



Message from Ms. Drew

Welcome back to Benthal.

I hope you all had a splendid summer holiday and enjoying these last few days of sunshine.

The staff and I are re-energised ready for this new academic year and we are all eager for the new term to begin. I have seen lots of smiling faces from children and parents/carers also excited about being back too.

The children have returned happy, calm and enthusiastic about their new classes & teachers and meeting new friends. They all look so grown up in their uniforms.

The teachers have been sharing all the topics for this term with the children, making links with all the 'irresistible learning' that they will experience and the expectations around Home Learning and daily reading. Make sure you come to the Meet the Teacher session on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September to find out more. Curriculum letters for this term will also be emailed to you.

Remember, that all parents are welcome to come into the school playground at drop off and pick up times and wait with their child from Year 2-6. Please note that the playground gate on Rendlesham Road opens at 8.40am, however, there is no school adult supervision until staff come on duty at 8.50am. Children on site in the playground during those 10 minutes remain the responsibility of their parents/carers.

The Benthal swifts that fly above the school left us in August. These tiny birds make their incredible journey back to South Africa for the winter; we won't see them again until May next year.



I would like to announce a new initiative that will begin next week.

As from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, Benthal is becoming a Mobile Phone Free Zone. We would like all parents/carers not to use their mobile phone when coming into the playgrounds and court yard areas at drop off and pick up times. Instead we would like to encourage you to use those moments to speak to your child about their day and about their learning, about anything really. You could use the Chatter Time themes to help you if you are not sure. We are doing this because we would like to encourage all the children to have opportunities to talk more, especially children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1.

Please help the school to help your child by supporting this initiative. Benthal school staff will help you to remember to switch off!

Have a lovely weekend and stay sun safe,

Ms. Drew

Mobile Phone Free Zone



**WELCOME BACK**

A warm welcome back to all our Benthal children. Each year group has started the year with introductory activities in readiness for the upcoming year. We were very lucky with the weather the first week of the autumn term and children had opportunities for a lot of outdoor learning and play to enjoy the last hot days of this year.



## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

From September 2023, all state primary school children in London are eligible for free school meals for the next academic year 2023/2024. No application is needed for this, however we would urge parents to continue applying for means-tested free school meals if you think you are entitled as we can offer those children additional support (supermarket vouchers, food parcels, discounted playcentre places, free playscheme during school holidays, one free afterschool club for a year (for new applications only). Please contact the school office if you need help to apply.

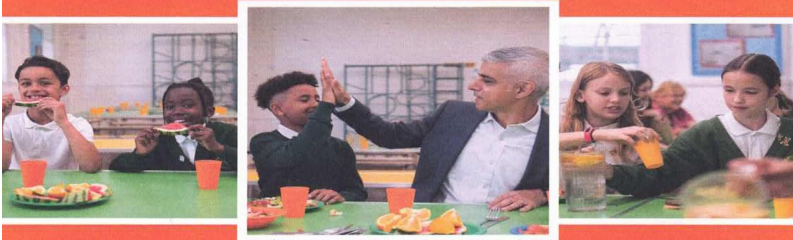
DELIVERED BY  
**MAYOR OF LONDON**

## **Free school meals**

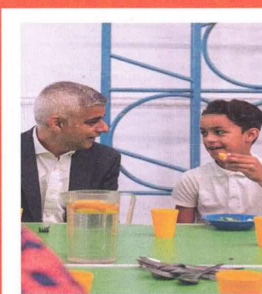
### **So no child goes hungry**

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.



\*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.



**"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'

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**



### **Autumn Term 2023/2024**

4th September—21st December  
Children return on Wednesday 6th September

Half Term 23rd-27th October

### **Spring Term 2023/2024**

8th January-28th March

Half term—12th February-16th February

Inset Days—8th January 2024

### **Summer Term 2023/2024**

15th April—24th July

Half Term—27th May—31st May

### **Inset Days 2023/24**

4 & 5th September 2023

8th of January 2023

3rd of June 2023

24th of July 2023

Please see below **Benthal PE timetable**

Reception - Fridays

Year 1 - Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Year 2 - Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Year 3 - Monday and Friday

Year 4 - Wednesday & Thursday

Year 5 - Thursdays & Fridays

Year 6 - Tuesday & Friday

## **NUT FREE SCHOOL**

Please note that Benthal is a **Nut Free** school, please do not bring nuts or any items containing nuts to the school. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



## **MEET THE TEACHER**

Please note that all parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's teacher on the 18th September from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. The meeting will take place in your child's classroom. No booking is required.

