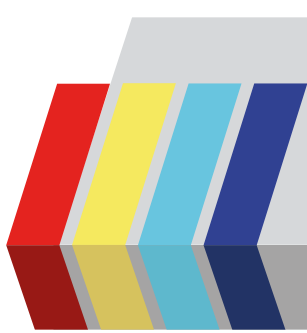




BEAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter

October 2024

Update from Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share that we have had a fantastic start to the new school year. Our pupils have settled in well, demonstrating resilience and enthusiasm as they adjust to new routines and learning environments. I am incredibly proud to highlight some early successes, particularly in sports, where several teams have already achieved notable results. This is a great testament to the commitment and teamwork of our pupils and staff.

Ready, Respectful, and Safe

Most of our pupils are already embracing our core behaviour principles of being Ready, Respectful, and Safe. These values are central to everything we do, ensuring that our school remains a positive, inclusive, and safe environment for all.

([UNCRC Article 3, 28](#))

Parent Code of Conduct

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of the importance of adhering to our Parent Code of Conduct. As adults, it is vital that we model the behaviour we expect from our children. Please remember to demonstrate the values of Ready, Respectful, and Safe when interacting with all members of our school community.

([UNCRC Article 5](#))

Concerns Regarding Pupils

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.

([UNCRC Article 3](#))

Concerns Regarding Staff

Similarly, if you have a concern regarding a member of staff, please use the same process and complete a concern form <https://forms.office.com/e/aHNLnBTvgM>. This ensures that all issues are dealt with appropriately and professionally.

([UNCRC Article 28](#))





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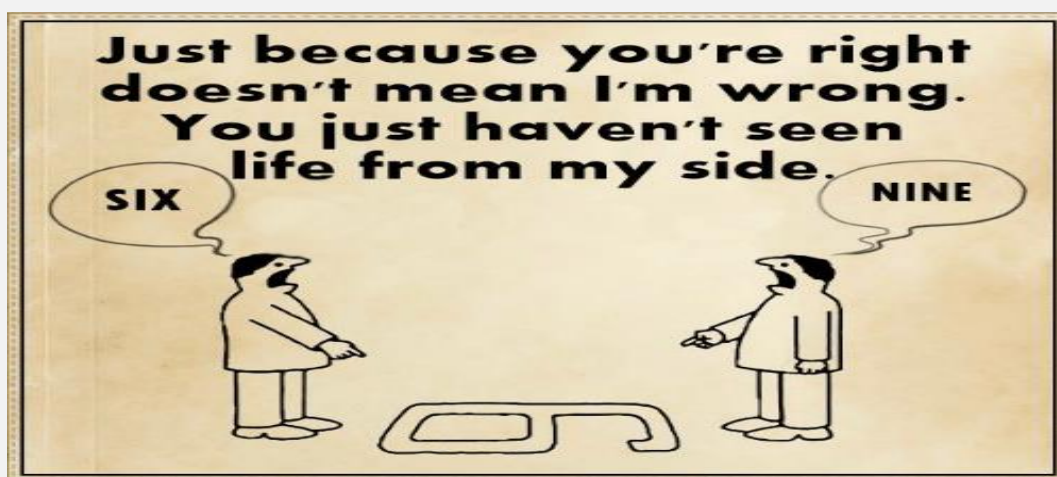
Newsletter

October 2024

Update from Headteacher

Restorative Conversations

Below, you will find an image that we use with pupils to manage restorative conversations. It is a reminder that understanding context and perspective is key in resolving conflicts or concerns. Let's all be ready to model tolerance and respectful behaviour, ensuring that we support one another in creating a harmonious school community.



Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Together, we can ensure that this year continues to be successful for everyone at our school.

