Beaconhill Community Primary School





Newsletter - Friday 17th January 2025

Welcome Back!

The new term is now in **full swing**. This week in **assembly**, we talked about our **hopes** and **dreams**. **Ambition** is one of our **core values** so we like to celebrate occasions where children shoot for the stars! **Mr Shepherd** has created a brilliant **display** in the school hall which is where we celebrate **sporting success** outside of school. Any **medals** or **trophies** won in recent **sports competitions** and **festivals** are always welcome in school for us to **celebrate**! Have a lovely weekend! Mr Routledge



Mrs Birks

I am pleased (but saddened!) that the wonderful Mrs Birks has decided to retire at the end of this school term. Mrs Birks has worked with children at Beaconhill since 1991 and has worked in Early Years for well over 20 years. Mrs Birks has been a dedicated and highly valued member of staff and will be a huge miss. I am sure she will make the very most of her retirement and enjoy time away with her family in the caravan! Thankfully, we still have her up until Easter and she has agreed to come back voluntarily in some capacity!



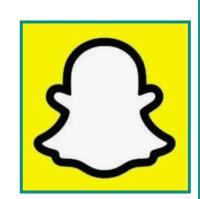
Bikes and Scooters

We would like to remind everyone of the importance of wearing a helmet when using a bike or scooter. Helmets provide crucial protection in the event of a fall or accident, reducing the risk of serious head injuries. It's essential that children develop the habit of wearing a helmet every time they ride - setting a positive example for safety. This is particularly pertinent as one of our pupils, Josh, recently suffered a nasty injury to his head and face. Josh fell off his scooter on his way to school and wasn't wearing a helmet. Thankfully, he made a full recovery but Josh and his dad were keen to share this with you to help encourage safe use of bikes and scooters.



Snapchat

A reminder to parents/carers of children who may be using the **Snapchat** app. Snapchat is a **social media app** designed for users aged **13** and **older**, but its use by primary-aged children raises significant **safety** and **developmental concerns**. The app's features, such as **disappearing messages**, **Snap Maps**, and **public stories**, can expose young users to **privacy risks**, **inappropriate content** and **cyberbullying**. Children at this age may lack the **maturity** to navigate these challenges responsibly, making them more vulnerable to exploitation or harmful interactions. Additionally, the **addictive nature** of the app can impact their **focus**, **mental health** and **social skills**. Parents/carers may wish to closely **monitor** device use and set **age-appropriate boundaries** to ensure that children can safely explore digital platforms.



Doodle Maths

Some of our **Key Stage One** have been making amazing progress on **Doodle Maths**. This year we have invested in the **Doodle programme** to **support learning** in school as well as at home. The app is designed to provide children

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with maths games and challenges at a level specific to their own learning. Children earn stars by answering questions and can spend the stars as a virtual currency to create their own characters. We advocate a 'little and often' approach so children aren't having too much screen time. For example, children might choose to access the app three or four times per week for ten minutes or so. My son has his own account so we also use it at home and, from the perspective of a parent, it's brilliant!



Year Five Beach

This week, Year Five visited Druridge Bay. The children worked in teams to build a shelter which required them to use our core values of creativity, resilience and respect. Once the shelters were built, they were put to the test by the grown ups to check they were sturdy, water tight and big enough to house the whole team. As a reward for their hard work, children were treated to hot chocolate and s'mores around the fire pit. It's great to see so many of our core values being demonstrated - keep it up!



Year Five Skipping

This week, our **Year Five** children were visited by **Linda** from **Skipping School**. She taught the class a range of **individual** and **team** skipping **skills**. In **March**, ten of our children will represent the school at a team **skipping competition** at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Sports Centre so watch this space!

Footwear

A reminder that our uniform expectation is that children wear plain black shoes for school. Shoes without a proper heel e.g. crocs, slippers and sandals are not safe for school. On PE days, children should wear trainers but these do not have to be black. For younger children, velcro is preferable if they cannot yet tie their own laces.

Family Hub

Our colleagues at the Family Hub have asked us to share details about events taking place locally. The Family Hub carries out a range of work in the local community which ranges from birth registration, midwifery and health services, infant feeding support, primary mental health, community events, relationship support, digital learning and much more. Follow the link to find out more. South East Northumberland Family Hubs (Blyth, Cramlington & Seaton Valley) What's On Padlet



Road Safety

A member of the public contacted us earlier this week to say that they'd witnessed one of our pupils run across the road on the way home from school which caused a car to brake sharply. We will do some Road Safety work in school next week as a reminder but we'd appreciate it if you could also reinforce this important message at home.



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