

Newsletter

February 2025

Update from Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen in the news that there has been an increase in families being moved to hostels or hotels. Sadly, we are aware that some of our own families are facing this situation. Others may also have experienced being relocated into temporary housing.

If your family has been affected, please contact us. You can call (020 8270 4700) or visit the school office and speak with Mrs. Cole so we can offer support.

As part of our commitment to helping families in need, we are providing:

- **Free breakfast** for all children impacted.
- **Lunchtime club access**, where children can use computers for homework or play.

Additionally, our Parent Support Advisor, **Diana Huskie**, has shared helpful tips and resources to assist families during this challenging time.

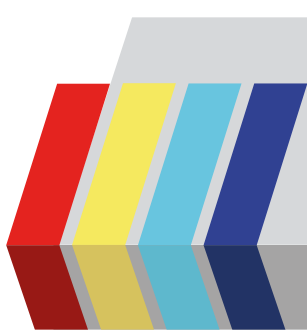
Diana's Top Tips

- Contact Housing as soon as you receive a Section 21 Notice and register your details.
- Keep in regular contact with your appointed Housing Officer updating any new/additional information.
- Housing are advising that you look in the Private Sector for a rental property do not wait for the Council to rehouse you.
- Be proactive in your approach to finding a property and visit Agencies rather than emailing or calling to register as it will be unlikely for you to receive a reply due to the vast volume of families looking for a property.
- Dress appropriately when registering with an Agency/Landlord, it does not have to be a suit and tie, but first impressions always count and remember that you are amongst many families searching.
- Keep a log (dates, times, agency) of your visits as this will be evidence for your Housing Officer that you are not sitting back and waiting for the Council to rehome you.
- Be prepared to move out of the Borough this may speed up your process.

Importantly, please remember, **you are not alone**—our school community is here to support you as much as possible.

Miss Whittington





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Updates from class -

Year 6 – This term, we have explored a variety of Greek mythological characters and are currently writing non-chronological reports on a chosen creature. This has been supported by drama workshops in history, helping students gain a deeper understanding of Greek mythology and its cultural significance.

In geography, students have been learning about the cocoa farming industry, the challenges faced by cocoa farmers in Ghana, and how the Fairtrade Premium supports them.

In DT, students have researched different functional shapes and applied this knowledge to their designs, creating scale models of a playground.

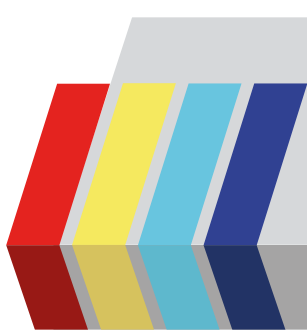
Year 5 – This Spring 1 term, Year 5 pupils at Beam County had a fantastic time exploring creativity and maths through exciting activities.

During Design and Technology week, they designed and made pop-up books, using storytelling and mechanics to bring their ideas to life. The children worked hard, showing great teamwork and problem-solving skills.

On Number Day, most pupils arrived in creative number-themed costumes, from sports jerseys to equations. They took part in fun maths challenges, making learning both engaging and memorable.

It's been a brilliant term of creativity and problem-solving for Year 5!





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Updates from class-

Year 4 – This term, Year 4 students have been involved in a range of exciting activities. In history, they participated in a workshop on the Windrush, gaining insight into its significance in British history.

In Design and Technology, they designed and built pneumatic toys, exploring how compressed air creates movement.

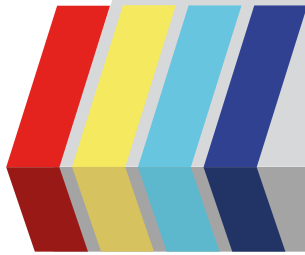
In geography, they went on a mini field trip around the school grounds to observe and investigate the water cycle in action. These hands-on experiences enhance their understanding of key concepts while making learning, engaging and interactive.

Year 3 – During Spring 1, the Year 3 children continued to develop their multiplication and division skills with the 3, 4 and 8 times tables, and they explored the story 'My Shadow is Pink' in literacy and used the narrative as a stimulus to develop an inner monologue based on the character's feelings and experiences.

In RE, they learned about Judaism, and in their science lessons, they expanded on their knowledge of rock and minerals and transitioned into fossils, as well as participating in a fossil workshop presented by the Natural History Museum.

In geography, they have begun to develop map skills and comparative knowledge of other countries, while in history, they have learned about the Stone Age. In DT, they have developed some computer coding and programming skills for their proposed wearable technology products





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Updates from class-

Year 2 – In Year 2 students have enjoyed a variety of exciting learning experiences. In history, they created and burned replica Tudor houses to re-enact the Great Fire of London. In geography, they explored their local area, from Dagenham village to the City of London, using maps and compasses. In religious education, they focused on forgiveness and integrity, creating meaningful candles to express apologies.

