



### Message from Ms Drew

Well here we are, the last few days and then it is the half term break. I cannot believe it is here already! I would like to say a huge thank you to all the Benthal staff for their continued hard work this half term. And thank you to you, our Benthal Community, for your continued support.

It has been such a busy half term with lots going on at Benthal, with trips out and about and visitors to the school. We certainly do not sit still at Benthal.

This included the London Fire Brigade giving workshops on fire safety in the home with Year 2 and 5 children. The children could use their knowledge of what we do at school with fire drills and how that could be used if there was ever a fire at home. They enjoyed the workshops and learnt about incorrect chargers for eBikes and eScooters, causing fires, keeping entrances clear and how to check if fire was on the other side of the door without opening it. The children were very knowledgeable about the emergency services by calling 999. However, what did come out was many children were unsure how to do that using a mobile phone, a few asked if they had to use an App or did they need to login to a website to call 999. The workshop leader and I were very surprised and we showed the children how to dial 999 or to press the emergency services button, even if the phone is locked and what to say to the person at the end of the phone and how to give their home address. Please can I ask that all parents/carers talk to their child about how you dial 999 and how it is not an App or web site. We will be adding this point to our own fire safety assemblies moving forward.

The children have ended their science block and have begun their BCC topic. Each BCC topic will focus on geographical and historical skills and enables the children to learn about the topic in depth, this means they remember more. I cannot wait for you to see all the 'irresistible learning' produced by the children during Parents Evening.

The days are beginning to get brighter but the temperature is still very much winter. Please ensure your child wears layers as part of their school uniform and a coat. Everyone needs to keep wrapped up.

Have a great half term week when you get there.

Take care,  
Ms Drew

#### Brilliant New Bench on Rendlesham Road!

Year 5 and 6 were busy last week working with the Woodshop of Recycled Delights, supported by Hackney council, to create a bespoke bench on Rendlesham Road as part of the parklet programme to transform spaces for community use and improve public seating in the borough. The children enjoyed painting and constructing the colourful wooden bench for all to use.



#### Stoke Newington Common Planting Project

Year 5 enjoyed planting native shrubs and small trees, such as rowan and holly, on Stoke Newington Common after being kindly invited by the Stoke Common Users Group (SNUG) and LB Hackney Parks Department. The children learnt about how plants can help trap air pollution from cars, and ways in which humans, plants and wildlife all contribute to different ecosystems and biodiversity.

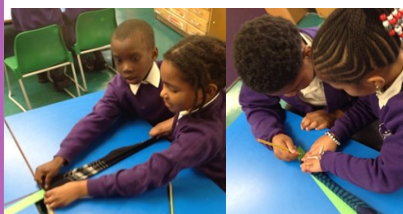
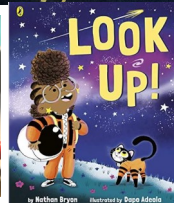
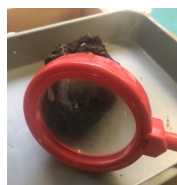


# Curriculum News

**Reception** have been reading *Look Up* by Nathan Bryson and Dapa Adeola and also learning about space, astronauts, robots and meteor showers. Take a look at our fabulous rockets that we made by tracing shapes, cutting out and sticking. We also 'flew' them in the classroom. The children also claim to have found a moonrock in the mud kitchen, which we shall examine!



**Year 1** have been learning about different materials and testing to see if they are flexible or rigid. In these pictures, we were testing the stretchiness of a sock!



**Year 5** Birch class started their Tudors BCC topic by making Tudor roses, a traditional floral emblem of England which represents the House of Tudor. Year 5 enjoyed creating their roses by folding red and white paper together, and were very pleased with the results. The roses will be displayed in class.



**Year 6** have been learning about the Kingdom of Benin as part of their BCC work (Benthal Creative Curriculum). They are studying the rich history and culture of Benin, in what is now southwest Nigeria, exploring its impressive art and architecture, as well as the social structure of the kingdom.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Year 4 Intensive Swimming Course

Monday 24th - Friday 28th February  
Monday 3rd - Friday 8th March

### Year 3 Trip to Petrie Museum

Wednesday 26th February

### Year 1 Trip to Clissold Park

Thursday 27th February

### Friends of Benthal Annual General Meeting

Friday 28th February 9:00-10:00am

### Year 6 Arbutus Class Assembly

Thursday 6th March 9:15-9:30am

### Year 2 Trip to The Tower of London

Friday 7th March

### Year 3 Trip to Science Museum

Friday 14th March

### Year 1 Juniper & Magnolia Class Assembly

Thursday 27th March 9:15-9:30am

### Year 4 Trip to Natural History Museum

Thursday 3rd April

### Year 4 Residential Trip to Kench Hill

Tuesday 6th - Friday 9th May 2025

### Year 2 to Florence Nightingale museum

Friday 6th June 2025

## TERM DATES

### 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**

## SAFEGUARDING REMINDER

I have noticed a few parents/carers walking through the small hall as a cut through to get to either Year 1 Juniper class or to Mulberry Nursery at drop off in the morning- this creates a safeguarding concern.

All of Benthal staff and any official visitor to the school have a statutory and legal duty to comply with all Child Protection and Safeguarding laws in order to keep the children safe whilst in school.

Please can I ask that all parents/carers walk around and not cut through the small hall at drop off or pick up time, to ensure the safety of all the children at Benthal. Thank you.