



The Stone Age Rocks!

What was life like without modern technology?

In term 1, Beech Class will dive into the exciting history of the Stone Age through to Iron Age. Beech Class will start by thinking about questions that they would like to answer on their learning journey. They will learn; how early man survived in a harsh environment, why Skara Brae was important for understanding life in the Stone Age, how copper mining was crucial to the Bronze Age and why Stonehenge was built. Children will also learn about why Iron Age people developed hillforts and how important Druids were in Iron Age Britain. We will link our topic across the curriculum reading Stone Age and Iron Age fiction books, creating historic type pieces of artwork and immersing our learning into the history of how the Stone Age to Iron Age period impacted on life in Britain.

Maths

Our focus for terms 1 and 2:

- Place value
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and division

Children need to revise their times tables regularly. Repetition and retrieval are important to help children remember their times tables. To help children with their times tables, children need to practise for ten minutes a day on **Times Tables Rockstars**. Children will have learnt 2x, 5x and 10x in Year 2 and by the end of Year 3, will know 3x, 4x and 8x.

At home, it would be useful to practise mental Maths. **For example:** games involving counting forwards or backwards, card games involving addition or subtraction, spending small amounts of money and calculating the change, using scales (rulers, measuring tapes, weighing scales, jugs etc.) for practical purposes.

English

Our reading and writing focus will be on the following text:

- The Fox and The Star by Coralie Bockford-Smith
- The Starbird by Sharon King-Chai
- How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth by Michelle Robinson
- The First Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein
- The Tear Thief by Carol Ann Duffy
- A range of Christmas poems

Our whole class reading books:

- Mr Penguin and the lost treasure by Alex T Smith
- The Boy Who grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd

Spellings

Our spelling lessons will focus on learning new spelling strings and to practice them, together with developing fluent, joined handwriting. Please support this by helping your child to learn their homework spelling pattern, which is sent home every term.

Reading

We appreciate your support in sharing books with your child; both listening to and reading to them. Children should be reading at least **4 x a week for twenty minutes**.

Other subjects at a glance

P.E. this term will be on a **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. **Children need to wear their P.E kits (no school uniforms) to school on both these days.**

Art/DT: Beech Class will create their own Stone Age necklace and Woolly mammoth linked to our topic. We will also be developing drawing techniques focusing on human bodies and faces using pastels, pencil and digital media and learning about the artists; Julien Opie, Frida Kahlo and Clementine Hunter.

Computing: basic keyboard skills; e-safety; coding.

Science: Beech Class will be learning about rocks in Term 1 and light in Term 2.

Music: Children will learn to play tuned and untuned instruments musically. In Term 2, children will learn Christmas carols.

Geography/History: looking at settlements and land use, the impact of life in Britain in the Stone age and Iron age, timeline of important events.

French: the children will learn basic greetings and phrases through a variety of methods, including singing songs and rhymes developing a mixture of spoken and written skills.

PHSE: Social and environmental responsibility; 'Being me in my world' and 'celebrating difference'.

RE: In Term 1, children will focus their learning on Hinduism, answering the question: Would Diwali at home and in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a Hindu child? In Term 2, the learning focus will be on answering the question: What is it like (for Christians) to follow God?

Dear Beech Parents,

Welcome to Year 3 and the new term. I hope you all enjoyed the summer break and feel refreshed and ready for the busy but exciting term ahead.

Who's Who!

Class teachers: Mrs -Beresford (Monday, Tuesday and alternative Wednesdays) Mrs Sheahan (Thursday, Friday and alternate Wednesdays)

Learning support: Mrs Davis and Mrs Harper

Homelearning

We will send home spellings for the term and a ten-minute weekly maths workout book at the beginning of term. Please hand in Maths books on the last week of every term to be marked. A spelling test will be on Friday focusing on the spellings learnt that week. Please help support your child and encourage them with their homework. Homelearning will start once we have settled in to the term. A parent email will be sent regarding homelearning.

P.E.

Children need to wear their PE kit to school for their PE days (Wednesday and Thursday). We will try to get outdoors if the weather allows, so please make sure children have a PE jumper with them.

Other clothing

Children need a waterproof coat every day (not just a fleece; they go out in all weathers) and a pair of wellies to go on the field when it is wet. Children in school shoes are not allowed on the field throughout the wet weather of the winter as it is too muddy. **PLEASE NAME ALL CLOTHING/SHOES/BOOTS.**

Slippers

We will be having slippers back in the classroom this year. Please can children bring in a pair of hard soled slippers to wear in the classroom. Please only bring in sensible slippers. We know this is short notice so don't worry just get them in when you can.

Snack and water bottles

Now your child is in KS2 they do not receive free fruit under the government scheme. Please can you provide your child with a snack for their break which can be either fruit, veg or dried fruit. However please **do not** send in nuts or cereal bars. Please can you provide your child with a water bottle to bring to school and remind them to bring it home each day to be cleaned. There are no cups in the classroom or water fountains in use.

Bags

Children to only bring in a book bag. Please no rucksacks- there is not enough room in the cloakroom!

Class notice board and emails.

We will send out a parentmail for any important information, as well as writing it up on the whiteboard outside the classroom. **Please inform us of any changes to your child's home time collection arrangements.** If you have an urgent message please inform us in the morning. For any other queries or questions please ask at the end of the school day or email the class account.

Parent helpers

Reading is vital for children's literacy development. Reading opens children up to a whole new world and a variety of vocabulary. If you are able to spare some time to come in regularly and read with the children please let us know, parent helpers are a huge help!

Class Webpage

Keep an eye on our class page on the website as we will upload photos and videos of our learning as well as letters.

Important dates:

Friday 15th September: Welcome to Beech meeting @2:30 (please look out for more information on the school newsletter)

Tuesday 19th September: Stone Age WOW day. A day full of different activities to introduce our Stone Age topic learning. Children can dress up as a Stone Age person for the day!

Tuesday 7th November: Cheddar Gorge Class trip

Thursday 7th December: Beech Class DT day – We would love parent helpers on this day so get the date in your diaries!

Parentmail will be sent nearer the time for the above dates regarding further information.

There is always so much to take in at the start of a new year and there many new routines in place that we are all getting used to but please ask if you are unsure about anything. Thank you, Mrs Beresford and Mrs Sheahan and the Beech team 😊