



# Sun Beam

A NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY STAFF AND THE ASPIRING KS2 WRITERS OF BEAM COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## A note from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

On behalf of all the staff and pupils of Beam County Primary School, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

I would like to direct you to our Twitter link <https://twitter.com/BeamCountyPS> where you will see regular updates in regards to events. There is a clip of the Beam Bangers performing their Christmas songs! Our choir also performed to a local care home, which evoked many happy memories for them. They also performed at Lakeside raising over £267.

May I also use this opportunity to convey profound appreciation to all my colleagues for their outstanding professionalism in their formal paid roles, but also for all that they do - in a voluntary capacity - with lunchtime clubs, trips, activities and residential opportunities. Staff are not paid, or required, to organise and lead so many extra-curricular activities - so thank you.

I am incredibly proud of our amazing children - they show resilience and passion, which astounds us constantly. In the New Year, we are looking forward to implementing Latin - novus annus!!

Miss T. Whittington

## Notices part 1

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNINGS

A very big thank you to everyone who helped raise £216.42.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (9 - 11.00)**

2020: What goals do you have? What would you like to achieve?

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (9 - 11.00)**

A new look, a new ME!

### PARENT INSET FOR TEACHERS

Parents ran a very interesting and factual session for teachers with wonderful displays talking about their culture, history, education, health care systems, dress, food and many other interesting facts from Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Moldova, Nigeria, Lithuania, Senegal, Brazil, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sudan. All teaching staff enjoyed talking to the parents and thanked them for their time and efforts making the session very worthwhile.

Diana Huskie (PTA)



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Headteacher: Miss T Whittington

Deputy Head: Mr G Anderson



## Sportshall Athletics

Beam recently held off competition from 15 other schools to win the borough Sportshall competition meaning that we will now represent Barking and Dagenham at the London Youth Games.

Before the competition, Year 4, 5 and 6 attended a warmup event against Robert Clack's Year 7 children. The events covered were speed bounce, javelin, chest push, standing long jump and triple jump. In particular, Naphtali did well in every event he did despite the fact he is a Year 4 student. In addition to this Kennedy and Tyrone also excelled in triple jump. Mr Hoyte told us that we all had done excellent and we felt confident for the borough competition.

On the day, we excelled in most of the events with highlights being the obstacle relay and the Javelin throw. Bryan managed to throw over 21 metres which soared him to victory.

We are all excited for the London Youth Games competition in January and will do our best to win for Barking and Dagenham.

**By Jaden and Kennedy**

## Notices part 2

### NEXT STEPS AT NURSERY

Run by **LBBB Educational Psychology Service** in the PSA Room. Fun and interactive workshops. 3 x 1.5 hour sessions.

Session 1: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 9.30 - 11.00 am (parents/carers only)

Session 2: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 9.30 - 11.00 (play workshop for parents/carers and children)

Session 3: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 9.30 - 11.00 (parent/carers only)

Please book a place with Diana Huskie PSA or Nursery Staff.

Limited to 10 parents only.

### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Parents enjoy sharing food together and have fun learning English with the Adult College.

**Diana Huskie (PTA)**



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## An interview with Mr Arthur

Mr Arthur is a Year 3 teacher new to Beam County Primary School. He is a great role-model to the KS1 and KS2 students. We wanted to find out more about Mr Arthur so we asked him a few things about himself.

**Q1: Why did you want to be a teacher?**

"I wanted to make sure that I make a difference to children's lives and growing up I always wanted to be a teacher. Teachers had an impact on my life when I was at school."

**Q2: Was it your dream to be a teacher and why?**

"It is not my dream but it was something I have always wanted to do."

**Q3: What subject do you like the most and why?**

"My favourite subject is maths; I did really well in my maths GCSE and I did maths at A-Level but then I dropped it when I went to Year 13 (6<sup>th</sup> Form)."

**Q4: What are your favourite things about being a teacher?**

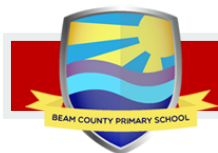
"My highlights of being a teacher are when you see a child progressing who started off finding the learning difficult but then seeing them improve. As a teacher it makes you feel like you're doing a great job."

