



BEAM
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

March 2024

Update from Headteacher

We're thrilled to share some exciting highlights from our **Georgette Learning Hub** as we approach Easter break and the end of another busy term! Our **Georgette Learning Hub** was once again transformed into a hive of creativity and fun—as we continue to foster a love for reading.



Year pupils who are in the process of attaining their Silver Arts Award ([press here for further information](#)). Pupils performed a monologue which they wrote and performed to their peers. The talent demonstrated was in abundance! Congratulations to Ariel, Cainan, Lily, Michelle, Syeda, Rimas, Suraiya and Rayan!

While the Easter break provides a well-deserved respite from the routines of school life, it's also a time for pupils to continue their learning journey in different ways. I encourage you to support your child's academic growth by engaging in educational activities, such as, reading together, or exploring new interests during this time off.

As we look forward to the remainder of the school year, I am grateful for your ongoing support and collaboration. Your partnership is invaluable to us, and together, we will continue to nurture a positive and enriching learning environment for our students.

Our school will reopen on **Monday 15th April 2024** for the start of the new term, refreshed and ready to embark on the exciting adventures that lie ahead. During this term, our plan is to update the school menus. Wishing you all a joyful and rejuvenating Easter break filled with love and laughter.

Headteacher's Awards

Nursery 1 Jaydie Whitehouse
Nursery 2 Airah Abbasi
RLS Emily Iordache
RMK Edward Blindu
RST Avneet Thind
1BC Chethaz Boyapati
1HH Aasiyah Chowdhury
1NH Maddie Reeves
Art Layla Borg
Sport Gvidas Gaubas

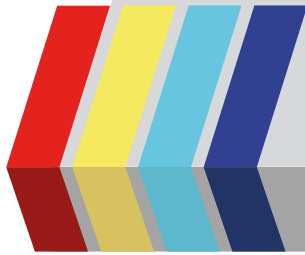
2DM Ivanina Nikolaeva
2FT Marius-Florian Ionita
2MC - Marius-Florian Ionita
3JS Alexsia Dines
3KY Michelle Idowu
3WA Aishah Alagago
4JH Beqa Zaalishvili
4NN Zita Duru
4SU Labiba Azad
Music Jamal Idris

5AW Aakhya Hegde
5LR Elias Boateng
5SS Delia Cebotarica
6DC Rae Kararia
6LW Arabena Ansomaah-Afriye
6PR Maira Islam
Atlantis Sehaj Gill
AQ Teddy-Junior Atomey
Apollo Nissi Sekamate





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Updates from classes -

Year 6 – This term, Year 6 has been buzzing with creativity and exploration! In Design and Technology, students have been busy constructing intricate model playground structures and stylish waistcoats, showcasing their ingenuity and craftsmanship.

In history, they've embarked on an exciting journey into the world of the Ancient Greeks, immersing themselves in role-play within the ancient Agora of Athens and delving into the nuances of Athenian democracy. Adding a touch of suspense to their literary skills, the children have worked hard to craft gripping suspense stories inspired by the captivating short film Alma.

Additionally, in geography, they've been dissecting the complexities of globalisation, uncovering its role and far-reaching impacts on our interconnected world. Year 6's enthusiasm for learning and their willingness to engage with diverse topics have truly shone through this term and we look forward to watching all their hard work pay off as they head towards their final term at Beam!

Year 5 – Year 5 have had a jam-packed spring term filled with exciting learning and cultural experiences! We celebrated World Book Day in style, with the classroom transformed into a literary wonderland as everyone dressed up as their favourite characters or even words themselves!

We also embarked on a fascinating trip to the Dagenham Fanshawe Community Complex Mosque. There, we were warmly welcomed and learned all about Islamic traditions. The children were particularly impressed by the beautiful architecture and enjoyed a delicious treat of fresh fruit afterwards. To top it all off, we even travelled back in time by making Viking bread during Design and Technology lessons, getting a taste of history (and a delicious snack!) in the process.

Year 4 – Within the Year 4 team, the children have been creative writers in literacy from writing a diary entry to a formal letter as part of their learning of the 'Firework Makers Daughter'. Pupils have shown their understanding of the novel and the elements of what makes a good writer.

