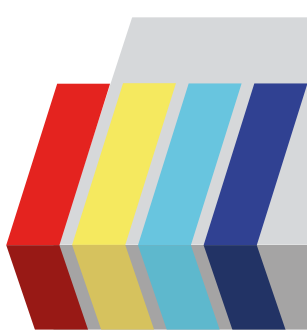




**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## Update from Miss Whittington

### Celebrating Success

The school has a long history of competing in competitions and our children understand grace in winning and losing. Furthermore, we also have a long history of Year 6 pupils receiving awards in Year 6 *only* and the Headteacher's Award.

To extend opportunities for leadership, we have provided more opportunities for pupils to demonstrate being '*responsibility-led*'. Pupils are either nominated by peers, or they go through an application and interview process so that we equip them with lifelong skills. Even if a pupil decides to relinquish their role, they are taught how to resign.

### Achievements and Lifelong Learning

*'To flourish in a business environment, individuals must keep learning new skills. In fact, studies show that workers who maintain their ability to learn outpace other professionals.<sup>1</sup> The people who will thrive in the 21st century will be those who embrace lifelong learning and continually increase their knowledge, skills, and competencies.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Barbara Mistick and Karie Willyerd, *Stretch: How to Future-Proof Yourself for Tomorrow's Workplace*, first edition, Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2016.

<sup>2</sup>Hae-du Hwang and Daesung Seo, "Policy implication of lifelong learning program of EU for Korea," *Procedia—Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2012, Volume 46, pp. 4822–9, doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2012.06.342.

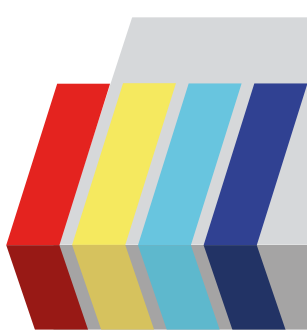
In forth coming Newsletters, we will introduce our leaders and celebrate their successes. For this edition, we celebrate the 'tie' given to pupils in Years 5 and 6. As adults it is important to remember that our young leaders are still children on a journey of growth and learning. Just like your child, they're developing skills, building resilience, and discovering their potential. Embracing mistakes as opportunities for growth helps foster a positive learning environment. Encouraging empathy and teamwork reinforces valuable social skills.

Let's celebrate their achievements together, learn from challenges, and create an environment where every child feels empowered to grow.





**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## Update from Miss Whittington

### Tie Attributes

**Blue Tie - attributes and characteristics of the ideal Beam student. Pupils who cultivate a lifelong love of learning, through the attributes of striving, inspiring and community. They are inspiring and strive to be the best that they can be for themselves and their Beam community.**

### Focus on growth

**Zeal to learn**

**Curious**

**Persistent**

**Self-directed**

**Collaborative**

**Reflective**

According to a report by McKinsey, there are 7 elements of a lifelong learning mindset: [Seven key practices for lifelong learners | McKinsey](#)

**Focus on growth:** Embrace the idea that intelligence can be developed and that there are no limitations on what we can learn throughout our lives. They demonstrate a Growth Mindset (Carol Dweck).

*Those with a growth mind-set, however, believe that their true potential is unknown because it is impossible to foresee what might happen as a result of passion, effort, and practice.'*

[Please press here for the full report.](#)

How can I help my child to develop a Growth Mindset?

Set high expectations for your child:

Encourage children to be resilient and not give up, even when they find something difficult or frustrating:

Celebrate mistakes!

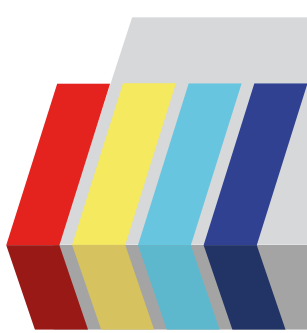
Use inspirational role models:

Sincere in study – pupils that always trying their best, even when they struggle. Always trying to the best of their ability.





