



Message from Ms Drew

We started the Christmas festivities last Friday, with our BIG Benthal XMAS lights switch on and Winter Fair. It was extremely well attended and everyone had lots of fun. I would like to say a huge thank you to Friends of Benthal and other volunteers, including staff, in the preparation and staying to help out.

Later that evening we had 36 for Dinner with Santa! Chef Alex and Rani had prepared a wonderful festive menu and I turned into Benthal Maître d' for the evening. It was very successful.

The festivities have continued with a wonderful KS2 Carol Concert on Wednesday and the KS1/EYFS Christmas Show last week. Thank you to all those parents, carers and family members that were able to attend, it was lovely to see everyone. Thank you to the children, staff and music teachers for their hard work in bringing it all together.

Chef Alex and the kitchen team prepared and cooked a beautiful Christmas lunch on Thursday, pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed it. The children liked having crackers to pull with their friends, with older children enjoying telling each other 'terrible' Christmas jokes and having lots of laughter!

It has been a very busy term for us all. I am so very proud of all the children and the staff. The children have been truly amazing; their behaviour for learning is excellent. I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the teachers, who have worked incredibly hard to continue with delivering high quality 'irresistible learning' for the children. And, to all the support staff that work across the school a thank you to them also. Everyone deserves a good rest.

Finally, thank you to all our Benthal families for your continued support and kind words. On behalf of all the staff at Benthal I would like to wish all our families a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year for 2025.

See you all on Monday 6th January 2025!
 Take care,
 Ms Drew



TERM DATES 2025	
SPRING TERM	
Spring Term begins	Monday 6th January
Half Term	Monday 17th – Friday 21st February
Spring Term ends	Friday 4 th April at 1:30pm
Easter Break	Monday 7th – Monday 21st April
SUMMER TERM	
Summer Term begins	Tuesday 22nd April
Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May
Half Term	Monday 26th – Friday 30th May
INSET Day	Monday 2nd June No pupils attend
Summer Term ends	Tuesday 22nd July at 1:30pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

Year 6 Ice-Skating at Lee Valley
 Wednesday 18th December

Class Parties (Bring a party outfit!)
 Thursday 19th December from 2pm
 Bring food to share with your class (No nuts please)

Last Day of School
 Friday 20th December - School finishes at 1.30pm
 (No Playcentre)

All Pupils Back to School Monday 6th Jan 2025

Closing Date for Reception Applications
 Wednesday 15th January 2025

Dental Team Visit for Reception and Year 1
 Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Year 4 Residential Trip to Kench Hill
 Tuesday 6th - Friday 9th May 2025



Christmas at Benthall





CHRISTMAS PLAYScheme

We are running a Christmas Playscheme at Benthall for children entitled to Free School Meals on **Friday 27th, Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st December and Thursday 2nd January**. Playscheme will be open **10:00am - 2:00pm** each day.

This provision is **free of charge for children entitled to means-tested Free Schools Meals**. If you think you are eligible or need help applying, please contact the School Office. If you are not eligible, the cost is £12.00 per day.

This playscheme is funded by the DfE Holiday Activities and Food Programme, with the aim to encourage pupils to eat healthier, be more active, socialise and take part in more physical and creative activities.

A nutritious lunch, cooked on site, will be provided each day.

Children can take part in arts and crafts, board games, Lego, indoor and outdoor sports. We also have exciting outings planned to the cinema, Kidzmania soft play and Lee Valley skating rink.

The playscheme will be run by Benthall's experienced playworkers, nursery nurses and learning support assistants (for children requiring 1-2-1 support).

Please contact the School Office if you would like to book a place.

Apply for a Reception Place

URGENT NOTICE

If your child is due to start Reception in September 2025, you will need to apply online **before Wednesday 15 January 2025**.

Applications must be made via www.eadmissions.org.uk - you will need to create an account with an active email address before completing a new application.

Please come and see us at the School Office if you need help to apply:

DROP-IN ADVICE SESSIONS:

Tues 17 December 10:30-11:30am

Wed 18 December 10:30-11:30am

Tues 7 January 10:30-11:30am

Wed 8 January 10:30-11:30am

DELIVERED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON

Free school meals

So no child goes hungry

From September 2023, all state primary school children in London will be eligible for free school meals for the next school year, saving families hundreds of pounds.*

Search 'Free school meals London' to find out more.



"I received free school meals myself, so I know from personal experience the difference they can make to children who are at risk of going hungry – and to parents who are struggling to make ends meet.

That's why I'm stepping in to provide this critical lifeline to London's families during such tough economic times."

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

Your Mayor is investing £135m to tackle the cost-of-living crisis and ensure that children can enjoy a free lunch for the whole of the academic year.

It is vital that families still complete their school or borough's short registration form for Government Free School Meals. This will ensure you'll receive other benefits you may be entitled to, like food vouchers during the holidays. It could also bring the school an extra £1,300 in funding. That's more money for extra curricular activities, teacher development, and support for children who need it most. Ask your school for more info or visit your borough website.

You may also be able to access food, activities or wider support over the holidays and weekends via the Mayor's Emergency Free Holiday Meals programme. Search 'Free holiday meals London'

*At the time of calculation (May 2022), the average cost to families for a primary school meal was around £2.30 in London. This represents a cost saving per child of around £440 over 190 school days across the academic year. Source LACA Ltd.