

Whimble Primary School - Curriculum Newsletter

Class: Beech

Year: 4/5

Term: Autumn 2026



Dear parents and pupils,

A warm welcome to the start of this school year to all the Beech Class pupils and their families.

English

- Securing essential transcription skills, following fiction and non-fiction teaching sequences, linked to a text, to build up to a final written outcome, studying aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar, discussing our class book and engaging in reading lessons based around a variety of texts types

What's the one thing we can do at home to support?

- Please read with your child or ask them to read aloud to you at home each day for 5-10 minutes. There is extensive evidence to show that reading with, and listening to children read has a positive impact on their learning in all subjects. Please encourage your child to read for pleasure and to try a range of authors and genres. Help your child to learn more about spelling rules and patterns each week, using a list of words to enable this and support your child to discuss texts they have read by asking them questions.

Maths

- Learning about Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication & Division, Time, Fractions and Shape
- We will be learning together, thinking deeply and explaining clearly as we gain further knowledge and skills.

What's the one thing we can do at home to support?

- Year 4 children will be having weekly times table quizzes. First pupils will recap their knowledge from Year 3 by practising at home is key so please complete 2 quizzes at home in the booklet issued to your child.
- Log into Doodle Maths. Year 5 have Doodle Maths homework that will be set every week for children to spend 10-15 minutes on working out their answers. All children (Yr4s too) can log into Doodle Maths too and try to keep in the 'green' by answering a few answers each day.

Science

- Chemistry - States of Matter
- Biology - Animals including Humans

What's the one thing we can do at home to support?

- Notice changes of state and point them out, e.g. when cooking, a solid melts to become liquid or dew evaporates.
- Categorise animals you come across as either herbivores, carnivores or omnivores and discuss what they eat and, thus, where their habitat is.

Art and Design

- Drawing focus
- Painting focus

Computing

- Computing Systems and Networks
- Creating Media

Languages (French - Where in the World)

- Learning the names of different countries
- Talking about their position above & below the equator.
- Describing where different animals come from in the world.

Music

- Singing and playing in different styles
- Recognising some tempos stay the same in songs & other times they change for effect
- Learning more about chords in music & how they can accompany a melody to make it more interesting

Design and Technology - Mechanical Systems: Cams

- Understanding how different shape cams produce different movements and using this knowledge to safely and accurately produce their own moving Cam system.

History

Question - What did the Vikings (Norsemen) want and how did King Alfred stop them from getting it?

- Studying the features of longships
- Discovering the two treasures wanted by the groups of Norsemen
- Discussing why King Alfred became known as 'the great'

Religious Education

- **Islam focus** - How do festivals and worship show what matters to Muslims?
- **Christianity focus** - What kind of king is Jesus?

Physical Education

Children need to have their PE kit in school each day of the week.

- Net and Wall - Tennis: Pupils will learn the principles of the game and develop their skills, strategies and tactics.
- Swimming - In the second half of the Autumn term, pupils will be grouped and taught by the leisure centre swimming instructors at Sidmouth Pool to improve their safety, stroke style and stamina when swimming.
- Real PE: Personal and Social Units. Pupils will learn key skills and take part in various physical challenges. They will notice & record their scores. They will learn about different aspects of fitness: speed, stamina, strength, coordination, balance & agility.

Personal Development

- Jigsaw units will focus upon how choices can have rewards & consequences and how to respect cultural differences
- Jigsaw Units taught will be Being Me In My World and Celebrating Differences
- Using the schools 6Rs to inform personal development with a focus on Respect and Responsibility during this term.

Skills Builder

- Autumn term 1: Teamwork and Listening
- Autumn term 2: Leadership and Speaking

What's the one thing we can do at home to support?

- Reminding/ discussing with your child about what good listening looks like and the importance of concentrating in lessons so they can develop their skills and show what they understand.
- Talking to your child about things they can do to make sure that they are giving someone their full attention when they are speaking to them and modeling how they can express their ideas or opinions in a helpful way.
- Encouraging your child to show empathy to others and work cooperatively with peers
- Talking to your child about making positive choices and valuing the positives in their day

Home Learning

- Spellings: children will be given a set of spellings each week to study and talk about . These will be issued and checked on a Wednesday.
- Homework activities: Year 4 pupils will have times table quizzes and year 5s doodle maths for 15 minutes a week.
- Reminder: please read with your child or ask them to read aloud to you at home everyday first least 10 minutes

If you have any further questions regarding any of this information or have any queries regarding your child's time in Beech Class, please do get in touch. We really hope that you will support your child with their learning so they make progress and make good progress.

The pupils have settled in well so far and we are all looking forward to a successful autumn term full of engaging learning opportunities.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Miss Clarke and Mrs Boyd