**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## Update from Miss Whittington

**Zeal to learn:** A pupil keen to learn, an individual that shows unique interests and strengths at an early age and are intrinsically motivated. Pupils who are disciplined in habit,

ANNE STONEHOUSE (The Royal Children's Hospital), writes:

*'...Children learn the value of collaboration and working together with each person making a unique contribution...'*

*'...A child is so much more than a collection of developmental milestones, so much richer than the sum of their achievements in conventional developmental areas. We limit the complexity, colour and richness of children when we think of them only in terms of developmental status, when we fail to really see and hear them as unique individuals with unique interests and talents...'*

[To read the full article, please press here](#)

**Be curious:** Ask questions and seek new information.

*'... intellectual curiosity is the hidden force that drives learning, critical thinking, and reasoning. Curiosity helps children seek and acquire new knowledge, skills, and ways of understanding the world. It is at the heart of what motivates young people to learn and what keeps them learning throughout their lives...'*

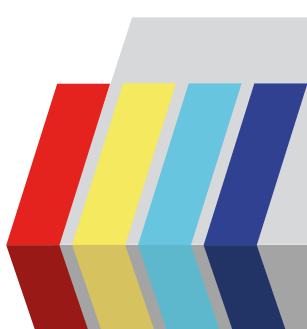
[Press here to read an online article regarding Curiosity: How Parents Foster Lifelong Learning in Children](#)

The blog by Jade Blue, The Engine of Achievement: The role of curiosity in learner engagement (Blue, J (2022) Cambridge, University Press & Assessment), provides an insight into the importance of curiosity for educators. [Please press here if you wish to read it.](#)





**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## Update from Miss Whittington

**Be persistent:** Don't give up when faced with challenges or setbacks.

**These are pupils** sincere in study – always trying their best, even when they struggle, they are resilient and always trying to the best of their ability.

The following links provide further parental guidance:

### 6 Evidence-Based Ways to Encourage Persistence in Children

Recent research gives us insight into how we can raise more persistent children, Goodwin, C (2021): <https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/parenting-translator/202108/6-evidence-based-ways-encourage-persistence-in-children>

Stick With It: Encouraging Persistence in Kids (Pariakian, Rebecca,

2021):[https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/stick-with-it-encouraging-persistence-in-kids#:~:text=Persistence%20is%20a%20helpful%20trait,develop%20for%20many%20more%20years\).](https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/stick-with-it-encouraging-persistence-in-kids#:~:text=Persistence%20is%20a%20helpful%20trait,develop%20for%20many%20more%20years).)

**Be self-directed:** A pupil that takes responsibility for their own learning and development. Pupils who have an intrinsic sense of responsibility for their own learning are “responsibility-led learners”.

To increase pupils' sense of responsibility, we have the following:

- Sports Leaders
- Wellbeing Ambassadors
- Eco Team
- Pupil Parliament
- House Captains
- Deputy House Captains
- Lunchtime monitors
- Dining Room monitors
- Library monitors
- Digital Leaders

These pupils are diligent in approach, tolerant, reliable and community orientated. They collaborate or lead with kindness and inspiration.





**BEAM**  
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# Newsletter

December 2023

## Update from Miss Whittington

As a Primary school, we need to prepare our pupils for secondary school: <https://www.connectionsacademy.com/support/resources/article/how-to-teach-teens-to-be-more-responsible/>

The following online article, provides further information about age-appropriate behaviours as children develop and learn to, [please press here to read the full article:](#)

‘...understand what it means to act responsibly’.

‘...understand the rules and apply them in various settings.

Develop, ‘...relationships (managing their feelings and impulses, showing empathy and working through conflict, being dependable and keeping promise’:

**Be collaborative:** Learn from others and work alongside others, in a caring manner - they consider the Beam community.

