

Beech Class Introductory Letter



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Waltham-on-the-Wolds and welcome to Beech Class! I am delighted to be the class teacher of Reception. This is a very exciting time for all the children in Beech class, as this is the beginning of their school journey.

I am sure that you have many questions; therefore, I hope this introductory letter will answer most of them. I have broken key areas into subheadings below, in order to make things clearer.

The Classroom

In Beech Class, not only do we strive to build upon children's academic knowledge, through providing them with many opportunities for independent learning, which allows children to develop their own knowledge and opinions, but we also focus on developing the whole child; through creating children who are confident, creative, and have skills beyond the classroom. This is achieved through celebrating each child as individuals, with their own unique talents, personality and interests all with the support of adults. Hence, when choosing our whole school and class projects, we centralise the curriculum on each child's learning styles and needs, creating a child-led, active learning environment. This nurtures each child's strengths, creating children who are happy, confident and successful. Moreover, the classroom is set into the curriculum areas, (please refer to our school website for details about the EYFS curriculum), to enable the children to follow their interests, as well as achieve their full potentials within the curriculum. Therefore, when visiting Beech Class, please expect to find a classroom that is active, creative and imaginative, and that equips children with the skills and characteristics they need for modern day lifestyle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation in settling your child into class. By week 3, I hope the children will be able to enter the classroom by themselves, therefore I would really appreciate your support in achieving this goal. They have settled really well this week and I am proud of all of them.

Timetable

Below, I have created a weekly timetable for Beech Class. This explains the activities that the children will be involved in each week, and the appropriate clothing they should wear/bring to school.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Clothing</u>
Monday	Outdoor Adventures	Children to come to school wearing suitable outdoor clothing for the day. The children will need to bring waterproofs and wellies.
Tuesday	Normal Routine	School Uniform
Wednesday	Normal Routine	School Uniform
Thursday	Physical Education	Children to come to school in their P.E kit for the day. Their P.E kit must either be the WOW school kit or a red plain top and black bottoms.
Friday	Normal Routine	School Uniform

Homework and Home Link Books

Each week, the children will be set a piece of homework. Your child will be set a Development Matters statement e.g. to count 10 or more objects, along with an observation sheet for you and your child to fill in. For this, you will be required to complete the target with your child in your own creative way, record an observation of what your child did to achieve the target, and attach a photograph if possible. This will allow us to work as a team in order to make sure your child reaches their full potential.

In addition, the children will be given weekly reading books. This will include, one book for your child to read to you and another book for you to share with your child. In your child's book bag, you will also find a 'Home Link' book. This book is for you and us at school to record when your child reads in at home or in school, as well as for you to write any important messages for me. Please can I ask that when you are writing in your child's book, you include the name of the reading book, the number of pages they have read, where they have got to in the book and how they found reading the book. Please praise them for their efforts. I will also be holding a workshop before half term to introduce you to our new phonics programme Read, Write, Inc (RWI).

Mr. Gingerbread Man

Each week, I will be choosing a child to take home, Mr. Gingerbread Man and his Diary. This gives your child a sense of responsibility, as for the weekend they will need to look after Mr. Gingerbread man and take him on all their adventures. All I ask is, if your child is looking after Mr. Gingerbread man, you or your child records his adventures in the diary on one page, along with a photograph of what your child and Mr. Gingerbread man have been up to. Inside the book, you will find an example to help guide you and your child. Please don't feel you have to write an essay! It should be something simple and fun for you all to enjoy.

Seesaw and Newsletters

Thank you to all those who have returned their Seesaw permission slips. If you have not received it already, you should soon find a Seesaw sign up letter in your child's book bag. This letter will outline how you can log onto your child's Seesaw profile and be part of your child's learning journey at school.

I hope you will come to find Seesaw an excellent communication resource that not only enables you to see what your child is learning in school, but also enables you to communicate with me electronically.
You will find further information for Seesaw on the sign up letter.

In addition to Seesaw, each week Mrs. Hopkins sends out a weekly Newsletter. In the newsletter, you will find information on; what each class has been up to, important dates, information about the school and other bits of key information. At the moment, these will be placed inside your child's bag and are on an orange piece of paper. However, in time we hope that these newsletters will appear electronically on Seesaw.

Project Based Learning

Each term, every class takes an essential question as part of a project and tries to answer it in a creative and imaginative way. In Beech Class, our new Autumn term project and essential question is, *What is your Character?* Here, we will be looking at the children, where they live, their families, their pets, their villages, their favourite characters and much more. At the end of the topic, we will be holding an 'All about me, afternoon tea', where we will be inviting you to come and learn all about the children in Beech class, while having a bit of cake and a cup of tea. So please keep an eye out for dates!

I am really looking forward to working with you and your child over the year and look forward to having many exciting and fun filled days with them.

Mr. Jackson

As explained above, over the course of the year I will be putting on some phonics and maths workshops. The aim of the workshops is for you to create an understanding of what we do in school. This will enable you to support your child at home. Please can you indicate whether you would prefer the workshops to be at 4pm or 6pm. I will then go with the majority vote in terms of the time of the workshops. Please can you return the slip to Mr. Jackson as soon as possible. Thank you.

4pm

6pm