Beech Hill Community Primary School

Dunstable Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8BW

Headteacher: Mr Chris Davidson
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Natalie Carson

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Thursday 11th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

On behalf of all the staff, we hope that you had a restful holiday and we wish you a happy new year. At the end of this newsletter I have added some dates for your diary of some of the 'school wide' events that you will need to be aware of. There will, of course, be other dates for particular year groups or classes but these will be shared in different letters.

Inclement weather

Apart from the rain and wind, we have been lucky with the weather so far. I regularly check the weather forecast in order to see if there is any snow scheduled for this area.
As in my previous parent mail, if there is a need for us to shut or delay opening, I will contact you via parent mail and we will also leave a message on our website.
There will also be a list of school closures on the Luton Borough Council website.
A small amount of snow, will not mean that the school will be closed and should there be a centimetre or so, we will almost definitely be open.
We may be forced to close if there is significant weather and travel disruption. This would mean that staff and children would find it difficult to get to school safely. In the event of this there would be two likely scenarios, either the school will be closed for the day (whilst entry/exit routes are organised for the following day) or the school will open at a later time than normal.

Attendance

Our attendance has been considerably higher this year than it was last year or the year before. We are not quite however at pre-covid levels. I mention this often, and I will say again, our KS2 progress measures (tests taken at the end of Year 6) were amongst the best in the borough – can you imagine what our progress measures would be if all children were present in school every day?

We know that we have good teachers and children are generally happy to attend school, please help us by ensuring that :-

Children attend school as much as they can.

Children are only off school if they really are too unwell to attend school on that day.

Absences are kept to a minimum – e.g. children are not kept off for a whole week when they could be off for much less.

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Appointments, unless when only absolutely necessary, are made outside of school hours

Term time leave is kept to an absolute minimum – this is by far the largest part of our absences and accounts for around 1.5% of our total absence figure.

Evidence suggest that pupils who attend school more regularly achieve better outcomes in their GCSEs

Missing out on education, especially in the first few years can impact on the childs ability to make and maintain friendships.

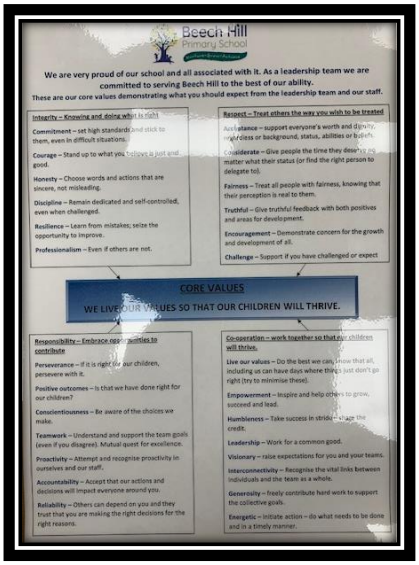
Attendance Matters
Every student. Every day.

Ensuring good attendance and punctuality is a characteristic that future employers will expect - better to get habits right now.

The UN convention on the rights of the child number 28 states: 'You have the right to education'

Expectations of staff, children and parents

As we start a new year, I think it important that we revisit some of our expectations for staff, children and parents/carers alike.
Our staff adhere to our Code of Conduct policy and we have also completed a Core Values document which very much puts our children at the centre of everything we do.



Our children also follow many rules but we share one 'Golden Rule' – Treat others how we would like to be treated ourselves.

Parents, please ensure that, whilst on school site, you demonstrate as excellent role models to our children by being polite, professional and responsible. Failure to do this could result in unnecessary altercations

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and could mean that specific parents/carers are denied access to the school.

It also goes without saying, I would have no concerns about calling the police if I felt that there was no alternative.

Lets work together in order to ensure that Beech Hill remains a great place for our whole community

Stem/Science visit

Last term Mr Miah visited the year 5 & 6 children to promote science capital and encourage our children to pursue careers in STEM. He was awarded the BCA (British Citizen Award) for his extraordinary endeavours in the local community. If you read this newspaper report, you'll get a better insight of his work. Many thanks for Mrs Begum for organising the science visit.

https://www.bedfordshirelive.co.uk/news/bedfordshire-news/lifelong-charity-worker-luton-who-6545239

Dates for your diary

Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February - Half term Holiday
Monday 25th March – Reports out for Years 1 – 6 (Years R and N will come out in the summer term)
Tuesday 26th March – Mid Year consultations – KS1 and Year 3 classes
Wednesday 27th March – Mid Year consultations – KS2 – Years 4,5 and 6
Thursday 28th March – last day of term – school closes at the normal time of 3:15pm
Friday 29th March – School holiday begins
Eid al Fitr – Expected around 9th or 10th of April (during the school holidays)
Monday 15th April – **Children back at school – summer term begins**

Many thanks,

Chris Davidson and the SLT