

# The Excellence Curriculum

This academic year, De Beauvoir Primary School will be embarking on an exciting journey where we will be designing our own bespoke, tailored curriculum. This will be written by the teachers and adults of De Beauvoir for the children and families of De Beauvoir. We are calling this **The Excellence Curriculum**.

We have decided to use a pure thematic curriculum, with the whole school focusing on a key theme for the half-term. Within this, each year group will have a sub-theme. Throughout the theme, your child will be taught a variety of skills and knowledge in History, Geography, Art, Design and Technology and Science. The skills they will learn will be taught within the theme, for example children in Year 2 might learn to cut and join materials effectively during a theme of 'The Egyptians', making their own 3d pyramids. Each half-termly theme will have a **Key Golden Question** that will run through it – it will help to develop children's knowledge around a topic, rather than lots of isolated information. For example, children in Year 5 this half-term may be exploring the Key Golden Question of: Who impacted today's society more, the Greeks or the Romans?

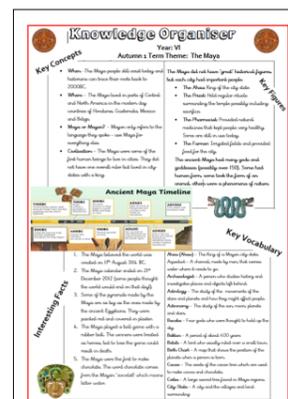
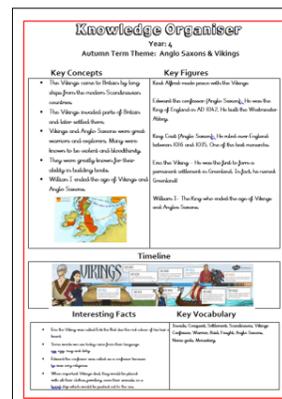
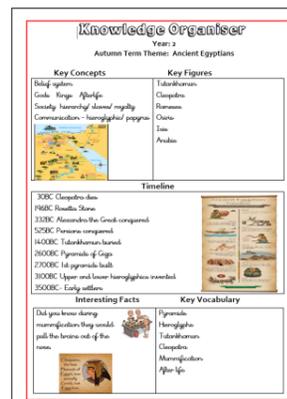
The half-termly themes that the whole school will cover are:

Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Ancient History	Recent History	Where in the World?	Extreme Earth	Brilliant Britons	Diverse De Beauvoir

As part of this new and exciting curriculum, we are designing a purpose-built Art and Design and Technology room to allow the children space to apply their learning in art and equipping the space with a range of resources needed for an engaging and inspiring art and design and technology curriculum. Stimulating, inspiring trips have been planned to support the theme and Hook Days have taken place to immerse children in the topic – it was great to see Year 3 fashioning Stone Age tools and doing cave paintings and Year 2 mummifying a body!

Your child will have also bought home a **Knowledge Organiser**. A Knowledge Organiser contains some of the information the children will need to know during their theme so that the children's understanding of the topic is broadened and deepened.

We're really excited to develop this Excellence Curriculum with the children and will be engaging with parents in the coming months so that we are involving the whole school community.



Enjoy

Challenge

Achieve

Succeed

## De Beauvoir Primary School Newsletter



September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! The children have settled quickly into their classes, making an excellent start to the year. We have been focusing on improving handwriting and presentation and this is really showing in the quality of work in children's books.

Thank you 5D for your fantastic sharing assembly yesterday; your performance skills were impressive and we learned a great deal about your learning so far this term. It was also lovely to see so many parents / carers. Please join us for your child's sharing assembly; dates of these are below.

During the holidays, James informed me that he would not be returning this term. Apologies that we were unaware last term so that children could say goodbye and thank him for his work at De Beauvoir. James sends his best wishes to children and families.

There is lots of information in this issue. If you would like any more information about items covered in this edition, please arrange an appointment or speak to one of us at the start or end of the day.

