

BEACON CURRICULUM UPDATE

Your newsletter from Beaconside Primary School

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“a light set up in a prominent position as a celebration”

Our Beacon curriculum has been carefully planned to provide children with ambitious and memorable learning experiences in and out of the classroom. We are focusing on three main threads that go right the way from nursery through to Year 6: These are allowing our children to develop:

- A deep understanding of the diversity in people
- A deep understanding of the diversity in places
- A deep understanding of people’s innovation

Our Christian Values

Our curriculum has been specifically designed to integrate our school’s Christian values within our learning. This photograph stood out this term as a way of celebrating **Joy** in our world around us. The children were given an opportunity to reflect and take time to take in their surroundings.



We are very proud of the amount of musical and sporting opportunities we provide. For this newsletter though, we have focussed on two other key aspects of our school that are very close to our heart and key to our curriculum development moving forward- Outdoor learning and Visits and visitors. We are investing significantly in these areas as we know how this can ignite the spark for children and make learning more meaningful.

We live in a wonderful county and have such wonderful grounds that it seems only right to make the most of it within our curriculum. We are building our outdoor learning this year so that every year group receives a series of outdoor lessons each term. These will include lessons on fire lighting, shelter building, navigation and using tools (Years 3-6). Four of our teachers have recently been on a two-day course to help prepare us to deliver these lessons and we have exciting plans for 2022 to develop our school grounds even further.

YEAR 1

Year 1 have been exploring natural materials and exploring the nature and wildlife on our school grounds.



YEAR 2



Year 2 have been tidying our school grounds in the bid to find natural materials that can contribute to shelter building.

YEAR 3

Year 3 have been learning about different types of knots which will help with their shelter building later in the year



YEAR 4

The children in Year 4, refined their navigation skills at Derwent Water recently and now know how to find "True North".



YEAR 5

Year 5 are also developing their compass work but they have also been designing their own routes on a map.



YEAR 6

The children in Year 6 have been collecting wood in preparation for making "tiny" and "fist" fires next week.



BUSY BEES

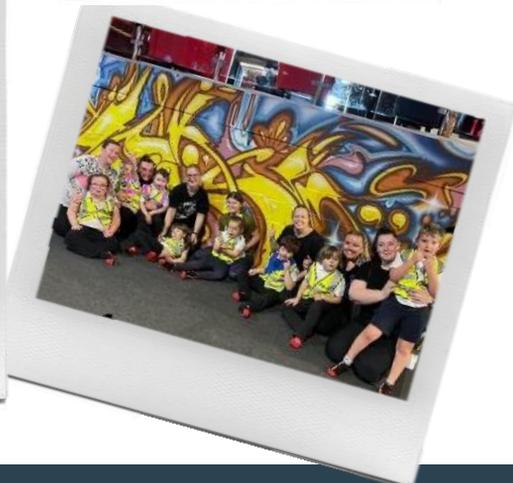
In Busy Bees, the children explore the outdoors through play and this is very much child-led learning.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

VISITS AND VISITORS

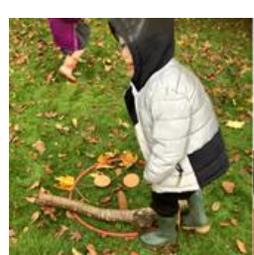
At Beaconside we believe, children learn best when they experience first-hand. You will have seen so far this term, that this is reflected in the number of visits and visitors that the children are experiencing. We aim to take the children on a visit every half term. This has been carefully planned to link to learning, consider cost (for school and parents) and provide memorable opportunities. It is incredibly important that all children attend these visits such is the link to learning in class therefore if you or your child are anxious about the nature of the visit or concerned about cost, please do E-mail me and we will work with you to develop a plan to make it work for that child.



NURSERY



The children in Nursery have settled in really well this term and have been learning the fundamental skills of being part of the school community. This includes learning to follow the daily routine in Nursery, using listening skills, how to use words when we have a want or a need, and learning to wait and take turns. Nursery children have also been learning about people who live differently to us, with particular focus on Diwali celebrations and Acorn Bear's christening and are beginning to get excited about Christmas and the nativity. Outdoor learning has involved lots of gross motor skills, using brushes and building with sticks and Nursery have had lots of opportunities to practise their fine motor skills, with activities ranging from pizza making, poppy artwork and bread painting.



RECEPTION

Our focus in PE this half term is improving our agility so we have been playing different games to do this. One of our favourites has been 'sharks and islands'.

In PSHE we have been focusing on the topic 'feelings' and we extended this during some time outdoors by collecting resources and making faces to express different feelings.