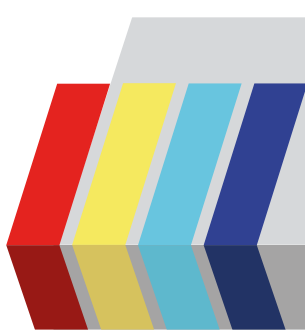
In maths, children got to learn what improper fractions are and how they can be converted into a mixed number. They have been able to visualise this through the use of concrete materials. As part of our foundation subject learning,

In history, Year 4 students have been looking at the changes of Dagenham from the 1920's which included an enrichment visit to Dagenham village. Using historic photographs, pupils were able to compare the similarities and differences over this period of time. Similarly, we have been looking at Europe and comparing countries based upon their human and physical features. Pupils have been able to develop their map reading skills using globes and atlases. We look forward to continuing our wonderful learning in the summer term!





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Updates from class-

Year 3 – During the spring term, the Year 3 students continued to develop their multiplication and division knowledge and skills, and further developed their understanding and application of length and measurement using the metric system in mathematics. In science, we continued our understanding about rocks and started to learn about the structure of the human body and how nutrition helps to keep us healthy and energized. In RE, we learned about Judaism and Hinduism by exploring how their faith is celebrated through their festivals and beliefs.

In PSHE, we learned about keeping ourselves safe, whether in real life or online, as well as some basic first aid skills. In Design and Technology, we created electronic posters to inform and educate others, while applying scientific skills to develop a working electrical circuit. In addition, we now know how to code and program a mini computer for use in our own examples of wearable technology. In history, we began learning about the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age and how life changed for the human beings during these eras due to new inventions such as farming and the development of metal tools.

In geography, we learned about the Earth and plate tectonics, which create mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes. Finally, in literacy, we developed a set of clear, concise instructions to help a book character find and rescue lost dragons, and then we used an existing narrative story about a fictional dragon and made major innovations by adding dialogue and other alterations to it to change the actions and events.

Year 2 – This term we made sand timers by adding sand to a plastic bottle and then attaching another bottle on top.

Our topic in design Technology was cooking and nutrition: balanced diet.

We investigated food groups and discussed why it was important to eat a balanced diet. We finished the topic by designing, creating and evaluating our own healthy wraps.

This term we've been learning about the Great Fire of London. We had an amazing start to our topic as the Trunk Theatre Company performed *The Great Fire of London to us!* It was an interactive thrilling session – taking us on a journey through the flaming streets of London, learning all about the characters involved and the spooky past of our capital city! The children learnt that the fire began on 2nd September 1666 and that it lasted just under five days. When asked, the children recalled that one-third of London was destroyed and about 100,000 people were made homeless. They also remembered that the fire started at 1am that Sunday morning in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. It truly was 100 miles an hour of silly educational fun resulting in embedded learning!

Later that day, we returned to our classes to make houses out of empty cereal boxes and glued hay on the roofs of our houses. We will burn the houses when we return from our Easter break – to mirror the flaming streets of London back in 1666!



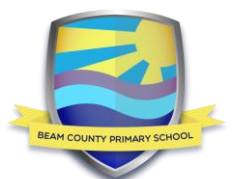
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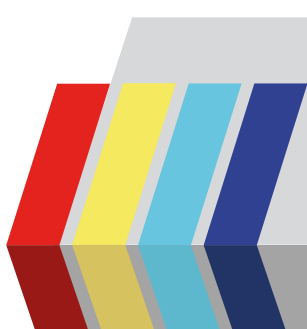
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Updates from class-

Year 1 – This half-term in Year 1 has been shorter, yet filled with lots of enriching experiences for the children. In literacy, we have been focusing on texts set in Africa and had the opportunity to taste fruits that we are not so familiar with! In science, we have been using our senses to identify the world around us.

One of the lessons that the children really enjoyed was where we used our sense of smell to identify what we like and dislike. It was a lot of fun! We will end the term with our DT project where the pupils will be making their own puppets

Reception – We have been learning all about the key features of a fiction or non-fiction text. We enjoyed reading a variety of different types of text. Our text focus has been on non-fiction wildlife books and fiction stories about animals. We have read Dear Zoo and Safari First books: 'Elephants'. We have found many fascinating facts about elephants such as the different types of elephants, where they live, what they eat, why they are in danger and many more. Using this information, we then worked collaboratively to create our own fact file. We added a heading, real photos and captions under each photo and some fascinating facts. The most fun part was meeting some of the animals when the Mobile Zoo came to visit Beam County Primary School.