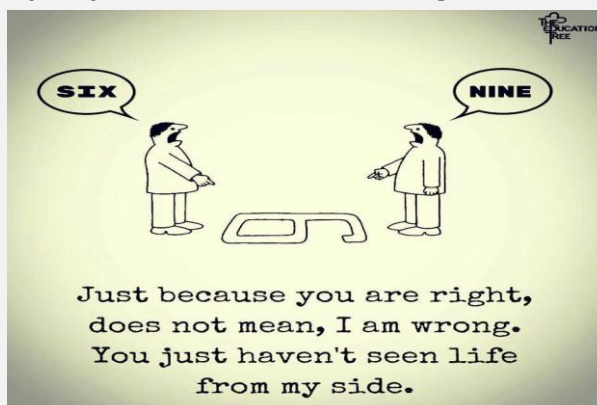
Effective teamwork and collaboration are considered important to a pupils’ learning process. Working in teams assists pupils in developing their problem solving, communication, and critical thinking skills, and allows them the opportunity to work with and learn from their peers

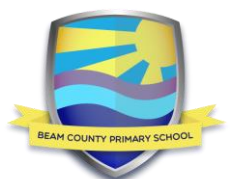
**Be reflective:** Pupils who take time to reflect on what they have learned and they consider how they can apply it.

This attribute also demonstrates a pupil’s ability to understand a different perspective. They are tolerant, kind in nature, modest in demeanour.

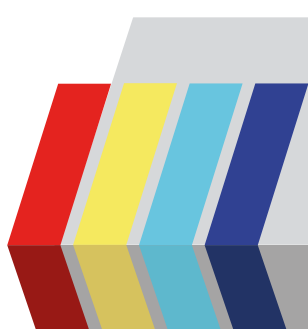
[Please press this link to for further guidance on how you can support your child:](#)

**Can pupils see another perspective. Discuss the image below with your child:**





**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## Update from Miss Whittington

The **Gold tie** is all the above and to acknowledge those children that put in a lot of time and effort into their extracurricular activities; yet they still maintain their academic excellence. Extra-curricular – high performance - It is for those who take part to a determinedly high standard in extracurricular activities for school.

Continuous drive for academic excellence

It is crucial for parents to recognise that winning, losing, or receiving accolades, etc., are part of a developmental journey. While it's natural to take pride in our children's accomplishments, it's equally important to instil values of grace and humility in them. Modelling grace and pride in others sets the foundation for a well-rounded and empathetic individual.

By showcasing our own ability to appreciate and acknowledge the achievements of others, we impart valuable life lessons. It's essential to convey that success is not solely defined by awards but by personal growth, perseverance, and a positive impact on others. Encouraging children to value the efforts and successes of their peers fosters a sense of community and cooperation. This approach contributes to the development of well-adjusted individuals who understand the significance of collaboration and mutual support. While celebrating our children's achievements, let's ensure that the spotlight also shines on the virtues of humility and respect for others. In doing so, we play an integral role in nurturing not just award-winning attributes but compassionate and socially aware individuals.

## Headteacher's Awards

Nursery 1 – Cezara Gurin

Nursery 2 – Ahmaad Williams

RST – Yasin Andrei

RLS- Rhiyashree

Madhusoothan Suganya

RMK – Wiktor Olszewski

1HH – Arthur Jackson

1BC – Isra Osman

1NH – Grace Coker

2DM – Olivia Smith

2FT – Akwasi Yeboah

2MC – Ayla Kaya

3JS – Freya Arunasalam

3KY - Ryan Gozar

3WA - Akshita Rentala

4JH - Krigan Kararia

4NN – Abigail Akindele

4SU- Ahmed Osman

Sport- Radhika Kulkarni

5AW - Mateo Hernandez Veliz

5LR - Michael Hodzi

5SS- Ayesha Asjad

6DC - Rayan Siam

6LW - Cainan Masaba

6PR- Eliora Wandji Nya

Atlantis – Inaaya Malik

AQ- Blake Dance

Apollo - Mehrish Amin

Art - Siana Karova



## SEND Updates

### Our Shiny New Building

As you may be aware, we have had lots of building work taking place this term, but I am excited to share that our new Atlantis and Apollo Classrooms are almost ready!

I will be in touch in the new year to let you know when the children will be able to return to the classes, and to normal drop off and pick up arrangements.

I would like to acknowledge how fantastically the children (and parents, and staff!) have coped with the changes during this time - you have all been amazing. Also, a big 'Thank you' to Miss Whittington for always supporting our school SEND Team.