**Q5: What are your hobbies?**

"My favourite hobby would be football because I used to play as a kid. I played for Arsenal Academy for 8 years but I don't play football now. Football is still something I like."

**By Nissi and Varnisha**





## Christmas Production

Our theme for our festive production was 'Christmas Around The World'. The show started with Mary and Joseph introducing the angels to the crowd. Then when the angels arrived on the stage, the lead angel Gabriel (Alice) announced to the other angels that they would be our special Christmas messengers and would fly off to visit the country that was in their envelopes. Jayden flew off to France, Sumaya to Germany, Talia went to Poland, Malik had South Africa, Luca had Spain and Alice had the UK.

Each year group performed a festive song from one of these cultures. Year 1 had the French classic 'Liberee De-livree' and Year 2 sung the song 'Kling Glockchen' from Germany. This was followed by Year 3 impressively singing in Polish whilst Year 4 wowed the crowd with a traditional tribal performance from South Africa. Finally, Year 5 said 'Feliz Navidad' from Spain and Year 6 performed various classic British carols.



The show allowed us to explore the different ways in which people around the world celebrate Christmas.

By Jayden, Martynas, Areebah,

## Friends of Beam

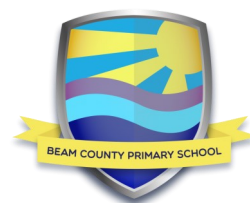
Friends of Beam have had a very successful start to this academic year. Our discos continue to be extremely popular with the pupils and, with the profits made, we are able to support the school by purchasing resources to support our pupils' learning.

So far this year we have purchased headphones for our Lexia pupils, a variety of resources to support our pupils with speech and language programs, playground equipment and we have helped to replenish KS1 reading books whilst also making a contribution towards the cost of the coach for the Year 5 trip.

This would not happen without the hard work from Mrs Newell who prepares for each disco many weeks in advance.

I would like to thank all the staff and the parents for their continued support at each disco.

By Mrs Mason



## Money Sense

At Beam we are working towards becoming a 'MoneySense Accredited School' as part of our commitment to teaching our pupils how to use money safely and responsibly.

We have been joined recently by volunteers from NatWest to run workshops with KS2 where they have been learning about budgeting as they prepare to plan a party for a child of their choice with only a budget of £300! We are very grateful to the volunteers from NatWest.

All year groups will be receiving further workshops aimed at increasing their financial literacy which will help them to make informed choices in the future regarding money.

The MoneySense website [mymoneysense.com](http://mymoneysense.com) also has a Parents section where you can download activities to do at home. Your children can also explore a Virtual Bank to get used to the services in a real bank branch.

By Mrs McKenzie



## NSPCC

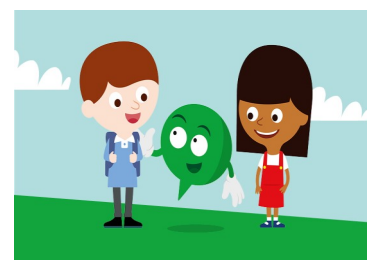
This year, the NSPCC visited our school to teach the children about abuse and how to stay safe.

They showed us examples and videos on what to do if we ever feel uncomfortable. They taught us not to keep bad secrets and that we have the right to speak out. Also, we learnt about different types of abuse and how it's not OK to abuse children.

We were also told the number for Childline (0800 1111) just in case we ever have any problems. The NSPCC were very encouraging and made sure that we understand that we're not alone.

Luckily, they are open at all times and no matter how big or small the problem is, we can message or call Childline. Plus, it is free to speak to Childline!

By Nissi and Elizabeth





## What have we been up to?

### Nursery

Christmas is just around the corner and the Nursery children have been involved in many Christmas activities to teach them about the customs of Christmas. They made Santa's hats and beards to disguise themselves as Santa! We encourage the children to complete these activities with independence to build their skills.

The children also made candy canes - using white and red finger prints and Christmas bows. They especially enjoyed practicing writing their names in their Christmas cards.