Best wishes, Rebecca Mackenzie, Headteacher

### IMPORTANT DATES - AUTUMN 1 2018

Year 3D Sharing Assembly	Tuesday 2nd October, 3:00pm
Year 5B Sharing Assembly	Tuesday 9th October, 3:00pm
Year 4D Sharing Assembly	Tuesday 16th October, 3:00pm
Autumn Half Term	Monday 22nd October—Friday 26th October
Inset Day	Monday 29th October
Year 4B Sharing Assembly	Tuesday 30th October, 3:00pm
Year 3B Sharing Assembly	Tuesday 6th November, 3:00pm
Year 6 Sharing Assembly	Tuesday 13th November, 3:00pm
Year 2D Sharing Assembly	Tuesday 20th November, 3:00pm
Year 2B Sharing Assembly	Tuesday 27th November, 3:00pm
Year 1 Sharing Assembly	Tuesday 4th December, 3:00pm
Year 1-3 Disco	Wednesday 5th December, 4:00—5:00pm
Year 4-6 Disco	Thursday 6th December, 4:00—5:00pm
Parent / Carers' Evenings	Wednesday 12th / Thursday 13th December
Winter Fair / Carol Concert	Monday 17th December, 3:30pm
Reception Nativity	Tuesday 18th December, 2:30pm
Key Stage 1 Nativity	Thursday 20th December, 2:30pm
End of Term	Friday 21st December, 2:00pm

## Art Room / Music Room

With only one Year 1 class this year, we are really excited to have been able to transform one of our previous Key Stage 1 classrooms into a bespoke art room. This room will be used as an art hub for the school, available for art lessons and also as a space for Art Club. We have also been developing a music room to provide a space for teachers to deliver music lessons involving a variety of instruments and also to provide an improved space for violin and guitar lessons.

We are confident that the development of bespoke spaces for the wider curriculum within the school will improve De Beauvoir's curriculum offer for the children and look forward to providing further updates.

## Jeans for Genes Day

The children really enjoyed wearing their jeans to school on Friday and we raised an impressive £182.24 to help children born with genetic disorders. Thank you for helping to support this worthy cause and thank you also to Mrs Borghys for organising and promoting this event.



## Apex Letting

This year, we are going to be letting out The Apex (the rooms above the nursery) as a self-contained space. As a result of this letting, improvements are being made to The Apex, funded by Hackney Learning Trust. These will include self-containing the area, creating a separate entrance with entry system, improving the wi-fi connectivity and installing phone lines.

For this year, we will be letting The Apex to New Regents College, who will be operating a separately staffed and managed assessment centre from the space. We are excited about the opportunity to support another provision whilst generating an income for the school.

WORLD'S BIGGEST  
**COFFEE  
MORNING**

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

This Friday, we are holding a MacMillan Cake Sale / Coffee Morning to help raise money for cancer support. Please help us to raise money for cancer support by donating cakes and / or joining us in the hall at 9:00am on Friday. There will be an additional cake sale at home time for the children and families who are unable to join us for the morning event.

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

## Lockdown Procedures

We have added our lockdown procedures to the parents' section of our school website. A lockdown is when no-one other than the emergency services is allowed to enter or leave the school grounds. A lockdown may happen to protect children and adults inside the school in the event of a risk such as chemical danger, severe weather or someone trying to gain unauthorised access to the building with intent to harm. In the event of a lockdown, parents / carers will be contacted immediately by text message and a notice will be placed on the school website.

Please do not phone the school in the event of a lockdown as this may tie up phone lines and prevent contact with emergency services. It will not be possible for children to be collected from the site in the event of a lockdown. Parents / carers will be notified by text as soon as a lockdown has ended. The following working day, a letter will be provided giving the context for the lockdown.

## New Staff

Welcome to our new staff members! Please find their names and roles below:



Top Row, left to right:

**Mr Bignall:** Deputy Headteacher

**Miss Rader:** Deputy Headteacher

**Mr Spencer:** SENDCo



Middle Row, left to right:

**Miss Ng:** Year 4 Teacher

**Miss Oner:** Year 5 Teacher

**Miss Da Costa:** Breakfast Club and Y2 LC



Bottom Row, left to right:

**Miss Hassan:** Nursery Teacher

**Miss Boston:** After School Clubs and Rec LC

## Attendance at the Start of Term

Thank you to all parents / carers who made sure that their child returned promptly at the start of term .

Good attendance for the first day of term is important because:

- The start of term is when children are familiarised with class expectations;
- Children are introduced to topics they will be covering in the coming term. Missing even one day at the start of term can disadvantage pupils' learning;
- The change of routine after a holiday can make children feel anxious. Returning late can make this worse as children may feel worried about what they have missed;
- Starting at a different time from friends means that children miss out on the socialising that happens after the holidays.
- The school attendance service will automatically become involved when children do not return promptly after the holidays.

Please continue to support your child's education by ensuring they return on the first day of term.

*Every day*  
**COUNTS!**

**School success starts  
with attendance**