positive attitude and for trying really hard to improve his handwriting!

Scotland - Eisa A for putting his hand up to contribute more in whole class discussions and working really hard in phonics.

Wales - Hashim A for showing amazing perseverance and determination in English this week specifically with holding sentences and writing them independently. A writing superstar!

Canada - Inayah N for completing all her holiday homework and going above and beyond to continue her home learning with extra activities.

Switzerland - Hashim M for his enthusiasm and fantastic ability to clap to the pulse for our year 2 singing performance.

Switzerland - Aairah-Noor A for her realistic portrait of King Charles III.

Jordan - Sarah D for her excellent contributions in geography and science this week and for showing exemplary behaviour all of the time!

Mexico - Krithvika G for writing a great California beach description.

Morocco - Adam S for his super science poster about different types of rocks.

Morocco - Faryal S, Muneebah K, Morgan N for their interaction on Seesaw completing all the holiday homework and snow packs.

Australia - Haniya A for her reading and improved quiz scores.

France - Ayaan N for completing research on our topic of Antarctica at home and bringing in a lovely piece of work to display on our working wall to show his learning.

Denmark - Rania A for being a fantastic role model! She is always trying her best, working hard and being a good friend to everyone.

Singapore - Haider H has made a great start to the new year. He is trying his best and there has been a massive improvement in behaviour.

Singapore - Hashim A for blowing Miss Appleyard and Mrs Clark's socks off in maths this week.

Egypt - Laiba K for excellent RE homework. She always goes above and beyond!

Tanzania - Rayyan I for producing some brilliant RE homework over the holidays.

Fantastic Work