Welcome back to Benthal and a Happy New Year to you all! I hope you and your families have kept safe and well over the festive period.

It was lovely to see all the children on Monday. There were lots of smiling faces from children, eager to catch up with their friends, parents/carers & staff. It was definitely an uplifting way to start 2025.

The children look very grown-up and smart in their school uniforms. They have settled quickly into learning routines and like always, the school is calm and focused with lots going on. The behaviour for learning is outstanding! The children have started their new Science topic block this week and very soon the teachers will be emailing out curriculum letters for this terms 'irresistible learning' taking place.

Typically, the weather has been extremely changeable this week continuing to be quite cold in the coming days. Please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf to put on during playtimes.

Please remember, that all parents/carers are welcome to come into the school playground at drop off and pick up time. 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 for Yr 2-Yr 6 and 9.00am for Yr 1 Juniper Class. Children on site in the playground during those 10 minutes remain the responsibility of their parents/ carers.

Benthal Winter Fair

The 2024 Winter Fair was a huge success; it was lovely to see so many families able to join us - we raised a fantastic £516.70! A huge thank you to Friends of Benthal and all the school community for your continued support.



Benthal a Mobile Free Zone!

Gentle reminder not to use your mobile phones in the playgrounds, courtyard and by the School Office at drop off and pick up times, please.

Instead, use that moment to speak to your child about their day, about their learning, about anything really.

Thank you to all the parents and carers that have remembered. Everyone has been really supportive of this initiative, we need to keep it going and talk face-to-face more.

Message from Ms Drew









Friday 10th January 2025

NFWS

Curriculum News

Nursery have had a busy week settling back in and reestablishing our routines. In sensory play we looked at filling and emptying. We used magnet tiles to investigate building structures and talking about



shape and colour. We also enjoyed some of our favourite stories such as *The Gruffalo* and *Room* on the Broom. Familiar stories are great for building confidence and vocabulary.



Reception has started reading *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers and learning about penguins. This week we looked at what makes Antarctica the coldest place on Earth by trying to create a sensory mini-Antarctica! We had terrific messy fun, with lots of great talk and lovely singing initiated by the children. We ended up with a very messy classroom and aprons!

Year 1 have started a new Science topic all about materials! The children sorted the different objects into what materials they are made from, such as wood, metal and plastic.



Year 6 recently received pen pal letters from a school in Wisbech, Norfolk. The children have enjoyed writing back and are looking forward to continuing the exchange.

DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Closing Date for Reception Applications</u> Wednesday 15th January 2025

Dental Team Visit for Reception and Year 1 Wednesday 22nd January 2025 Year 6 SATs meeting Thursday 23rd January, 9am in the small hall

Year 6 Junior Citizenship Workshop Thursday 30th January 2025

Year 4 Intensive Swimming Course Monday 24th - Friday 28th February Monday 3rd - Friday 8th March

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



TERM DATES

Spring Term begins Monday 6th January Half Term Monday 17th - Friday 21st February Spring Term ends Friday 4th April at 1:30pm No Playcentre Easter Break Monday 7th - Monday 21st April 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 Friday 18th July at 1:30pm No Playcentre

Class assemblies

Rowan class- 6th of

Arbutus class-6th of March, 9.15-9.30

Juniper class-20th of

Magnolia class– 27th of March, 9.15-9.30am

Serrula class—1st of May,

Birch class—22nd of May,

March, 9.15-9.30am

9.15-9.30am

9.15-9.30am

February, 9.15-9.30am

Benthal parents can use code VFR581 to get a 15% discount ; the discount expires 26th January

