



# Beech Class



## Autumn 1 2019

### Welcome Back

I hope you all had a fantastic, restful summer and are ready for the new term. The children have come back to school full of enthusiasm and energy, and are keen to get stuck in to all of our new learning topics. It has been great to see them settling back in so easily and sharing stories about their summer holidays. The children seem genuinely pleased to be back together as a class and are eager to make our classroom a happy supportive place.

The school has undergone lots of changes over the summer and, thanks to the hard work of many people, we now have an amazing space in which to learn. The children have shown already that they appreciate this by caring for their new environment. I can't wait to see our new classroom displays fill up with the children's wonderful work!

### Literacy

Beech Class will start the year by discovering how to write a tale of fear. Using several short texts and novels, we will experiment with language and punctuation in order to create tension and suspense in a short story.

Following this, we will move on to our non-fiction unit. We will learn how to write a fascinating and informative non-chronological report, and will link this with our learning about forests.

We will also continue to practice spelling and handwriting on a daily basis.

### Learning Quest

**This term our topic is Forests!**

This term Beech Class will be investigating where we can rehome an animal that has been displaced by the Amazon forest fires. We will be finding out about different forest habitats around the world, and working out what animals need in order to thrive.

We made an exciting start to our topic by visiting Hamerton Park Zoo, where we met some fascinating creatures including a tree frog and a bearded dragon. We even met a friendly skunk called Stevie!

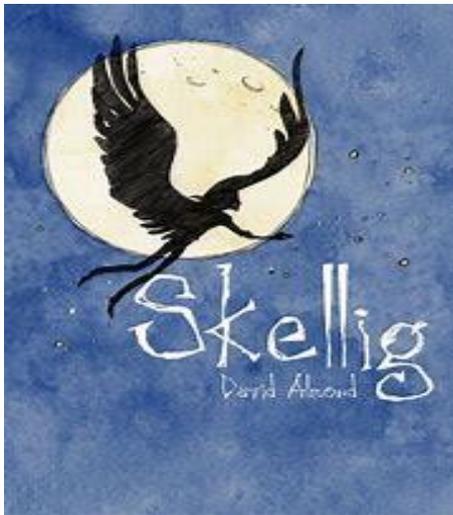


## Reading

After careful consideration, we have decided to stop using reading records in Key Stage 2. We felt that, rather than encourage regular reading, they were just adding extra admin for parents and teachers alike!

Instead, we will soon be introducing the 100 recommended reads. Each class will have a list of books that are widely recognised as 'must reads' for their age group. Children can then log their reading on the classroom display and write a book review.

I will continue to read to the children every day after lunch. Our first novel is 'Skellig' by David Almond.



## Behaviour & Reward

There have been lots of changes to our behaviour system over the summer! We will no longer be using the Snakes and Ladder system, and will be encouraging children to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

Rewards will now be focused on recognising effort and behaviour that goes above and beyond expectations. We will continue to celebrate individual achievement in class, through Twitter and during our Friday worship,

For full details, please see the new behaviour policy on the school website.

Please follow @CottinghamCofE for daily news and updates regarding the super children at Cottingham CofE Primary School. It takes just a few minutes to log in and sign up.



## Dates for the diary

### Autumn Term 1

#### Autumn term 1 (Also see website)

12<sup>th</sup> September- instrumental lessons begin

20<sup>th</sup> September- Kids of Steel (tbc)

25<sup>th</sup> September- Book fair PTFA

26<sup>th</sup> September- Peterborough Cathedral service (Selected children)

10<sup>th</sup> October- world mental health day

15<sup>th</sup> October- NSPCC workshops

24<sup>th</sup> October- Team day

25<sup>th</sup> October- break up for half term

4<sup>th</sup> November- school re-opens

19<sup>th</sup> November – Beech Parents Day (tbc)

4<sup>th</sup> December – Beech Class Worship

## Numeracy

Numeracy in Beech Class will follow the White Rose scheme of learning, which focusses on developing mastery of each mathematical area. This term, we will be looking at Roman Numerals and place value, and will be consolidating and developing our addition and subtraction skills.

At the end of this year, all children in Year 4 will be required to complete the new compulsory multiplication test. Understandably, many of you may have concerns about the impact this will have on the children's wellbeing. However, we will be practising our times tables on a daily basis and building the children's confidence with lots of games and quizzes. I hope that by the end of the year, the children will be eager to show off their knowledge!

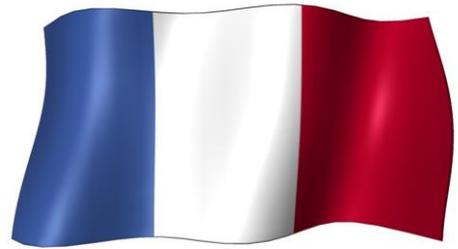
## PE

Beech Class will be having PE lessons each week on Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. We will be working on developing individual skills and inspiring a love of physical activity, and will also be thinking about the social, emotional and personal skills needed for PE.

The children need to have a named PE kit in school at all times, including footwear please as they will need trainers/plimsolls for both indoor and outdoor lessons.

## French

The children will now be having weekly French lessons, practising skills in speaking, listening reading and writing. We will be starting from the very basics and building on our knowledge throughout the year. Whilst learning the language, we will also look at the culture and history of France



## Homework

Children will receive a spelling list this Friday which will show all of the words I would like the children to practise spelling this term. From next week, they will begin to receive multiplication homework too.

My Maths will continue to be set every Friday and needs to be completed by the following Friday. Please encourage your child to complete this independently so that I can spot any areas that need further support.

In addition, I will soon send home a sheet with **optional** creative homework based on our theme. This is intended to give ideas and inspiration for work that your child might like to do at home, and will support their learning in class. However, do not be limited by my suggestions! Any work linked to our class topics would be welcome, and we would love it if your child brought their creations to school so that we can all enjoy them.

From time to time, I will send home other bits and bobs for the children to complete if they wish. These are intended to be fun extensions to our learning at school, and are also optional.

## Collective Worship

**The first Beech Class Worship will be on December 4th at 2.30pm, when we will WOW you with some of our learning. All are warmly invited to come along and join us.**

**Mon – Class Singing Worship Tues/Wed – Whole School Worship Thur – Class Worship Fri – Special Awards**

Please come and join in with our Special Award Worship every Friday at **2:30**. We do ask that

**With God's help we CARE-BUILD-FOLLOW-THINK**