The children have formed many friendships and have settled well at Nursery. Our main teaching focus this term has been to encourage the children to become independent learners. Key skills that we have been teaching the children is how to attempt things for themselves, for example, putting on their own coat, doing the zip themselves, wash their hands after going to the toilet, so that it becomes a habit formed.



The Nursery children are certainly learning skills that they will carry with them for life, and we, as their teachers have the privilege of seeing them develop these skills.

### Reception

We are beyond proud of the progress the children have made this term. They have settled into school life like a dream and increasing in independence every day!

This term we have been focussing on developing social interactions with others, developing routines and learning values in order to differentiate between good and negative choices.



During the first half term, we were learning about the topic, 'What makes us unique?' We discovered about the body, our senses, the history of our names, and how we can grow to become good citizens.

During this half term, we have been learning through the topic, 'What is a celebration?' We have learned about the customs of Diwali, the birth of a new baby, how we celebrate our own birthday and how different cultures celebrate birthdays and the story of Christmas. We have made Diva lamps from clay, written lists for Mrs Gholampour for her expectant baby, planned a birthday party plus many more exciting learning opportunities!

## World Afro Day

In September, Beam was lucky enough to be invited to World Afro Day at the BBC. The event was about different cultures of afro hair and why young people shouldn't be ashamed of their hairstyle no matter what culture they represent.

The BBC interviewed the founder of World Afro Day (Michelle De Leon) along with some Beam students. Professionals were there to give the opportunity for pupils to get special cornrows and plaits in their hair. During the event, a special assembly was made to represent those who have afro hair. During the assembly, an amazing dance performance went on. The dance group originated from the Netherlands. They had many exciting moves to show off on the immense stage.

Many people were there along with special guests to talk about their style of hair. Celai West, actress, said this about the event: *'I want ALL girls with ALL textures of hair to feel beautiful and to be treated fairly.'* Beam students received special gift bags full of exciting products for them to try on their hair! What an amazing day!



We were also lucky enough to be featured on the BBC video about World Afro Day. See our pupils at this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-49695560/world-afro-day-kids-takeover-for-big-hair-assembly>

By Harvish and Aaban

## What have we been up to?

### Year 1

We have been enjoying our literacy unit this term reading, performing and creating our own innovative stories, which had a focus on rhyme. We looked at a range of texts by the author Kes Gray including 'Oi Frog!', 'Oi Dog!' and 'Oi Duck-Billed Platypus'.

As we approach Christmas we would like to remind all parents that children are still able to access their Bug club and Spelling Shed account over the festive period.



### Year 2

This term, Year 2 have spent a lot of time focusing on materials and their properties. We have learnt the scientific vocabulary for different materials and the purpose of them.

The children have taken an active role in their learning by consolidating their knowledge in a final project- making the Three Little Pigs a new home. They chose materials they felt would make a suitable home and then we huffed and puffed (and used a hairdryer) to blow them away.

### Year 3

This term, Year 3 have had the opportunity to participate in the Primary Steps Royal Ballet program. At the start of the program, pupils attended an event hosted by Dagenham Park during which they had the opportunity to meet international students who shared their dreams and aspirations of being professional ballet dancers. In the weeks that followed our children have developed and practiced skills such as: Port De Bras, Adage and Pirouette. This whole experience has created a deeper appreciation for the performing arts. Hopefully this will inspire some of our children to take it further.

### Year 4

Year 4 have been focusing on The Iron Man text this term which has provided lots of great writing opportunities from recounts to descriptions. Many of the children have produced excellent pieces that have been showcased throughout their books and classroom displays.

They have really enjoyed learning about the Tudors too! Recently, we visited Eastbury Manor House where the children had the opportunity to learn about Tudor clothing, games, dances, foods and their beliefs. The visit allowed the pupils to enrich both their knowledge of the Tudors and the local history of Dagenham.

## Samaritans

In November, Beam County Primary School held a fundraiser to provide children in unfortunate situations with a Christmas box full of gifts.

As a school, we donated items to the charity, to ensure that these children receive presents at Christmas like every other child.