Miss Whittington

Headteacher's Awards

1AH Emily Iordache
1HH Avneet Thind
1BS Viavo Kuwakanu
2DM Muhammad Essa Kiani
2FT Arya Deb
2NH Aleena Passa
3KY Ayla Kaya
3PJ Kiran Thind
3WA Awura-Abena Baah
Music Mayson King

4JH Edson Metzger Teles Neto
4NN Freya Arunasalam
4SU Raheem Remy
5AW Zina Duru
5CR Abdur-Rahman Chowdhury
5SS Ibrahim Kazi
6DC Mustaqiim Uddin
6KW Elizabeth Okeke
6OO Khizar Abbasi
Sport Aishah Alagago

RKT Imaan Malik
RLS Jalal Idris
RON Ruby Gill
NAD Syeda Ali
NAM Lexson-Carter Phillips-Meade
NPM Irtaza Hussain
Apollo Ayyan Hussain
Atlantis Shanae Makuwuro
AQ Noel John-Kobie Paul
Art De'Rayee Lowe





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Newsletter

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Updates from class -

Year 6 – Year 6 pupils embarked on their yearly adventure to Hay-on-Wye as they visited Trewern Activity Centre for the week in early September. During their stay, pupils made lifelong memories as they went paddle boarding, gorge walking and caving whilst also exploring the local wildlife. Year 6 staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

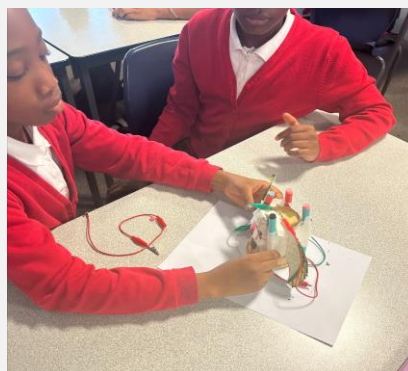
Across our curriculum we have been classifying living things in science, including exploring fungi by exploring the growth of mould over time on bread left in different conditions. In history, pupils have been learning about Crime and Punishment over time starting from the Saxon era.

After half-term, we will continue with this thematic study. Pupils have also been learning how faith can be represented through the arts in RE and we have been using drama strategies to explore this.

Year 5 – The children had an exciting start to the year with a visit to Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre in London. They watched actors rehearse and energetically took on the roles of characters from Macbeth.

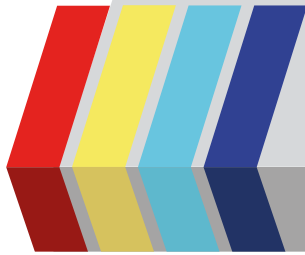
In science, the pupils have conducted several experiments, including testing friction on different surfaces and examining how the size of a parachute's canopy impacts its landing time. It’s clear that these activities have been enjoyed, enhancing their understanding of scientific inquiries. Moreover, we have taken the children back in time, uncovering the history of WW2 and how it impacted Dagenham.

In geography, the children have investigated the six major biomes, looking at their geographical position on a map and understanding how this affects its climate. Finally, the children have been actively engaged in DT lessons, designing and constructing their own doodlers





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Updates from class-

Year 4 – In history, our pupils explored the fascinating history of Dagenham. As part of their learning, we took a trip to Dagenham village, where the children were able to see first hand how the area has changed over time and compare it to what they've learned in class.

In religious education (RE), the children deepened their understanding of Hinduism. To bring their learning to life, we had the opportunity to visit a temple, where the pupils were able to compare Hinduism to a religion they are familiar with, fostering meaningful discussions on different beliefs and practices.

In literacy, Year 4 pupils focused on descriptive writing. They worked on creative writing inspired by our class text, *The Ironman*, and produced some impressive descriptive pieces, showcasing their growing skills in writing and imagination.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work and engagement this term. Thank you for your continued support in your child's learning journey.

Year 3 – Some of our highlights include the wonderful opportunity for the children to take part in The Royal Ballet Workshops, where they have learned some of the techniques used to balance, stretch and travel. They applied French vocabulary linked to ballet moves and danced to live music, after which they put on a fantastic performance for their parents.

The topic for our science unit of work has been light. Children have completed a number of investigations to find the most reflective materials; how and why shadows are formed and how shadows can be changed. They had a great experience using the equipment to answer these questions.

For RE, we have been looking at symbolism and stories as taught by Jesus and Buddha, and discussing how and why they are important to members of each faith, and looking for similarities. We discussed different types of families, resolving conflicts and stereotypes during our PSHE topic of relationships.