We look forward to welcoming you into our new classrooms in the new year.

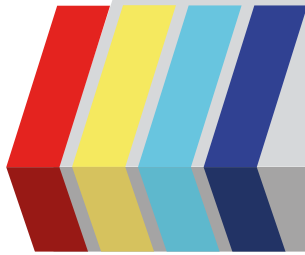
K. L. Mooney  
SENCo

## Upcoming Dates & Events

- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Y6 trip to see 'The Witches' at the National Theatre
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – 1HH (Deers) Upminster Windmill Trip
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February – 1BC (Hedgehogs) Upminster Windmill Trip
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – 1NH (Badgers) Upminster Windmill Trip
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Pupil Progress Meeting
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Polling Day – School Closed
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Pupil Progress evening



**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## KS2

**Year 6** - After a fantastic residential to Trewern where lifelong memories were made, Year 6 have been working hard across all subjects. In literacy, we enjoyed the thought-provoking novel 'The Faraway Truth'. This acted as our writing stimulus and proved a route into discussions about race, social justice and the justice system.

We also enjoyed the critically acclaimed novel 'Holes' in our reading lessons as we looked heavily at plot devices and unpicked the mystery as we read. Elsewhere, we enjoyed making circuits in our science topic and used this knowledge to make an electronic game in D.T whilst we also embarked on making a three-course meal in our food technology unit.

Also, our study of Crime & Punishment in history led to a workshop where pupils took the role of forensic scientists in a mock crime scene after they had previously learned about the different crimes committed and punishments provided throughout the ages.

**Year 5** - As the leaves fell and the air turned crisp, our primary school buzzed with excitement during the Autumn term. Here's a glimpse of the wonderful events that unfolded:

### Poppy Memorial Day: Honouring with Heart

Our young learners showcased immense compassion and respect as they came together to craft several beautiful wreaths for Poppy Memorial Day. Delicately handmade by the children, the wreath was a symbol of gratitude and remembrance. In a touching ceremony at St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, our students solemnly placed the wreath, paying tribute to the sacrifices of those who came before us. The atmosphere was poignant as the entire year group observed a minute of silence, fostering a sense of unity and gratitude.

### A Magical Christmas Performance: Thank You for the Cheer!

The festive season sparkled with joy as our talented children took centre stage, presenting a heart-warming Christmas performance that left everyone in awe. From enchanting carols to delightful skits, their hard work and dedication shone through. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the children for putting on a fantastic show, spreading holiday cheer and showcasing the true spirit of togetherness.

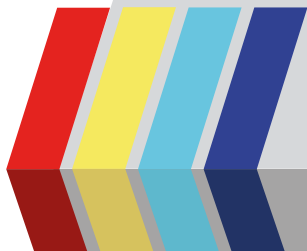
As we reflect on these memorable moments, we want to express our gratitude to the entire school community for your ongoing support and commitment. Here's to a season of growth, kindness, and learning!







**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## KS2

**Year 4** - Throughout Autumn 2, Year 4 participated in exciting new opportunities including the Social Enterprise programme where-by pupils took part in a 'Dragons – Den' venture and were given the task to design a new idea that could help improve the environment that we live in. It was a great success with all children.

In science, Year 4 were investigating the properties of materials that conduct electricity and given the chance to create their own complete circuit using bulbs, wires and batteries. The children could identify how this was working and what would happen if the circuit was incomplete. Additionally, during literacy, Year 4 were reading the story of 'Bill's New Frock' which had messages of stereotypes of which the children could relay back to their learning within PSHE. During this topic, in-depth and professional discussions took place from all classes and greater learning around what a playscript entails.

On top of this, Year 4 attended a viewing of 'Wicked' the musical in London's West End, which provided them with a scope into how a play is put together and the language that is used. It has been a successful term for Year 4 and we look forward to all that Spring has to offer. Well done to each and everyone of you.

