



Message from Ms Drew



The Benthal swifts have arrived to fly over the school for another year! They were very early this year as they appeared on 30th April. They usually arrive on about the 2nd or 3rd May.

I am always amazed that these tiny birds fly to us all the way from South Africa, which is more than 9,000km in distance. They will stay with us for a few months to nest and raise young and then leave for their return journey in August. On a clear day you will see these tiny black and grey feathered birds flying very high in the sky, zooming around at speed. They are shaped like a curve and you will hear them making high pitched squeaks, really lovely.

The children in the infants and juniors began their BCC (Benthal Creative Curriculum) topics last week. I have seen lots of 'irresistible learning' happening across the school.

Year 4 had a jam-packed four days on residential to Kench Hill, Kent; the beautiful Georgian house owned by Hackney Council, last week. They survived a muddy stream walk, made eco-art, fed the Kench Hill ponies and chickens and had time to visit Camber Sands and Leeds Castle, which is in Kent and not Leeds! A great time was had by all including Ms Williams, Mr Hasanaj and Ms Jassim that accompanied them; everyone was smiling but looked tired on their return. Huge thanks to all the staff that took the children away on residential and to those staff that were with the few children that remained at school. The trips would not have been possible without them.

Have a look on our X (Twitter) page and on the newsletter to see all the great pictures of this trip.

Year 6 had their SATS last week. The Year 6 staff team and all the children have worked incredibly hard and at last it was an opportunity for them to shine and show all their knowledge and talent in the tests. Chef Alex and the kitchen team made beautiful breakfasts every day for the children. It was a lovely, calming and nutritious way to start the day.

I can also report that we had a visit from the borough on Tuesday to check that the tests were being administered correctly. We passed the spot check with flying colours, our visitor was impressed with the high level of organisation and care to keep the integrity of the tests but also commented about how the children were 'amazing' and 'diligently focused'. I was very proud of the children and the staff.

This week, Ms Oz will be discussing with Year 6, the end of year show, once selected, auditions and rehearsals will begin after half term. Very exciting!

Please remember it is half term week beginning Monday 25th May. The children will return back to school on Tuesday 2nd June as the school has an INSET day on Monday 1st June.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the half term,

Ms Drew
Headteacher

Nursery - Mulberry Class

This term we have been learning about Minibeast & Habitats. We have been looking at different Minibeasts, we made spiders, butterflies and caterpillars using pom poms in an AB pattern.

We have also been reading books from our Author focus, Julia Donaldson!



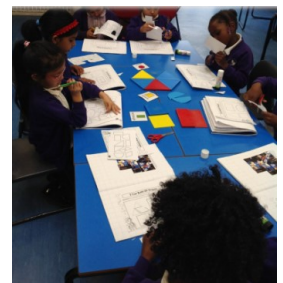
Nursery - Cherry Class

Cherry class have been learning about plants and growing big and small plants. We made sunflowers, using our hands. We planted our sunflower seeds, made big and small circle sandwiches and read "Elmer and his friends" and "Jasper and the bean stalk" this term. We have been very busy in Cherry class.

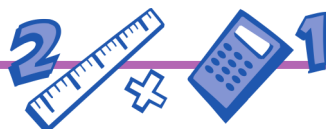


Reception - Aspen Class

Reception have been learning to explore what dinosaurs were like, learning about different types of dinosaurs, their habitats, and how we know about them today.



In Maths, we have been learning to explain the arrangement of shapes, as well as composing and decomposing them.



Year 4 & 5 - Residential Trip to Kench Hill

A group of Year 4 & Year 5 children attended Kench Hill residential trip for 4 days last week and had an amazing experience of participating in curriculum based activities, covering subjects like Science, Geography, History and Art, in a residential centre in the heart of Kent countryside.

The most popular activities this year were the campfire circle, a woodland trail, archery, pond-dipping, animal care, problem-solving games and team building, bouldering wall, the film night and the talent show. All children enjoyed themselves, made new friends and bonded with nature.

One of the children said

“I had so much fun exploring stuff with my friends and laughing with each other”



Year 6 SATs Week Breakfast

Our Year 6 pupils have been enjoying a very special breakfast each morning throughout SATs week. To help the children feel positive, focused and ready for the day ahead, our talented chef Alex and the kitchen team have prepared a delicious and nutritious selection of breakfast treats, including freshly baked croissants, fluffy pancakes, yoghurt granola bowls, and a variety of fresh seasonal fruits. The breakfasts have provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to relax and spend time together before their tests, helping create a calm and supportive start to each day during this important week.



A special, thank you goes out to our chef Alex and the kitchen team, for all the care and effort put into making the mornings so enjoyable for our Year 6 pupils.



Attendance

Good attendance plays an important role in every child's learning, confidence, and progress at school. We kindly ask all families to continue supporting regular attendance and punctuality wherever possible, as every school day provides valuable learning opportunities and helps children stay connected with their classmates and routines.

If your child is absent for any reason, please ensure the school is informed as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Benefits of Good Attendance

- Pupils with good attendance generally achieve higher grades.
- Pupils with good attendance generally enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.
- Good school attendance helps to develop other responsible patterns of behaviour.

EVERY DAY COUNTS...

Learning is a progressive activity. Each lesson and each day builds on another. If your child is absent for lessons that include demonstrations, discussions, experiments and other participation activities as part of the daily learning activities, they are missing learning that cannot be made up.

Some Risks of Poor Attendance !

- Pupils are likely to miss learning activities that their classmates have taken part in, which could mean they fall behind.
- They miss out on social interaction with friendly classmates - this can have a negative effect on the wellbeing and self-esteem.
- Low attendance is associated with anti-social behaviour and poor learning behaviours.

TERM DATES 2025/2026



Half Term

Monday 25th - 29th May

Inset Day

Monday 1st June - **No pupils attend**

Hackney Empire Trip

Thursday 4th June - Year 6

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Tuesday 2nd June - Friday 12th June

Florence Nightingale Museum Trip

Friday 5th June - Year 2 Elder Class

Friday 12th June - Year 2 Rowan Class

London Zoo Trip

Friday 5th June - Year 3 & Year 4

Year 1 Phonics Reading Screening Check

Monday 8th June - Friday 12th June

Sports Day

KS1 - Tuesday 23rd June

KS2 - Wednesday 24th June

Nursery & Reception - Date TBC

British Museum Trip

Friday 19th June - Year 3 & Year 4

Friday 3rd July - Year 5

Chessington Trip

Thursday 18th June - Year 6

Infant Singing Festival at Hackney Round Chapel

Wednesday 24th June - 10am

Year 6 - Secondary Transition Day

Thursday 2nd July

Parents Evening (please book your time slot)

Thursday 9th July - 4:00 - 7:00pm

Year 6 End of Year Show

Tuesday 7th July - 2:15pm

Year 6 Graduation

Monday 13th July - 2:15pm

Summer Term Ends

Friday 17th July at 1:30pm - **No Playcentre**

Inset Day

Monday 20th July - No pupils attend