We have also created our own booklet on elephants. We looked at different parts of an elephant and labelled them. We have also written some sentences. We are growing in independence when writing sentences and starting to include adjective into our writing. We have been learning to apply our phonic knowledge in sentence writing using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

We have covered so much in maths - counting from 0 to twenty, subitising of numbers up to 7, finding different ways of representing number bonds to 9, number bonds to 10 using a ten frame and part-whole model to 10. We have also been learning about making ABB and ABBC patterns and corrected deliberate mistakes. We have been comparing mass and we enjoyed comparing the height of our friends.

Nursery – This half term has been very busy but Nursery have had lots of fun!

We started the term with a focus on the story 'The Journey Home from Grandpa's'. The children learnt this story off by heart and were able to perform it with great expression and speak with rhythm. They learnt about different types of transport; drawing wheels, matching colours and making their own vehicles with junk. Outside they enjoyed making roads and ramps for different vehicles and mark making with tyre tracks. They explored floating and sinking with different materials and learnt that waterproof materials are needed to make boats. The children then designed their own boats and tested them on the water.

Our other key text was 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' which the children also learnt to perform. They were able to retell the story using props and expressive voices. As a group, they built large 'cave' constructions outside using wooden blocks, blankets and bricks and some of them made sand caves.

We have learnt about the composition of number 6 and explored measures in Maths. The children have learnt the correct language to use when describing height, length and weight and they really enjoyed using the balance scales to observe whether objects were heavy or light.





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World Book Day

We had an absolutely fantastic time celebrating World Book Day here at Beam County Primary School! The excitement was palpable as the children immersed themselves in various literary activities throughout the day. Our World Book Day assembly was a highlight, filled with laughter and friendly competition as classes battled it out in a thrilling Kahoot quiz testing their book knowledge. Congratulations to Butterflies class for clinching the victory!

During literacy and reading lessons, every class delved into the world of a new book and author, enjoying videos and participating in engaging writing challenges. It was wonderful to see the students' enthusiasm as they explored different literary works and authors, broadening their horizons and igniting their passion for reading and writing.

The school was transformed into a colourful array of beloved characters and words, showcasing the creativity of our students. A big round of applause to the winners of the Most Innovative Character/Word costume competition: Ruby (Nursery), Franek (Butterflies), Jayden (Badgers), Advik (Sparrowhawks), Izzy (3KY), Eliza (4JH), Yusuf (5LR), and Muzammil (6LW)!

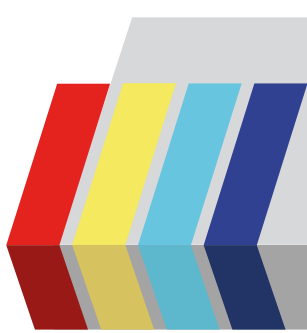
Additionally, the dioramas of different book scenes brought stories to life, and we commend all participants. Special congratulations to: Grace (Grasshoppers), Amelia (Nightingales) and Simina (4JH) for their exceptional dioramas and being crowned the winners of their Key Stages.

World Book Day was truly a resounding success at Beam, fostering a love for reading and creativity among all our students. We look forward to the children continuing their passion for reading throughout their time at Beam and beyond!





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Other Events

Year 4/5 Girls Football Festival – Selected Year 4/5 girls attended a football festival at Barking Sportshouse. The girls were split into different teams alongside players from other school's and completed various football activities and games. They had a great time, received certificates and all returned with big smiles. This will be the start of relaunching the girls football team in the summer term so that we can start playing regular games next year.

Action Jackson Assembly – We had Inspirational speaker Action Jackson lead an interactive assembly which was enjoyed by KS2 pupils.