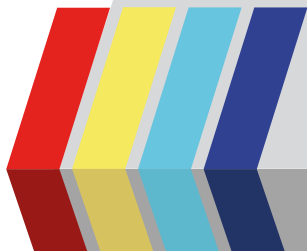
**Year 3** - During the second half of the Autumn term, the Year 3 students continued to develop their addition and subtraction skills using the column method and exchanging of place values.

In science, we began our unit on rocks and started to compare and contrast the different types and properties of rocks, as well as learn how rocks are created, formed and eroded over time. In RE, we learned about how light is important in different religions, exploring how it is used by people. In PSHE, we learned about how to keep ourselves healthy and our personal wellbeing, using strategies to help us solve problems and looking at the foods that we eat. In history, we continued to explore how the Romans affected life in Britain. Finally, In literacy, we learned about Rosa Parks and we wrote biographies about her life, her experiences and her legacy.





**BEAM**  
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# Newsletter

December 2023

KS1

**Year 2** - Last term, the pupils really enjoyed reading *The Ugly Five* text by Julia Donaldson. We looked at the animals' habitats and the key features of their appearance. The story explores the concept of difference and how we should be accepting of others. Many animals were teased by characters in the story for being 'ugly' so we explored different emotions through the use of drama. We spoke about the importance of treating others how we wish to be treated; and how beauty comes in different forms.

In geography, we concluded our London unit with children drawing their own maps of the city. These were fantastic and have demonstrated the rich knowledge they have gained throughout the unit.

Science has been a highlight for many children, learning about different materials. They have looked at the properties in order to identify suitable materials for different objects. By conducting explorations to test the strength of different materials, they were able to design their own dungarees that had to be durable and flexible for a toddler.

We are extremely excited for this term where the children will be learning about sea creatures; plants; and even *The Plague!* We look forward to your continued support.

**Year 1** - Last term was a wonderful term in Year 1! We enjoyed creating moving picture books, writing a retell of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, visiting Dagenham Parish Church and our favourite part had to be our visit to the Ragged School museum.

In history, children compared school life in Victorian times to our present day school life. They had the chance to dress in Victorian clothes and experience life in Miss Perkin's strict Victorian classroom.

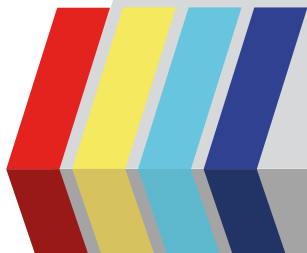
Children continued to learn new sounds in phonics lessons and a child from each class won a book from the vending machine because they had read three times or more! There will be a new winner next time so keep reading and getting those planners signed!

We ended the term with a fabulous performance of 'Jingle Bells' in our Christmas concert and enjoyed our winter festival, especially the hot chocolate and marshmallows!





**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## EYFS

**Reception** - The Reception classes had fantastic time together! We went through a term filled with celebrations, joy, and happiness!

The pupils enjoyed celebrating Bonfire Night, making variety of fireworks collages, and learning about the different noises fireworks can make. We managed to see pictures and videos from all around England and how people celebrate this historical event.

Diwali is another celebration that our pupils enjoyed being involved in. We had a special Diwali workshop where the pupils learnt how to dance Katha dances and they made their own and unique Diwali lamps.

Remembrance Day was another day filled with gratitude to the people who fought for our country and the Reception pupils were very excited to paint a large poppy, which you can see in front of the school.

Last, but not least we had lots of fun in our Winter/Christmas activities. The pupils were excited to meet Santa and to be invited to participate in Winter Wonderland in school. This event offered fun games, prize draws, presents and lots of other activities for our pupils! We managed to write letters to Santa, design Christmas jumpers, create Christmas cards for our families and many more!

**Nursery** - Nursery have had a really good first term of school. They have been exploring patterns and numbers in maths and identifying initial sounds in words. They have been learning about different types of clothes and some of them shared photos of them wearing their favourite clothes at home. We also celebrated all the different cultures we have with our culture day. Some of the children came to school wearing traditional dress, they tried foods from around the world, did some baking and took part in some traditional dances. Lots of fun was had by all and the children really enjoyed the day.