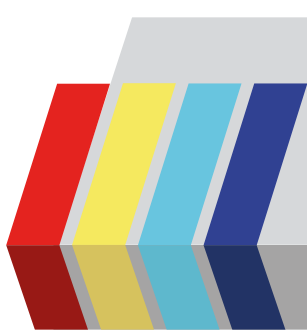
During the Design and Technology lessons, children explored the impact of eating seasonally, has on communities and on the planet. Children were then able to develop cutting, peeling and grating skills to use when preparing fruits and vegetables for their seasonal tarts. The children enjoyed tasting and evaluating their products.

In History, we have learning about the Romans and the reasons why they invaded Britain. To further enhance the learning the children have participated in 'Roman Day' were able to make coins, mosaics and participate in a Roman Feast!





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Updates from class-

Year 2 – As we reflect on the past half term, we are pleased to report that our Year 2 children have settled beautifully into their new classes and routines. Their enthusiasm for learning has been evident across various subjects, showcasing both creativity and curiosity. In literacy, students engaged deeply with the story "Room on the Broom," where they crafted imaginative character descriptions of the dragon. This exercise not only enhanced their writing skills but also reinforced the importance of proper handwriting formation.

Our science lessons have taken an exciting turn as children explored a variety of habitats around the school, utilizing magnifying glasses to identify resident wildlife. This hands-on approach sparked significant interest, leading to investigations into food chains and the roles of producers and consumers within ecosystems. History lessons have provided a unique opportunity for children to relive the events of 1665, focusing on the plague that affected many Londoners. Through dramatic role-play, they investigated the spread of the disease and its causes and symptoms, fostering a range of insightful questions about this challenging period in history.

In geography, students have been actively using maps, globes, and atlases to explore the temperature variations across the globe. Discussions centered on understanding why certain areas are classified as hot or cold, providing a solid foundation in environmental awareness. Our technology lessons introduced concepts of 'inputs' and 'outputs,' linking these ideas to real-world scenarios such as scanning and paying for items during shopping experiences.

Kindness Week was a highlight, during which children explored various ways to show kindness to others, reinforcing the principles of empathy and community spirit. In religious education, discussions around parables told by Jesus allowed students to share insights on important values including sharing, trust, and perseverance.

Lastly, the term will conclude in an exciting design and technology project where children will have the opportunity to design and create a chair suitable for Baby Bear. This project promises to be a delightful conclusion to a fun-filled and busy half term.

Year 1 – This term we have started their learning journey well this half-term. In literacy, we have explored two rhyming texts: The Colour Monster and Oi Frog!

In maths, the children have been learning about place value and we have recently moved onto addition, using part-whole and bar models. In our foundation subjects, we have had enriching experiences both in and out of school.

The Ragged School Museum was interesting for the pupils as they certainly had not experienced something like this before. Next week, we will be visiting a local church so that the children can bring to life what they have been learning about in the classroom. We look forward to our continued partnership with you on your child's learning journey!



BEAM WEBSITE



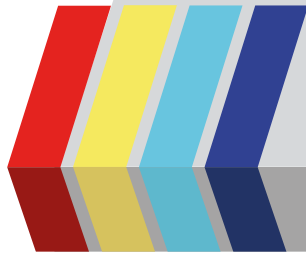
BEAM TWITTER



BEAM YOUTUBE



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Newsletter

October 2024

Updates from class-

Reception - Reception have settled well into school routines and have been learning about themselves and others this half term. We are able to identify that each one of us is unique and that together we make a great community.

In literacy, we have been exploring diversity, culture and belonging to a community. We have read the texts, *All Are Welcome*, *Who Are You?* And *Simon Sock*. Within literacy, we have developed our vocabulary and are able to orally compose a sentence to explain our thinking, exploring that print has meaning (learning the early stages of the writing process).

In maths, we have explored sorting and matching within groups, continuing a repeating pattern and the composition of numbers to 3. We are developing our knowledge in subitising and how to count groups of objects we can't touch.

In Understanding The World, we have been learning to use the vocabulary of past and present when looking at our baby photos. We have been learning about naming our body parts (including some of our organs inside our body) and our 5 senses. We participated in different investigations to explore taste, touch (textures), sight, hearing and smell. We have also been learning about the changes that happen in autumn. We went on a walk around the school grounds to find leaves that were changing colour and notice how the temperature outside has started to get colder.