Overall, Beam County Primary School raised a whole huge table of presents to give to the underprivileged. These children were from countries all over the world; including children from the UK.

In school, we watched various clips that represented children full of excitement and receiving their first present ever. These presents ranged from; dolls, action figures, race cars, colouring books etc.

We hope that our actions have made a difference to these children's lives.

**By Martynas**



## Remembrance Day

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November, Year 5 went to Dagenham Parish Church to attend a special remembrance service in order to reflect on all the soldiers that have given their lives for war.

We had a 2 minute silence to show our thanks for the soldiers because if not for them we may not be here right now and the world could be a very different place.

There were also other schools present and a variety of younger and older pupils. Many of them placed a poppy wreath by the memorial statue that was inscribed with the names of the people that fought in the war from A-Z.



We also had the opportunity to talk to a war-veteran who answered our questions about serving your country.

Back at school, we listened to The Last Post and held a two minute silence in assembly to remember those who have lost their lives whilst serving their country.

**By Kennedy and Johnson**

## What have we been up to?

### Year 5

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about World War 2 in history. The children had the privilege of listening to two local war veterans speak about their experiences of evacuation and have learned all about the precautions that Britain took.

After Christmas, we will be visited by The National Holocaust Centre to undertake a sensitive workshop on these events from a Jewish perspective. We will also continue with this topic in literacy as we study 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'.

Elsewhere, in science, children have investigated different properties of solids and liquids alongside experiments involving mixtures. We have looked at the solubility of different mixtures and whether changes are reversible or not.

During Science Week, we had some fun with placing an egg in vinegar and watching how the acid and calcium carbonate of the egg shell reacted together. The result was disgusting and certainly not something we would dare to eat!



### Year 6

Year 6 had a fantastic time visiting The Tower of London relating to our history topic of Crime and Punishment.

They were able to adventure through the many towers, expanding their knowledge of the tower and Tudor crime and punishment - especially the tragic fate of Anne Boleyn. We will be discussing whether Anne's beheading was fair or unfair and writing monologues in her moments before death.

From this visit the children were inspired and went on to write their own suspense stories. Some were really suspenseful - especially with people looking in mirrors and seeing images of other people!



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## Football

### Year 5

Year 5 have had an excellent start to the season winning both of their competitive games to date. Here is a report by Kennedy on the victory over Roding Cannington.

*After winning their opening match 6-0 against Five Elms, Beam knew that Roding Cannington would bring a tougher test. As the game kicked off, both teams started quite slow but Beam burst into life with a great through ball from Dani for Kennedy to run onto. GOOOALL!!! Kennedy was thrilled with a goal driven straight into the bottom right corner. The striker scored again a few minutes later to make it 2-0 at half time. The second half saw goals from Chris and Sebastian and whilst Roding also scored, Beam managed to win with an impressive 4-1 scoreline. We will play our last 2 league games after Christmas and if we win both, we will qualify for the semi-finals.*

### Year 6

Year 6 have played a few friendly matches in preparation for their season beginning in January. Here is a report from Jayden on one of the games against St Peters.

*Beam kicked off - this was sure to be a very exciting game. Early on, Afeez crossed the ball for Jayden. He surely had to finish from this distance. GOOOOAL! Beam took a 1-0 lead. After that, St Peters were on the attack. They dribbled into the box... GOOOAL! St Peters equalized. It was 1-1 at half-time. Soon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, Beam earned a corner. Jaden delivered a delightful cross.. GOOOOAL! Troy got on to the cross and scored a header. 2-1 to Beam. Just 4 minutes later, Jaden sent another corner into the box. GOOOAL! Troy got onto a Jaden corner once again, this time with a stunning volley! 3-1 to Beam. However, St Peters had brought two teams with them and we started to get tired whereas they could rotate their players. With 12 minutes left, St Peters got on the attack. GOOOAL! 3-2. Just 6 minutes left and the St Peters' striker was through on goal. GOOOAL! St Peters equalise. Then with one of the last chances of the game...St Peters score!! We are not happy with losing but we are happy with how prepared we are for the league games after Christmas.*

**By Jayden and Kennedy**

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