Autumn term was filled with birthday's in Nursery this year and the children have loved celebrating with each other! Thank you to all the parents that have brought cake or party bags to share the celebrations with everyone.

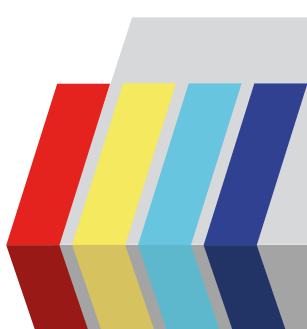
Towards the end of term they had their performance of Higgledy Piggledy Nativity so we did lots of practising of lines and songs and the children showed tremendous enthusiasm! All their hard worked paid off with a fantastic performance at the end of term. Well done to them and to all the parents who supported them!

We finished term with lots of fun at their Winter Wonderland party and with lots of Christmas activities and games.





**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## Ready, Respectful, Safe

At Beam, we expect and encourage good behaviour and self-discipline from all pupils to cultivate an environment that promotes emotional development, effective learning and high standards. Through visible consistency, we are restorative in our approach, using a range of methods and strategies to maintain positive relationships. Our three simplified core rules: Ready, Respectful, Safe, ensure that we are consistent in our approach.

You will find our updated Behaviour Policy here:

<https://beamcountyprimaryschool.org/policies>

We aim to provide an inclusive, calm, quiet atmosphere in the school and encourage children to move around responsibly. Our expectations of the children can only be realised through the co-operation and support between home and school. Should any difficulties be encountered, we invite parents to work with us to resolve them. Positive behaviour is a collective responsibility within the school. This extends beyond the individual classroom to cover every child and every area of the school and playground.

## Attendance

We have been asked to share the following Important links from Matthew Cole, Director of Public Health

[A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school term - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

[UKHSA reminds parents of back-to-school advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

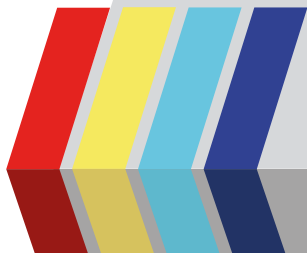
From 8 January, the Government is launching a national campaign to remind parents and carers of the importance of school attendance.

*'Moments matter, attendance counts'*





**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## School Uniform

We do have a school uniform and all children must wear it. This can be purchased from the school office along with our Preloved range.

The fundamental reason for the school having specific standards on dress and personal appearance is to prepare our pupils for a successful educational and personal career.

This term we have had a large increase in the amount of lost property found in the school. Please ensure that you place your child's name in **ALL UNIFORM, COATS, HATS, GLOVES AND BAGS**. If your child has lost an item of their uniform please come to the front office after school to check in the lost property.

## School Catering

Primary school children in state-funded schools in London will get free school meals for the 2023-24 school year. The Mayor of London is providing this funding as an emergency cost of living support measure. **This has now been extended to the 2024-25 school year.**

Children who are entitled to free school meals because of family circumstances bring an additional £1,320 into the school budget. Therefore, if your child is entitled to FSM you still need to apply and register your entitlement, otherwise the school will not receive this additional funding. To register please go to the website below:

<http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/free-school-meals-pupil-premium>

Please ensure if your child brings in their own packed lunch, they have their name clearly labelled and the contents **do not** contain nuts or fish



BEAM WEBSITE



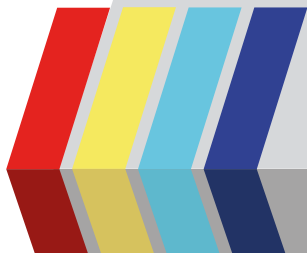
BEAM TWITTER



BEAM YOUTUBE



**BEAM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Newsletter

December 2023

## Term Dates

First day of term is Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Last day of term is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

## Welcome to Beam

We welcome two new teachers to our School,

- Mr Obaye is joining 4NN as their class teacher
- Mr Purcell is joining our school as a P.E. teacher



BEAM WEBSITE



BEAM TWITTER



BEAM YOUTUBE