Great Fire of London- Experience – Year 2 had the chance to enjoy a workshop with Trunk Theatre. This involved making houses that reflect those from the period of time and recreating a street scene

Primary Panathlon – Beam SEND team took 7 pupils to the Panathlon Event at Barking Secondary school where all the pupils did 7 activities rolling, throwing etc. There were 10 schools at the event and everyone at the event enjoyed and did very well, every pupil at the event received a medal, well done Beam WARRIORS!

Upcoming Dates

Year 3 Swimming begins 18th April

Class Photo Day – 24th April – **please ensure consent form has been completed**

Polling Day – School closed 2nd May

Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May





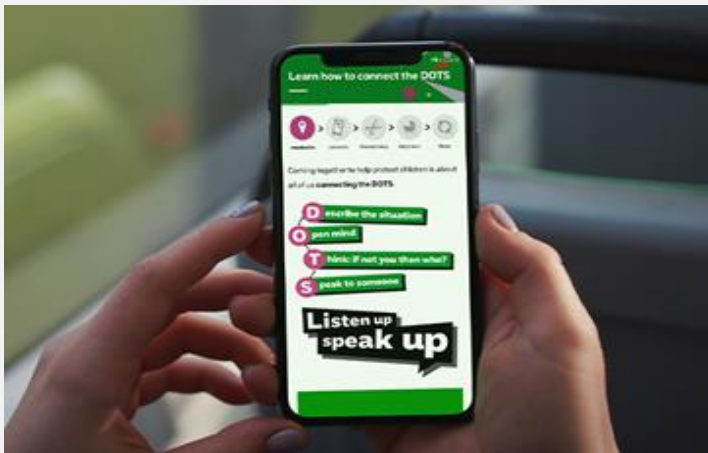
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NSPCC Listen up and Speak up

I think you will all agree that *keeping children safe* is everyone's responsibility. That's why I encourage you to sign up for the new NSPCC Listen up, Speak up, **free**, 10-minute digital training. Learn how to listen up and speak up for children.



https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/listen-up-speak-up/sign-up/?utm_campaign=2024-02-28-February-newsletter&utm_content=Sign%20up&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra

Encourage people you know to sign up today!



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'Visit a Place of Worship' Competition

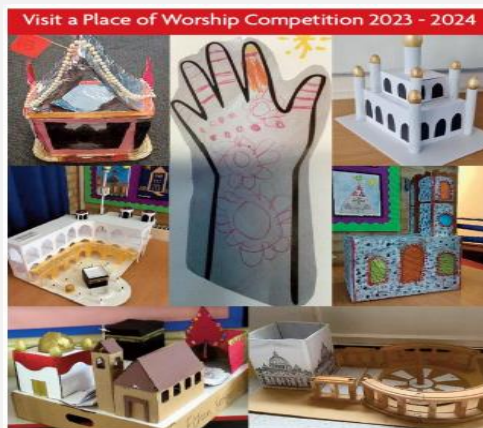
Dear Parents/Carers,

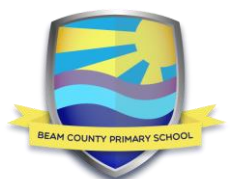
We are delighted to announce, we would like to enter our school in for the **'Visit a Place of Worship' competition in May 2024**. Look at the picture below for some ideas as a stimulus for your own entry.

Your entry can be written, drawn, 3-dimensional, painted, shaded, modelled, sewn or glued. Children can ask an adult to help them if they are stuck or need some ideas. Children can be as creative as they desire!

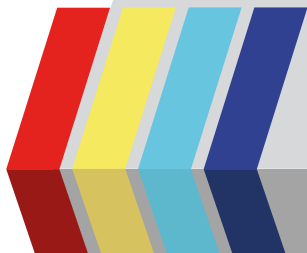
The most important factor is that it shows clearly what the children have learnt about these special places either through visits with you or learning in class

We look forward to seeing your ideas before or by **May 14th 2024! Good luck!!!**





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Beam 11+ interview article

Written by Peter Ogbonmwan (Ex Beam pupil)

The draconian task of our pupils striving to what we call academic excellence deserves the upmost credibility. Employing this resilient and diligent mindset and ensuring that its at the forefront of our student's minds is a quality all teachers implore into students.

Amongst our flourishing cohort, there are select individuals who decided to undertake the challenges of an 11+ exam that provides a threshold into a greater post kS2 education.

