

Monday 1st March 2021,



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

Dear Parents/Carers & Children in the Infants,

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.

Please go through the updated rules with your child to prepare them for their return

Firstly ALL infant children will return to Benthal on Tuesday 9th 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 2	8.55am-3.25pm	Rendelsham Road Gate- please queue up along the fence
Year 1	8.55am-3.25pm	Benthal Road Gate- please queue up along the fence

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
- In Year 2 the classroom has been organised so that you will sit in pairs, with all the tables facing the board
- In Year 1 the classroom has been organised into table groups of 4 children
- 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
- In Year 2 you will have your own 'personal' set of resources in a 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 with soap and water lots of times in the day
- Hand sanitiser is in every classroom and around the school, which you can use
- Remember when you cough or sneeze to wash your hands or use the hand sanitiser.
- Your class tables will be cleaned during lunch time

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. 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 2 you can only use your Year 2 toilets. You must not use any other toilets in the school. These are the toilets you will use to wash your hands.
- If you are in Year1 you can use the toilets in your classroom as normal. If it's playtime you can use the Year 2 toilets as normal.

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. Year Group Bubble groups will have their own times to play in the playground.

Firstly, the playground has been divided into two zones:

- Zone 1= Upper playground including trampoline & slide
 - Zone 2= Lower playground including small climbing frame
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- All Infant children will have a turn in each zone across the week.
 - Morning and afternoon playtimes you need to stay in your playground zone
 - 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 'It' or 'Tag' style chasing games
- You can use the trampoline, the old climbing frame and the lovely infant climbing frame as normal
- You can chat with your friends but you must not hug or get close together and you must not touch any adults
- You must stay in your zone

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.

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 teachers 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 Infant children on:**

- Thursday 4th March
- Friday 5th March
- Monday 8th March

Instead home learning children will complete tasks independently. Additional independent tasks for Monday 8th March to be completed at home will be emailed to you if your child is in Year 2 and for Year 1 children it will be uploaded to Tapestry. 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 Tuesday 9th March, bright and early!

Take care,

From Ms Drew

Head teacher
Benthall Primary School



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