



# The New Beacon

Ex Fumo • Dare • Lucem

The New Beacon

Brittains Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2PB

Tel 01732 452131 Fax 01732 459509

Email [admin@newbeacon.org.uk](mailto:admin@newbeacon.org.uk)

[newbeacon.org.uk](http://newbeacon.org.uk)

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

The first full week has whizzed by and it has been lovely to welcome you and your boys to The New Beacon. Reception is such a special year and we hope that it will be a fruitful one for us all.

We are writing to you about the areas of learning that we have covered this week and will do this each week from now on. We hope you will find this useful when discussing with your son what he has been doing at school and will help prepare him for the coming week. It will help prompt your discussions with him, and you will hopefully get more than; "I played".

## Understanding the World

The boys have been busy exploring their new environment and have been learning where things are in the classroom and around their new school.



The boys also had their first ICT lesson. We practised basic mouse control and learned how to do the 'down/up' click and some managed to 'drag and drop'.

## Mathematics

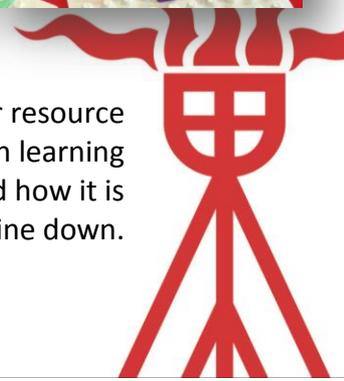
The boys have been sorting different objects by colour, shape, type etc. This is something that you can continue to do at home. Finding all the blue toys, or matching objects by their size etc. We have also done lots of counting and number recognition this week.



We have introduced a super resource called Numicon. We have been learning about the number one and how it is simply a straight line down.

Headmaster M R Piercy BA (Hons)

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## Literacy

The boys have been trying to write their names, have done a little colouring in and have done lots of fine motor activities. We have also been assessing their knowledge of sounds, pencil grip, as well as basic reading and writing skills.

We have read a book called 'The Lost Teddy'. We firstly read it (even though it has no words!), then sequenced the story, then retold it in our own words and then finally acted out the story today. See if they can remember what happened?

The other side of Literacy is all about Speaking and Listening. They have all been talking about their shoeboxes and listening to the other boys talking about them. They have also been talking to each other and ourselves during playtime, lunch and during their Child Initiated Activities in the classroom. We always talk about using their inside voices!!

We are introducing a new reading scheme this year called Read Write Inc. This is going to be a different way of learning to read and we feel passionate about this different approach. It begins with assessing your son's knowledge of sounds which we are currently undertaking. This ensures that your son is getting the best individual support with his reading.

Please see this [RWI video](#) for more information about the scheme. There will be more to follow next week.

## Personal, Social and Emotional

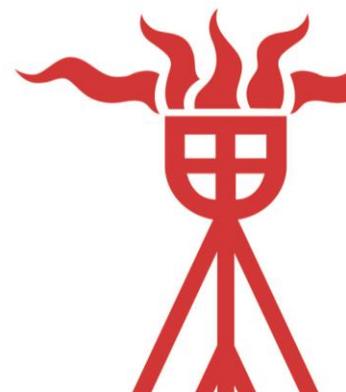
We have talked about having good table manners and always remembering to say please and thank you. We have spent a lot of time talking about the Golden Rules and would be grateful if you would discuss and reinforce these at home.

- be gentle
- be kind and helpful
- listen and not interrupt
- look after each other and our property
- be honest and always tell the truth
- try our best at all times

## School Lunch

The boys were excited to be having their first school dinner in the Dining Room. We were very impressed that everyone tried the foods and lots were trying to use their knife and fork. Some did try and use their fingers, and so there is always room for improvement. Please keep practising this skill at home. Ideally, a spoon is only used for dessert.

The boys have also been trying to learn the names of their new friends and we have talked about sharing the class resources and toys fairly.





## Physical Development

The boys have loved playing outside at playtimes, especially on the climbing frames and bikes and scooters.

They also enjoyed their first experience of PE with Mr Young and Games on the Astro with Mr Eisawy and Mr Hutchison. The two Gap Students who join them for PE and Games are called Mr Cronje and Mr Yeats-Brown.

We have also talked about how to handle tools safely and correctly (such as scissors). A number of the boys found cutting very tricky so any practise at home would be useful.

## General Information

Please can you make sure you have the following in school on Monday if you haven't already.

- Named school fleece,
- Named overall for painting,
- Named wellies,
- Named sun hat, named woolly hat and named gloves (depending on weather).

The boys enjoyed their first games session this afternoon. Please ensure that your son comes to school on Friday wearing his games kit. He will then change into his trainers here as they should already be in school. You do not need to send in school uniform as the boys will remain in their games kit.

Swimming starts on Monday so don't forget to bring their swimming bags. Some boys will swim on Monday, and some on Tuesday, but please can everyone bring their swimming things on Monday.

The school office sends an email every Friday called the '**Headmaster's Blog**'. It includes links to a wealth of information for parents and any letters that need to be read or permission slips etc for school trips. Please also check the school Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages regularly as photographs from various activities will be posted there.

Do feel free to catch us before or after school if you have any concerns or questions about anything relating to your son's progress or the curriculum or alternatively e-mail us.

Finally, could you please attach one keyring of your son's choice to his book bag. This will help him to recognise his own book bag and help greatly when putting away their snack boxes and packing up at the end of the day.

We wish you a restful weekend and look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Taylor and Mr Braidwood

## Shoe Boxes



Thank you so much for the shoe boxes that you prepared with your boys. It has been wonderful looking through these with them. It has really helped us to get to know the boys and their families and been joyful to hear them speaking about them with us. The boys were excited that they could finally take them home.