In expressive art and design, we have been exploring the difference between fruit and vegetables to support us in building our knowledge to make a soup. We have also been developing on drawing representational shapes to draw our self portrait and other family members. We have also been learning to use the correct colours for purpose and how to use colour pencils correctly to colour with precision and care. It has been a busy half term learning new knowledge and making new friends. We are looking forward to learning about celebrations and cultures next half term.

Nursery – We are thrilled to share that our nursery children have settled in exceptionally well this year! It's heart-warming to see them making new friends and building connections that will last a lifetime. Our little learners are not only enjoying their time together, but they're also picking up important skills. They are learning how to tidy up after their activities, fostering a sense of responsibility and teamwork. Following rules and routines is another key focus, helping them understand the importance of structure in their daily lives.

Creativity is flourishing in our nursery! The children have been having a blast using playdough, paints, pens, and even goop. These activities not only spark their imagination but also aid in developing fine motor skills. Musical exploration is another highlight of our nursery program. The children are getting really good at singing nursery rhymes and finding rhyming words, which is a fun way to enhance their language skills. Overall, it's been a fantastic start to the year, filled with laughter, learning, and growth. We can't wait to see how much more our children will achieve as the year progresses!



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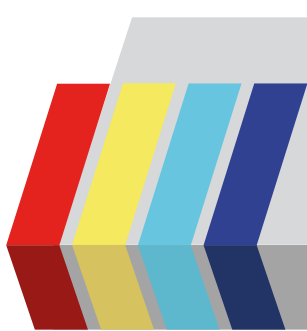
BEAM TWITTER



BEAM YOUTUBE



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Newsletter

October 2024

Other Events

Sports Update

It has been a wonderfully busy half term of PE & school sport at Beam with events taking place nearly every week! Whilst we still aim to be competitive and strive to achieve highly in the competitions we enter, we are also trying to expand the range of activities we offer and adopt an inclusive approach to our participation.

Barking & Dagenham school sports partnership organise a range of events at different levels as follows:

Compete - these are competitive competitions with children aiming to win tournaments.

Develop - These are usually festivals where children aim to develop their competence at different activities. The school games values (Honesty, Teamwork, Respect, Self belief, Passion Determination), are used to determine finish places.

Inspire - these are aimed at the least active children and take place in a fully inclusive environment with the aim of these children finding an activity they like or being inspired to do more physical activity.

Cross Country

On the 2nd October 2024 the school competed in the Barking and Dagenham primary cross country at Eastbrook Secondary School where the Year 3&4 pupils had to run 1 mile and the Year 5&6 pupils had to run 1 and 3/4 miles. We had great success with both the Year 5 boys and girls winning their races and the Year 4 girls also coming back with the win.

Tag Rugby

Well done to all the children who participated on the 22nd October, in their first ever tag rugby tournament against teams who have played before. Where they managed to finish 2nd overall!!! We were unbeaten in the pool games, won a tight quarter final, won well in the semi-final and were only beaten in the dying seconds of the final after having chances to win. Well done to George Carey school who managed to contain some of our pace in attack and persevered defensively when we had chances to win the game at the end.

Girls Football Team

This year we have introduced a girls football club/team to Beam extensive list of extra curriculum sporting activities. With some girls having never played football outside of curriculum hours, this was a great opportunity to build participation and confidence in potential rising stars. Our girls have played 3 games in the 'Ballerz Girls League' and have made incredible progress each week. Their understanding of the game has grown as well as confidence and ability to work as a team.





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Other Events

Bow arts

During the summer term, children in the Atlantis and Apollo rooms worked alongside an artist called Damien Robinson, who specialises in using digital media to create stunning pieces of artwork. This term the children were invited to view the art they created at a special Celebration Day exhibition at The Wilds, Riverside.

During their visit, they also had the opportunity to take part in an animation workshop, where they created their own short close caption film. All of the children had an amazing time working on both projects. Here are just a few images from their day at The Wilds.



Beam Book Fair

Thank you to all children and parents that supported our Beam Book Fair again this year. We raised an excellent £1800. We hope all children enjoy the books that they selected and will be redistributing funds raised into our reading areas across the school.

