



Monday 1st March 2021,

I have waited ages to say this 'Welcome Back to Benthal!'

Dear Parents/Carers & Children in the Juniors,

I hope you and your families have been keeping well and have kept safe during this national lockdown.

Last week the Prime Minister told teachers that all children would be able to come back to school in March. I am so very glad; I cannot wait to see you all at the gate, in the playground, in your classrooms and with your teachers. I know some children have been with us at Benthal throughout this time and I am sure they will be equally excited to have their friends back.

I haven't seen some of you since mid-December, which feels like such a long time ago. But now you are on the verge of returning and there are lots of things I need to remind you off.

Firstly ALL junior children will return to Benthal on Monday 8th March 2021.

The staggered times and the entrance to use has not changed but I have added it here in case you have forgotten.

	Drop off and Pick Up times	Entrance to be used
Year 6	8.45am-3.15pm	Rendelsham Road Gate
Year 5	9.15am-3.45pm	Rendelsham Road Gate
Year 4	9.05am-3.35pm	Rendelsham Road Gate
Year 3	9.10am-3.40pm	Benthal Road Gate

Health and Safety Rules to keep us all safe- a reminder

Year Group Bubbles and the Classroom

- You will be in a Year Group Bubble group this is the same as the Autumn Term
- You will sit in pairs, with all the tables facing the board, your teacher may want you to sit with different children for different lessons this is OK - no group work at the moment
- You will not be able to mix with other children from any other Year Group Bubble group
- You will not be allowed to go into another Year Group Bubble classroom, even if the door is open- **no exceptions**
- Like the Autumn Term each Year Group Bubble group has their own time table for morning playtime and lunch time including when you eat in the large hall
- It is OK for you to be near other children in your Year Group Bubble group but the grown-ups still need to keep their distance from you as much as possible
- You will have your own 'personal' set of resources in a new zippy wallet that you must not share with other children
- You will be able to choose reading books from your class book corner and take them home to read, you just need to put them in a special box when you return them so they can be cleaned before they go back on the shelf
- We also need to keep windows open to make sure that fresh air is going around the room all the time

Hand washing and keeping clean is still really important

You will need to wash your hands lots of times throughout the day. Every time you move from one place to another hand washing with soap and water is vital to keeping you and all the adults safe. We also have hand sanitiser in every classroom and around the school, which you can use during the day as well. Remember when you cough or sneeze to wash your hands or use the hand sanitiser.

Your class tables will be cleaned during lunch time and the outside of your resources zippy wallet will be cleaned at the end of the day. Even the laptops and headphones are cleaned with special disinfectant cloths every time they are used!

Social Distancing

We still have all the 'spots' in corridors, in the large hall, in the courtyard and out in the playground. You DO NOT need to use these to keep your distance when you are moving about the school. However, it will help to distance yourself from other Year Group Bubble children. The adults will help you by giving you lots of reminders, but as you are older children we expect you to do some of the remembering too. Please make sure that you are following the instructions given to you by the adults.

Corridor and Toilets- nothing has changed here

- If you are in Year 3 or 4 you can only use your Yr3/4 corridor to go from the playground to your classroom or when going into the large hall to eat
- You can only use the Yr 3/4 toilets. You must not use any other toilets in the school. No other children will be using these toilets. These are the toilets you will use to wash your hands.
- If you are in Year 5 or 6 you can only use your Yr5/6 corridor to go from the playground to your classroom or when going into the large hall to eat. You must not use the Yr 3/4 corridor to leave the large hall to go out to play but use the Yr5/6 corridor instead
- You can only use the Yr 5/6 toilets. You must not use any other toilets in the school. No other children will be using these toilets.
- You are not allowed to hang around in the toilets.

Playground Zones & Rules

There are strict playground rules in place to ensure that you and the all the adults keep safe. Junior and infant children will not be allowed to mix during any playtimes, even if it is to see your brother or sister. We have always had that rule in school, which has not changed.