PSHE lessons sparked debates, such as whether to dedicate a year to art, and they explored the impact of sugary drinks on egg shells, linking this to dental health. In ICT, students worked on word processing, creating newsletters about *The Three Little Pigs*.

They also designed ferris wheels in Design and Technology using everyday materials. In literacy, they researched sea creatures and wrote reports, and in maths, they learned about money, including how to make change. A busy and fun half-term ended with a deep dive into science, exploring materials and their properties.

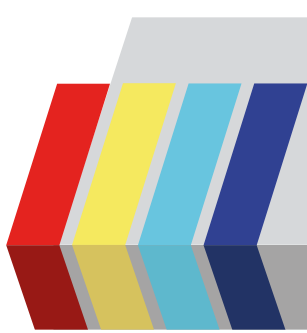


Year 1 – This half-term has been shorter but packed with many exciting learning opportunities. In literacy, the pupils have been exploring the text "The Big Book of Beasts" and have learned all about African mammals and animals. It is clear to see the progress in the children's writing in the non-chronological reports that they have written. We are very proud of them all.

In maths, we have looked at number bonds to 20, 1 more/1 less, doubling, near doubles and much more besides. The children continue to grow in their basic knowledge of mathematical concepts and vocabulary.

The pupils are really enjoying our foundation subjects, where they have opportunities to enquire and investigate. This past week has been a highlight in DT, where every child has created their own hand puppet. The excitement has been evident and the pupils have looked at the history of puppets, the best joining techniques and have evaluated what they could do better next time.





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Updates from class-

Reception – This term, our Reception children have been diving into an exciting new topic, exploring the wonders of sea life, the impact of pollution, and the importance of recycling.

As part of their learning, they recently enjoyed a fantastic visit to Sea Life London Aquarium! It was a wonderful opportunity for them to explore the fascinating world of marine life up close.

During the visit, the children were amazed by the colourful fish, graceful rays, and even some rather curious sharks! They also learned about rock pool creatures, including starfish and crabs, and had the chance to ask lots of interesting questions. The experience helped to bring their current learning topic to life, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm. They also discovered more about rock pool creatures and the importance of protecting ocean habitats.

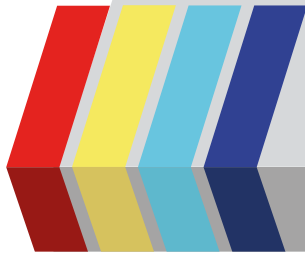
It was a joy to see their excitement and engagement throughout the day. A big thank you to our staff and parent volunteers who helped make the trip such a success!

Back in the classroom, we have been discussing how pollution affects sea life and why recycling is so important. The children have been engaging in creative activities, sorting recyclable materials, and thinking of ways we can all help protect our planet. Their enthusiasm and curiosity have been wonderful to see!

As part of our exciting topic on sea life, pollution, and recycling, our Reception children have been using their creativity to make wonderful sea creatures out of recycled materials. Through junk modelling, they have transformed everyday items into colourful fish, jellyfish, turtles, and even octopuses. This activity has not only encouraged their artistic skills but also helped them understand the importance of reusing materials to protect our oceans. It has been fantastic to see their imagination come to life while reinforcing key messages about recycling and caring for marine life.

Thank you for your continued support, especially for sending in recyclable materials for our creations. We look forward to sharing more of the children's fantastic work with you soon!





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Sports Events

Borough Sportshall Victory – On January 24th, Mr. Hoyte led the Year 5/6 Sportshall team to victory at the borough finals held at Sydney Russell School. This win has qualified the team for the East London qualifier for the London Youth Games.

London Youth Games – On February 4th, the team competed in the East London Finals and came joint first. They are now heading to the all-London finals in March, making Beam the first school in Barking and Dagenham to reach this stage.



Y3/4 Netball Festival - On Wednesday 5th February 18 Year 3 + 4 pupils had the opportunity of taking part in an afternoon full of different netball activities at Eastbrook Secondary School. Having never played netball before the girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves with many wanting to explore the sport further. These are the experiences that build athletes of tomorrow!

Year 2 Cricket Festival – Mr. Hoyte, Mr. Shaw, and Ms. Lavender took Year 2 students to the Cricket Festival, where they had fun learning and developing their cricket skills.

Parent Engagement

Week of Workshops – Parents were invited to attend a range of workshops during the week, including sessions on Online Safety, PSHE, Maths, and Latin. These workshops provided valuable learning experiences for all involved.