Banji Alexander

We were very excited for author Banji Alexander to visit the school on Wednesday 23rd October. Banji delivered a special assembly to all children in the school during the afternoon and brought along and signed copies of his book for pupils who had pre-ordered it. We hope all pupils had a memorable experience and enjoy reading Banji's novel.





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Newsletter

October 2024

Safeguarding

Online safety

We understand that the online world is a significant part of our pupils' lives and that it can be a positive tool, e.g. to enhance their learning. We also know that there are risks posed to pupils online. We are writing to you as we believe it is important for us to work in partnership with parents to keep pupils safe online.

What are some of the risks children and young people face online?

The online world is constantly evolving which means the risks children can face also change. Here, we have provided information on some of the categories of potential harms that children can face online:

Content – this involves being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, e.g. pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.

Contact – this involves being subjected to harmful online interaction with others online, e.g. peer pressure, commercial advertising, and adults posing as children or young adults with the intent to groom or exploit children.

Conduct – this is online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, e.g. making, sending and receiving explicit images, sharing other explicit images, and cyberbullying.

Commerce – this includes risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and financial scams.

What is the school doing to help protect pupils?

We adopt a whole-school approach to online safety, meaning that online safety is integrated through all aspects of school life to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect pupils from online harms. As part of our approach to online safety, we:

Ensure that all staff at the school receive high-quality training in online safety and know what to do when a concern is raised, or an incident occurs.

All staff members receive training in online safety when they first start working at the school. After this, staff continue to regularly receive updates regarding online safety. We also make sure that staff members actively keep themselves informed about issues relating to online safety.

Teach pupils about the importance of online safety.

Teaching about online safety is integrated throughout the curriculum, but includes pupils being taught in an age-appropriate way about:

- What positive, healthy and respectful online relationships look like.
- The effects of their online actions on others.
- How to recognise and display respectful behaviour online.
- How to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely.
- Where to go for help and support when they have concerns.

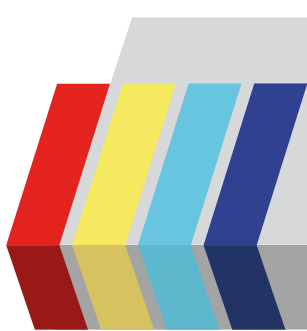
Implement appropriate filtering and monitoring software.

We have a number of procedures in place to ensure pupils cannot access unsuitable content when online at school. There are also systems in place to monitor what pupils are accessing online when using school-owned devices.





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Safeguarding

What can parents do to help protect children online?

As parents, you play an essential role in protecting your children online. There are lots of ways you can help to minimise the risks and increase the awareness of online safety in your home. We have listed some of the ways you can do this below:

Talk to your children about why it is important to stay safe online. Explain that whilst the internet is a fun, exciting and knowledge-rich tool, it is also a place where people may wish to bring them into dangerous activities or expose them to harmful material. It is important to be clear that you are not saying your child may never use the internet again, or that everything on it is harmful – it is about teaching them to have a greater awareness and to be able to manage and report any risks.

Only give your children devices or access to **devices that you feel comfortable with**, and not as a result of peer-pressure deriving from their classmates and/or friends who are also using those devices.

Discuss **rules** for being online and draw them up together, including which sites, games, etc., are acceptable. If certain games are off-limits, try to explain why – for example, because of excessive violence. If your child uses online gaming, consider setting rules such as only talking to others in the same age range and having the conversation on speaker, rather than headphones, so you can monitor it.

Discuss what information should be **private** and what is ok to share; for example, addresses, names of schools, and names should never be given out to strangers online, as this could allow them to identify where your child goes to school or lives.

Keep an **open dialogue** with your child – letting them know they can always talk to you about anything that has made them feel uncomfortable online is key to keeping them safe.

Ensure all devices used by your child are kept in a communal space, or a space where they can be supervised whilst using their devices.

Set **parental controls** – do this as a dialogue with your child so they are aware of what they are not allowed to view; however, do not rely on parental controls on devices, as they are not always 100 percent effective and many children know how to bypass them.

Make sure your child knows how to **report or 'block' unsuitable content, messages or people online** – show them how to block on the websites or games they frequently use and explain that they can always tell you, a teacher or another adult if they experience anything which makes them feel uncomfortable.