The playground is still divided into three zones:

- Zone 1= football pitch & swing
- Zone 2= lower playground
- Zone 3= Outdoor gym equipment and the climbing frame

All KS2 children will be rotated to have a turn in each zone across the week. All the adults have been given a copy of the timetable and I have put one up on all the playground doors.

Morning playtimes you are allowed to go into any zone, as only one Year Group Bubble group at a time will be having a morning playtime. Playground zones will be used for **every** lunch time playtime.

Playground Rules

Please remember that we all have to follow the new rules to make sure that everyone keeps safe.

- **No football, basketball or team games** (individual balls can be used to improve your skills)
- You can play King Ball, 'It' or 'Tag' style chasing games
- Only 5 children on the swing, you all have to face the same direction
- Only 5 children on the climbing frame at a time
- You can use the outdoor gym equipment at any time as normal
- You can chat with your friends but you must not hug or huddle close together and you must not touch any adults
- You must stay in your zone

A set of playtime equipment has been organised for each Year Group Bubble Group to use by H'.

Stay on Green Behaviour and Zones of Regulation

Our behaviour system is still in place. The rules with rewards and sanctions will be followed by all the adults. Green behaviour is expected by all children once they come into the school. The Zones of Regulation displays are up in your classrooms and your teacher will spend time reminding you of Stay on Green behaviour and helping you remember how to talk about how you are feeling using the Zones of Regulation display.

Lunch times

There are set times for you to come into the hall to eat your lunch. This is because we need to check how many children are in the hall at the same time. You will sit at lunch tables in your Year Group Bubble group. This is for all children having a school lunch or if you bring a packed lunch. There will be signs on the tables telling you which tables you can sit at. A grownup will be in the hall to help you with this.

Coats, bags and packed lunches

If you bring a coat or bag into school it can go onto your coat peg as normal. If you are packed lunch you can put your lunch bag on your trolley in your corridor.

Learners

I have been really pleased in how you have all been completing your home learning packs either here at school or at home and even more pleased with the huge amount of children using Zoom to be with your teachers. All the teachers and support staff have worked incredibly hard to make sure you have been learning the topics you would have if you had all been in school.

Achievers

Lots of teachers have told me how pleased they are with your learning and how you have made progress, especially in reading. Your teacher will need to find out what you know to help them understand what they need to teach you next. Everyone has learned lots of different things so please do not worry if your friend knows something and you don't. I'm not worried. The teachers and all the staff will help you.

Friends

I know that you will all be excited to see your friends. Please remember when you do you mustn't hug or get really, really close to them. This is to keep you safe and the grown-ups safe. Also, some children might feel a bit sad or upset sometimes and we need to make sure that they are Ok. Perhaps remind them about the Zones of Regulation and ask them how you can help. The most important thing is that we must use kind words all the time when we speak to each other.

Teachers need time to prepare - IMPORTANT information for the grown-ups

When the children returned in September last year teachers had time to prepare for the children's return during the August summer holiday. As you can appreciate it is slightly more challenging for teachers and support staff this time around.

Therefore, in order for the teachers to have time to prepare their classrooms and get organised for the children's return **teachers will not be delivering live teaching lessons on Zoom for Junior children on:**

- Wednesday 3rd March
- Thursday 4th March
- Friday 5th March

Instead home learning children will complete tasks independently. The eligible children that are currently in school **WILL** be able to be in school on those three days as normal.

I am so very proud of you all and how you have demonstrated the Benthall Values, especially preserving and staying positive. I would like to thank all the grown-ups at home too. You have been crucial in making sure your child/ren has continued to learn either collecting the home learning packs or ensuring they stay focused during the Zoom lessons. You have been fantastic; the teachers could not have done it without you. Your lovely kind words of thanks to the teachers gave a well-deserved boost for all the staff and it was very much appreciated.

All the teachers and adults in the school are very excited to see you all soon. Benthall is safe and ready to welcome you all back. I cannot wait to have a socially distanced chat with you all and you can tell me everything that you have been up to. See you on Monday morning, bright and early!

Take care,

From Ms Drew

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