Lifeline Coffee Morning – Our monthly Lifeline Coffee Morning offered parents the opportunity to meet with the Lifeline charity and discuss the challenges of raising children in these difficult times.

SEN Coffee Morning – On January 29th, we held a special SEN Coffee Morning, where parents could meet our SEND team and local experts, including the school nurse, SALT therapist, and ADDUP (ADHD experts).



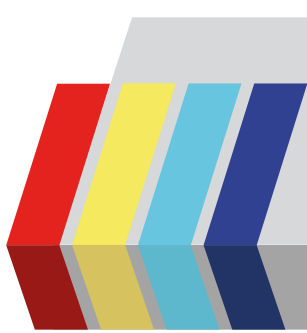
BEAM WEBSITE



BEAM TWITTER



BEAM YOUTUBE



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Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday 26th February – Lifeline Coffee Morning
- Thursday 27th February – Class Photo's Day – **If you have trouble with the consent link please speak to the front office**
- Every Tuesday next term – Year 3 swimming lessons
- Wednesday 5th – 26th March – Pupils First Aid workshop
- Wednesday 26th March – Parent First Aid workshop
- Friday 28th March – MC Grammar school visit
- Monday 31st March – Non Pupil Day

Little Recyclers

Through clothing donations, you helped to divert textile waste ending up in landfills and raised £43.65 towards school funds.

HELP us raise funds for our school and at the same time protect the environment by donating unwanted clothes and other items such as paired shoes/jewellery/bags/belts etc.

Little Recyclers Clothing Bank is on site here at Beam County Primary School, situated to the left of the school office, opposite our breakfast club\after school entrance

*Should you have any pre-loved **school uniform** that you wish to donate, please continue to send in to our school office. Where are pre-loved items are available for 50p*



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Safeguarding

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 SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY FAKE NEWS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

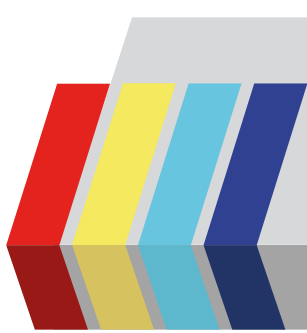
Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.02.2025





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Attendance

Medical appointments

Parents will be expected to make medical or dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where this is not possible, a copy of the appointment letter or text must be shown to the school office. Parents will be expected to obtain approval for their child's absence to attend such appointments as far in advance as is practicable. Parents will be responsible for ensuring their child misses only the amount of time necessary to attend the appointment.

Punctuality

School starts at 8:30 and gates shut at 8:40 prompt. Arriving late disrupts the class and children's learning.

Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 learning days lost each year

School Catering

REMINDER: Parents are now required to pre-select meals in advance using our online system, **ParentPay**. (Please note: NO payment is needed to order school dinners). If you are unable to access ParentPay please contact the front office in order to obtain the login details The link below explains how to select a meal for your child using ParentPay.

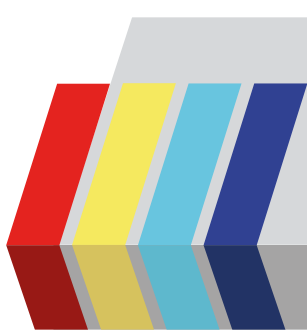
<https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/6265244826257--VIDEO-How-to-book-a-meal>

The 3 week Menu's are now available for you on the schools website. Please note at the bottom of each menu is the week commencing dates

Contact Information

IMPORTANT – If you or any of your emergency contacts have recently changed phone number, email or home address please make sure you contact the front office either by email or in person





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Ready, Respectful, Safe

At Beam, we expect and encourage good behaviour and self-discipline from all pupils to cultivate an environment that promotes emotional development, effective learning and high standards. Through visible consistency, we are restorative in our approach, using a range of methods and strategies to maintain positive relationships. Our three simplified core rules: Ready, Respectful, Safe, ensure that we are consistent in our approach.

You will find our updated Behaviour Policy here: <https://beamcountyprimaryschool.org/policies>

We aim to provide an inclusive, calm, quiet atmosphere in the school and encourage children to move around responsibly. Our expectations of the children can only be realised through the co-operation and support between home and school. Should any difficulties be encountered, we invite parents to work with us to resolve them. Positive behaviour is a collective responsibility within the school. This extends beyond the individual classroom to cover every child and every area of the school and playground.

If you have any concerns about a pupil, we ask that you follow the correct procedures by notifying the school through our concern form <https://forms.office.com/e/aHNLnBTVgM>, rather than approaching other children or their families directly. We often have important context regarding a family or child, and we are best placed to handle these concerns with sensitivity and understanding. This approach helps to maintain a positive atmosphere for all.

Term Dates

Next term dates: Monday 24th February 2025 – Friday 4th April 2025