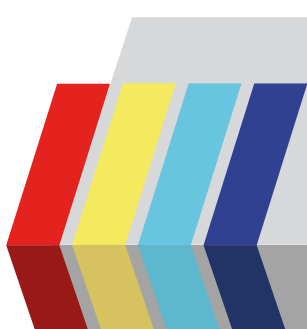
Here are some other resources you can use to help you protect your children online:

- NSPCC – 'Talking to your child about online safety' (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>)
- Childnet – 'Have a conversation' (<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation/>)
- Thinkuknow (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>)
- UK Safer Internet Centre (<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>)





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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

We have reviewed our safe practices as we move over to new, delicious menus in addition to a different way of ordering school lunches. Lanyards are to be worn in the lunch hall for children with allergies to indicate allergens that children are to avoid. Those with a health care plan (HCP) are wearing their lanyard daily, they have been fantastic with independently putting on their lanyard and then returning it when they have finished their lunch. We are in the process of contacting all parents with children with an allergy logged on our system to ascertain if a lanyard is needed. If you have any questions queries or concerns, please email the school office.

Beam Recipe

We would love to start our own recipe book bringing together dishes from around the world to reflect our diverse school community. Our aim is to gather recipes from parents, pupils and staff to create an international recipe book.

If you would like your recipe to be included, please complete via the link <https://forms.office.com/e/mwzBfn8FQO> or provide a copy to the school office.

It would be great to have a photograph of the final dish included too!

Upcoming Dates

Monday 11th November – Friday 15th November – Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 11th November – Y4 Remembrance Day Parish visit

Tuesday 12th November – Y5 Parliament Trip

Tuesday 19th November - School Photographer

Monday 25th November – Year 2 London Trip

Thursday 28th November – Friday 29th November – Y6 Forensic Day

Thursday 12th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 20th December – Last Day of Term - Non Uniform Day - School Closed PM



BEAM WEBSITE



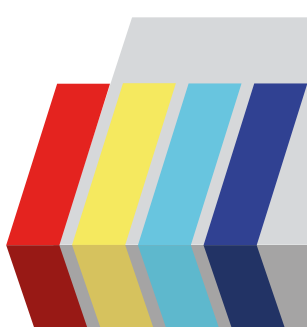
BEAM TWITTER



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Parent Information

Lifeline Coffee Mornings

This year we are once again holding monthly 'coffee morning drop-ins' on the last Wednesday of each month, from 8:45-10:30am, facilitated by Lifeline Projects. They are a local charity commissioned by Barking and Dagenham to support local families.

Our Parent Support Advisor

Diana Huskie is the school Parent Support advisor, she is here to support children and their families to get the most from the educational opportunities on offer and to help with the everyday stresses of life, of which there are many.

If you have any concerns about your child or any home issues that is making life difficult please come and have a chat and a cup of tea or contact the front office to leave a message for Diana

Attendance

Parents fined for their child's absences from school

Following the recent updates to government guidance on attendance, there have been changes to the ways in which all schools have to handle term time holidays. The fine for taking a child out of school during term time has risen from £60 to £80 per child. If this fine is not paid in the first 21 days following the penalty notice, it will rise to £160.

Like all other schools we are now required to consider a fine when a child has missed 5 days of more for unauthorised reasons, including a term time holiday. This will be doubled if it happens again within three years. Those with a third fine in a three-year period now face prosecution. There is no right to appeal a penalty notice.

Headteachers can only grant an authorised term time absence in exceptional circumstances, which are defined as one-off events that are unavoidable, and may include some health reasons, close family bereavement, weddings, or funerals. If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

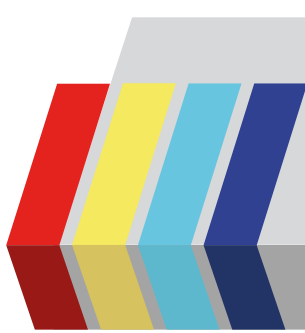
Medical appointments

Parents will be expected to make medical or dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where this is not possible, 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.





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Little Recyclers

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.



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.

Contact Information

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

Term Dates

Next term dates: Monday 4th November 2024 – Friday 20th December 2024

