



Beam County Primary School
Oval Road North, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 9ED.

16th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

I am, of course, aware that a "welcome back" letter arriving on 16th September is a little like wishing someone "Happy New Year" at the end of January. Most of our pupils returned on 2nd September 2026 and, in the fortnight since, have settled in so quickly that some have been reminding me where things are. In my defence, I did start writing this letter on the first day; it is simply that every time I sat down, somebody wanted to show me their learning, and that is exactly the kind of interruption a headteacher should welcome.

So, better late than never: I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. I am delighted to welcome our returning families and those joining us for the first time, including our youngest pupils, who are starting with us over the coming days – welcome to the Beam family! Our Year 3 pupils are now settling into KS2 life. We also welcome Ms Ogunmokun to Beam as a teacher.

Our Theme for the Year: Pulling Together

This academic year, our whole-school theme is Pulling Together. A great school is not built by staff alone, nor by pupils alone, nor by families alone. It is built when all of us pull in the same direction, for the same children, even on the days when we see things differently.

A Question of Perspective



Same number. Different view. Both right from where they stand.

Email: office@beam.bardaglea.org.uk, Telephone: 020 8270 4700
beamcountypriaryschool.org

Headteacher: Miss T A Whittington, NPQH, BA (Hons), PGCE
Chair of Governors: Mr Lando DuPlooy



You may have seen this picture before. Two people stand on opposite sides of the same number. One is certain it is a 6; the other is equally certain it is a 9. Both are right from where they stand, and neither will understand the other until one of them walks around to the other side.

Recently, a parent came to see me feeling genuinely upset. She had greeted a member of staff, who appeared to walk past without acknowledging her, and she understandably felt ignored and offended. When we looked into it, the explanation was simple: our colleague had not heard her at all. They have a hearing impairment. From the parent's side, it looked like a snub; from our colleague's side, nothing had happened. Both were telling the truth.

I share this because it captures exactly what Pulling Together means. I am grateful that this parent came and talked to us rather than letting the hurt grow, because a short conversation turned a misunderstanding into mutual understanding. Before we decide what someone meant, it is always worth walking around to see the number from their side.

Concerns and Complaints Procedure

In that same spirit, if something is worrying you, please talk to us early. Our school is committed to resolving concerns quickly and fairly. Should you have any concerns regarding your child's education, welfare, or any other aspect of school life, please follow our concerns and complaints procedure:

1. In the first instance, please raise your concern with your child's class teacher. They will be happy to discuss your concerns and work with you to find a resolution.
2. If the issue remains unresolved, or if you feel uncomfortable discussing it with the class teacher, please complete a concern form: <https://forms.office.com/e/aHNLnBTvgM>. The Phase Group Leader or an appropriate member of staff will contact you, listen to your concerns and work with you to address them.

If you remain dissatisfied after following steps 1 and 2, you may escalate your concern to me for an informal meeting. I will look into the matter thoroughly and give you a written response.

Our full procedure is available on the school website under Our School, Policies and Procedures: <https://www.beamcountyprimaryschool.org/our-school/policies-and-procedures/complaints-or-concerns/>.

Supporting Your Child's Learning

You can see what your child is learning this term on our Year Group Content pages: <https://www.beamcountyprimaryschool.org/learning-and-teaching/year-group-content/>.

Each year group page gives an overview of the learning, so that you can talk with your child about it at home.

For pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2, Google Classroom is available to support learning at home. You may wish to use it to help your child work ahead in preparation for upcoming learning,

to reinforce what has already been taught in class, or to allow your child to continue learning if they are unwell and unable to attend. Google Classroom is also how we provide homework for pupils who are absent from school for a longer period, so that no child falls behind. If you need your child's login details, please contact the school office.

What Has Been Happening in School

Our Key Stage 2 pupils have been working collaboratively in their houses. It has been a joy to see pupils sharing ideas, supporting one another and celebrating each other's successes. This is Pulling Together in action, and it builds the teamwork, resilience and leadership that children need well beyond primary school.

Pupils have also been watching Newsround to develop a wider knowledge of the world around them. Talking about current events helps children to ask thoughtful questions, understand different viewpoints and become informed young citizens. Your child may come home with questions about the news, and we would encourage you to talk with them about what they have seen.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Our three simple school rules, Ready, Respectful, Safe, help everyone to be consistent, and our approach to behaviour is restorative. Positive behaviour is a shared responsibility, and our expectations can only be fully realised through cooperation between home and school. Our Behaviour Policy is available on the school website.

Attendance

Every day in school matters. Missing school for non-urgent reasons adds up quickly and can affect your child's learning, friendships and confidence. Please ensure your child arrives on time each day and contact the school office on the first morning of any absence. Term-time absence can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, and penalty notices may be issued for unauthorised holidays.

Important Information

As we get back into the swing of things, please look on our school website, where you are also able to use Google Translate.

- Office information, including the calendar, letters home and term dates: <https://www.beamcountyprimaryschool.org/virtual-office/>
- School uniform: <https://www.beamcountyprimaryschool.org/parents/uniform/>. Pre-loved uniform is available to buy from the front office at a heavily discounted price.
- School meals: please remember to pre-select your child's meals in advance using ParentPay. No payment is needed to order school dinners.
- Free School Meals: if you think you may be eligible, please apply, even if your child already receives a hot meal each day. Registration brings a reduction on school trips for your child and additional Pupil Premium funding for the school. Please contact the school office for help.

- Wellbeing and family support: our Parent Support Adviser, Mrs Huskie, is available to support families, and Lifeline Projects hosts a monthly coffee morning at Beam. Please speak to the office if you would like to be put in touch.
- School letters can be found here:
<https://www.beamcountyprimaryschool.org/virtual-office/letters-home/>
- Contact details: if you have changed your telephone number, email or address, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we can always reach you.

Keeping in Touch

Communication between home and school is essential for your child's success. If you have any questions, concerns or updates regarding your child, please speak to your child's teacher after school, email office@beam.bardaglea.org.uk or telephone the school office on 020 8270 4700.

As you are aware, Mr Howard has left, and our interim support was unable to start, so please be patient with us whilst we seek to employ. If you are interested – please keep an eye out on our school website.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities available to pupils. Details can be found at <https://www.beamcountyprimaryschool.org/virtual-office/clubs-and-activities/>. You will receive an email advising when each club opens for bookings, and places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Our paid after-school provision, SUNBEAM, is also available. I would like to thank the staff who give their time to provide these opportunities for our pupils. We will also have some new exciting opportunities for our pupils during the half term.

Looking Forward

The start of a new school year is always a time of great anticipation and possibility. When home and school pull together, our children thrive, and I look forward to all that we will achieve together this year. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Warm regards,



Miss T Whittington
Headteacher