YEAR 1

The children in Year 1 have been learning all about Australia and comparing that with Penrith. They have been learning about different continents in Geography and how to classify different animals including mammals and marsupials within Science. The children have also begun their outdoor learning by exploring nature on our school grounds learning about different types of trees and flowers. Within Art, the children have been mastering their primary colours and using them to mix and make other colours



BUSY BEES

Busy Bees have been very busy learning all about themselves and different celebrations that we have. They have also been doing lots of learning that involves physical exercise and loved when sunbeams came back into school do music therapy and Makaton songs. They have been baking cakes using different skills and also doing different crafts that support fine motor skills. The children and adults loved their visit to Fusion Trampoline Park where they got to develop their gross motor skills, confidence and independence whilst having lots of fun!



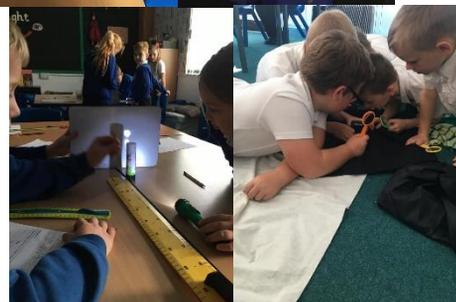
YEAR 2

The children have been comparing Kenya with Penrith as they learn about “The Big Five” animals in both Science and Geography. They were visited by Ruth, a member of our kitchen team who lived in Kenya for 30 years and really gave an insight into their life and culture. In Art, the children have been using the context of animals to produce different prints. In outdoor learning, the children have been using natural materials for shelter building.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have been learning about the importance of light in different religions. The children have had a Diwali workshop and are also studying the importance of light for Christians. The children have been learning to make hydraulic puppets in D and T and this was enhanced further by a visit to upfront gallery.



YEAR 4

The children in Year 4 are learning about farming Cumbria and comparing it to how agriculture is important in Egypt. The children visited Low Becks farm to experience a sheep farm and are now busy making conveyor belts in Design and Technology. In outdoor learning, the children have been busy planting fruit bushes in our school grounds.

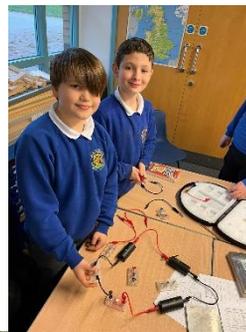


YEAR 5

Year 5 have been learning about the Vikings. The project began with a visit to York where they excavated and learnt about Viking weaponry. The children have been busy designing their Viking long boats in preparation for making them in woodwork before Christmas. They will be assisted by two joiners who will provide expert guidance. In outdoor learning, the children have been developing their compass and map skills and used them to navigate to Maeburgh Henge recently. You may also spot the children working scientifically where they were conducting an investigation into air resistance.

YEAR 6

Year 6 have been learning about World War 2 this half term. They are making a Morse Code box in Design and Technology and have been supported by Glenn and Andrew, two experienced joiners.. In outdoor learning the children have been sourcing wood for "mock fires" in preparation for their fire-lighting lesson next week and will also be working with a visitor to produce a willow dome for our school grounds in the coming weeks.



Key curriculum events this term

29th Nov

Year 6 visit to Tullie house and military museum

29th Nov

Zoobidoo visiting Year 1 and Busy Bees

2nd Dec

Year 6 fire lighting sessions- come in warm clothes

2nd Dec

Year 5 woodwork with joiners, Andrew and Glenn

2nd and 3rd Dec

Year 1 visit to Mungrisdale for shelter building

8th Dec

Year 6 producing a willow dome as part of outdoor learning

...Learn To Live...
... Learn To Shine...

Outdoor learning notices:

For some of these lessons the children may need a change of clothes- we will communicate this to the children and also via parent mail. Next Thursday, 2nd December, Year 6 will be doing a fire-lighting session and should come to school in warm outdoor clothes. If anyone has any wellies that are no longer needed we would welcome donations.

We are also looking for wood or logs that can help build "an outdoor learning zone" any help would be greatly appreciated. If any parents are interested in helping us with this development as this is a passion, please email mr_glynn@Beaconside.cumbria.sch.uk

Educational visits:

We will be sending out our list of visits for the Spring term in the next couple of weeks. Please remember, if you are struggling with the cost of any visit or have concerns, please do E-mail us.

Sports and after school clubs:

We are currently planning our after school clubs for the Summer term and will inform you of these as soon as we can. There are some exciting sporting events coming up including Cross Country at Hunter Hall and the finals for The Year 5/6 tournament The Year 2 children are also attending a multi sports event before the end of term.

Music:

It has been wonderful to see the number of children learning a musical instrument this term and we look forward to seeing the children applying these skills learning in the music lessons and at after school clubs in the Spring term.

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