



Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just over three months ago, along with much of the country, we held a celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We were blessed with sunshine, happy faces, families enjoying the afternoon together and a special visit from Queen's Lieutenant Sir David Thompson, representing Her Majesty. It was a wonderful occasion.



It is with huge sadness that we reflect on the death yesterday of our Queen. I had already finished this week's Beeches Green Pages, which you can find on the back of this letter – please do read it as it contains important information that you need to know. But I wanted to write to you to mark this occasion and to give you an idea of what will happen in the coming days.

Today, we have largely adopted a “business as usual” approach; the children have learned and played and had their usual Friday morning celebration assembly. However, in class and in assembly, the children have had the opportunity to think and talk about what has happened and what happens next. As a whole school, we remembered the fantastic video of The Queen having afternoon tea with Paddington! One child brought in a lovely piece of art work she had done yesterday evening in tribute to The Queen; if any more children want to do some work over the weekend, whether it be writing or art work, please do so and bring it in. If we receive enough high quality pieces of work, we will make them into a display.



In school, we will aim not to disrupt the curriculum too much, but to take this moment as a learning opportunity and a time to reflect on a life of service and selflessness. We are aware that there are differing views about the Monarchy, and we are sensitive to that; no views will be imposed on any children. At different times, we like to give children the opportunity to air their views and debate big issues like that, but we feel that now is not the time for that, and respectful reflection is most appropriate.

In the weeks and months ahead, the funeral of Her Majesty will take place, as will the coronation of His Majesty The King. These are huge moments in history and we will mark them appropriately in school.

Sometimes, the passing of a high profile figure can evoke memories and emotions. If you are concerned about your child, please let us know and we will support them.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Smart
Headteacher





WELCOME BACK

We are delighted to have you all back again and ready for another year of hard work, fun, friendship and adventure! We hope you have had a fun-filled summer - and in many cases, we know that is the case because the children have been telling us what they've been up to. As always, we are here to do our very best for the children. If you have any concerns at any point, please get in touch - we are always happy to listen. Usually, the best person to talk to is your child's teacher, but if you want to discuss issues around special needs, please contact Mr Ellis and, for pastoral concerns, please ask for one of our Learning Mentors, Mrs Liddington and Mrs Frances. Senior Leaders are out and about most mornings and afternoons, so please come and talk if there's something on your mind. We will be launching our new homework scheme soon, but in the meantime, there are five things we would love you to do with your child throughout the year:

1: Read. 2: Read. 3: Learn times tables. 4: Read. 5: Read.

These really are the biggest steps to success, in school and in life. Of course, we will be working on those skills here in school, but you can give your child's learning a massive boost by taking opportunities at home. And the thing with reading is, it doesn't matter what your child reads. We will, of course, be providing books for children to take home, but whether it's books, newspapers, magazines, comics, instruction manuals or whatever else... it doesn't matter! As much as possible, we want children to enjoy their reading, just as we do as adults, so if your child has a book they aren't enjoying, put it back and find another one.

In all areas, children have the best chance of success when we work together. Please take every opportunity to get involved in school life. Year 4 have a workshop planned for October, and all year groups will be making similar plans. Likewise, if your child has the opportunity for some additional out-of-hours learning in school (usually called "booster sessions"), please support that if you possibly can. Thank you in advance for your support.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Thursday 29th September, we will be hosting a Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. It would be very much appreciated if the children could help with this by bringing in "cake donations" that morning. The cakes and hot drinks will be available for any parents/carers who wish to attend from 9am and, should there be any left over, will be sold to the children at morning break. Many thanks.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

It is now possible for parents and carers to apply for secondary school places for their children who are currently in Year 6. The submission deadline for this is 31st October 2022. If you are struggling with the process of applying for a secondary school place for any reason, Mrs Liddington and Mrs Frances are available to help. If you would like help, please book an appointment by sending an email to c.liddington@beechesjnr.bham.sch.uk

ART COMPETITION

No doubt you have all seen the extraordinary mural that has been painted by Mrs Cartmell (with a bit of help from Mr Ali!) in the quiet area. We are now planning to paint the opposite wall as well, and we would love some inspiration to get us started. Therefore, we are running a competition for children to design that wall for us. Mrs Cartmell will then recreate the chosen design, or a combination of different designs, on the wall. Your design could include anything related to school life, learning, children, our global community or whatever comes to mind. Mrs Cartmell has sourced some art-related prizes for the winners and runners up, including mini-canvases and easels with watercolour paints. We are looking for high quality designs and, while you might help your child with ideas and some of the technique involved, we want it to be their own work. The closing date is **Wednesday 21st September**.

PE KIT

We are continuing our policy of encouraging children to come to school in their PE kit on their PE days. Please ensure your child wears a plain white t-shirt (small manufacturers' logos are allowed) and black shorts for indoor PE. For outdoor PE, please send your child in plain tracksuit bottoms or leggings. Please ensure that children wear their school jumper or cardigan over the top of their kit.

DHANVI

One of our children has certainly been busy in the holidays! Dhanvi in 4L showed entrepreneurial opportunism during the hot weather by selling lemonade outside her home. Rather than keep the money herself, though, she has donated it to school fund! She has also had her hair cut for charity. Thank you, Dhanvi, for thinking of others. We are proud of you.

DIARY DATES

Thu 29 Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Thu 13 Oct, 9.00am	Year 4 parents' workshop
Tue 18 & Wed 19 Oct	Parents' evenings

TEAM POINTS THIS WEEK

1	Team Malala (Yellow)	287
2	Team Lewis (Blue)	285
3	Team Cadbury (Red)	275
4	Team Zephaniah (Green)	254

BEECHES BRILLIANT READERS

Beeches Brilliant Readers will return next week. Make sure you are reading every day!

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

3JW: Alfie	4AS: Blake	5A: Solange	6A: Jehan
3P: Aryan	4L: Hasan	5L: Ahmad	6M: Aaban
3RW: Arianna	4P: Jessica	5P: Jamie	6S: Lottie

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