Having the pleasure of interviewing our students Mus'ab Shofolakan and Shaurya Boyapati we can more greatly understand the journey they took and further improve our methods. These students answered questions in which we were offered insight into the stresses, concerns and hardships of the exams.

They answered questions such as: *How did they cope with exams?* Both responding with "they constantly reminded themselves that these exams are not the end of the world" and they had to participate in extra lessons to adequately prepare for the exams.

As well as this we heard from these two that our teachers at Beam were an immense help in moving our students forward making special references to Mr Rusirevi and Mr Wilson and how they explained the more difficult topics in a simpler and more refined way and taking them to numerous maths competitions and providing a multitude of papers that they could complete to prepare for the 11+.

Additionally, from the interview we learn that the most hardworking and persevering students are the most of the time the more successful ones, with Shaurya Boyapati especially, progressing through the sets in maths and English across the years and eventually taking his 11+ and passing with exceptional scores.

However, with this level of achievement, humility still needs to be maintained and they both agreed that they could have worked harder as there were times where they did do things in a perfunctory manner, and recognised the need for breaks and downtime.

Our young stars, also shared advice for the those who are still awaiting to take the 11+: understanding that mistakes are inevitable; to take your time; to make a structured plan and timetabling when it comes to these exams. Moreover, remembering that they should be calm and to have faith in everything that you do.

These pupils are aspiring to become a future paediatrician and YouTuber do express hardships calling it a "love/hate relationship" with exams comprehending that it is strenuous, but the magnitude of ecstasy they were overcame with, when they passed, was a feeling second to none.

Finally, as well as intrinsic motivation, the children highlighted the importance of motivation from those surrounding them, particularly, their parents and teachers offering remarkable support and consolation when times were tough and instilling these pupils with confidence and empowerment - a powerful concoction for success.

As a Beam family, we are all, incredibly proud and pleased with the performance of these two and all pupils in our school. As an ex-Beam pupil, it's a pleasure to continue overseeing the future of what this school has to offer.

[Year 5 pupils - 11+ information for Greater Depth or More Able Pupils](#)

CSSE (The Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex): <https://csse.org.uk/>

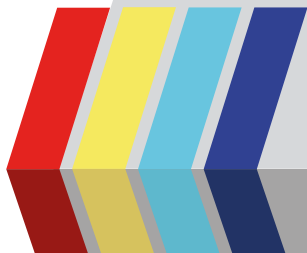
Registration opens 14.05.24

Test Date: Saturday, 21st September 2024 – children will need to know the Year 6 curriculum





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Little Recyclers

We are pleased to announce our involvement with 'The Little Recyclers' which aims to raise funds for the school whilst fostering a sense of community involvement and social responsibility amongst pupils, teachers and parents.

We have been provided with a new recycling clothing bank which is now available for donations, situated to the left of the school office, opposite our Breakfast club\After School entrance.



Should you have any pre-loved school uniform that you wish to donate, please continue to send in to our school office.

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.

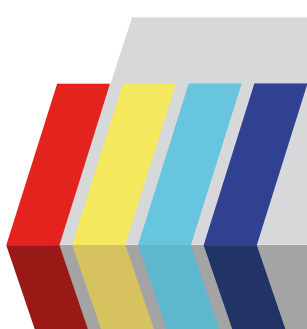
The fundamental reason for the school having specific standards on dress and personal appearance is to prepare our pupils for a successful educational and personal career.

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 before or after school to check in the lost property.





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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'

Punctuality

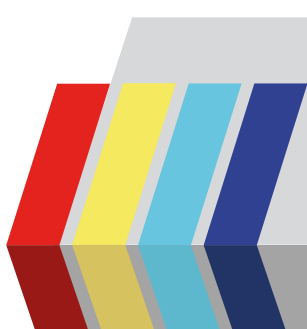
School starts at 8:30 and gates shut at 8:40 prompt. Arriving late disrupts the class and children's learning.

Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 learning days lost each year





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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

Contact Information

IMPORTANT – If you have recently changed you phone number, email or home address please make sure you contact the front office either by email or in person

Term Dates

First day of term is Monday 15th April – Last Day of term is Friday 24th May



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