



Message from Ms Drew

It certainly has been very cold in the last two weeks, winter is still with us. Thankfully there has been some sunshine this week making the wintery mornings a bit more bearable.

The snowdrops, at the front of the school, have flowered and look beautiful. They are the first plant to flower and can do so even in harsh cold weather. They are very determined to show their beautiful petite white flower heads, come rain, snow or shine. This tiny thing made me think of the other signs of spring. I wonder when we will see the first Benthal daffodil flower appear. Whilst it is still officially Winter I am beginning to see more signs of spring, which is lovely. Have a look on your way to school in the mornings or on your journey home for these early signs of spring.

The children have completed their third week of block learning for science. Walking around the school I have seen the children busy learning scientific knowledge, setting out and conducting experiments. The children have been able to evaluate and make conclusions with their findings. Well done to the all the teachers for truly 'creating irresistible learning' for our children.

Have a lovely weekend,

Ms Drew



**Year 6 Assembly and SATs Meeting**

Thank you to all the year 6 parents/carers that attended the assembly and the SATS meeting this morning. It was great to see you all. Well done to Ms Oz and Year 6 for their poetry recital and celebrating the life and work of Benjamin Zephaniah. As I said this morning the quality of the children's poetry is outstanding, we certainly have future writers, poets and play writers at Benthal.



**Arrangement for Collecting Pupils after School**

Please be reminded that you need to inform the school office if you are not able to collect your child and have arranged for someone else to collect them. We will need to know in advance the name of the person collecting your child as only people named on the list for collection are allowed to pick up children from school.

**AUTISM EDUCATION TRUST TRAINING**

Hackney's Family Coach Service have shared some information about upcoming Autism Education Trust Training workshops. This training is open to ALL families who have a child in a Hackney School! This is a completely FREE offer, families just have to send the Family Coach Service an email: [familycoach@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:familycoach@hackney.gov.uk) confirming which of the three sessions they would like to attend to sign up!

**Autism Education Trust Training**

Are you waiting for assessment or does your child already have an Autism Diagnosis?

Are you curious and would you like to know more about Autism?



**Parent Autism Education Trust Training**

- Thursday 8th of February 9:15 - 11:15 am @ Harrington Hill
- Tuesday 19th of March 6 - 8 pm @ Online
- Friday 19th of April 11:30 - 1:30 pm @ Online

**Sign me up!**  
[familycoach@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:familycoach@hackney.gov.uk)  
 Let us know which session you'd like to attend. We look forward to working with you!

**SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**

Below is a reminder of the age restrictions on various social media platforms. Please ensure your children are not accessing these social media sites as they are underage.

<p><b>13+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facebook</li> <li>Snapchat</li> </ul>		<p><b>16+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WhatsApp</li> </ul>	
<p><b>17+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instagram</li> <li>Twitter</li> <li>TikTok</li> <li>Kik</li> <li>YouNow</li> <li>Yubo</li> <li>House Party</li> <li>Monkey</li> </ul>		<p><b>18+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarahah</li> <li>MeetMe</li> <li>YOLO</li> <li>YOLO</li> <li>LiveMe</li> </ul>	

## CURRICULUM NEWS

**Nursery**—in Cherry (our 2-year old nursery class) we have been settling in and enjoying our wonderful new classroom! Please contact the school office if you have a 2-year old who would like a morning place from 9-12.



**Mulberry**—In Mulberry nursery we have been learning about different types of transport. We have really enjoyed the story 'Please Don't Chat to the Bus Driver'

We have used large cardboard boxes to make our own bus and car to play in and have created a new display for our classroom wall.

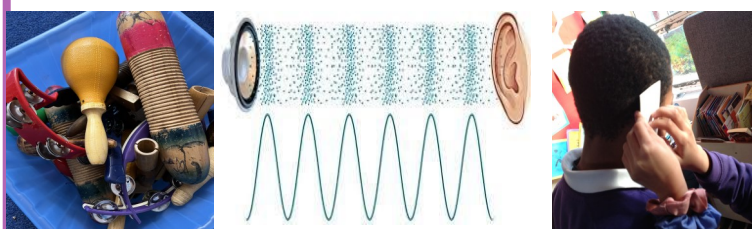


**Year 2**—Elder class have been writing their very own stories! The children learnt about the features of a narrative and have included them in their stories.

**Year 3** - In our Science lessons, year 3 have been learning about rocks. Children have been deeply fascinated and have exhibited genuine scientific curiosity in our outdoor environment.



**Year 4** - we have been learning about sound. This week we have explored how sound travels through different materials. We have also predicted (and then tested!) which instrument would be the loudest and which one the quietest.



**Year 5** have been investigating how we can slow down falling objects using air resistance.



**Year 6** - We read and performed the narrative poem 'The Highwayman' during Literacy.



## DATES TO REMEMBER



### Reception & Year 1 School fluoride Varnish Programme

29th January at 9.30am

### Residential trip to Spain - Eligible Year 4 and 5

5th-9th of February

### Holiday Activity and Food Programme

2nd April-5th April

### Kench Hill Residential Trip—Year 5

7th May -10th May

### Cuffley Residential Trip—Year 6

22nd May — 25th May

### Inset Days 2023/24

3rd of June 2024

24th of July 2024

## SCHOOL TERMS

### Spring Term

9th January-28th March (school ends at 1.30pm, no playcentre)

### Spring Half Term

12th February-16th February

### Easter Break

29th March-14th April

### Summer Term

15th April-23rd July (school ends at 1.30pm, no playcentre)

### Summer Half Term

27th May-31st May

## 15-hours funded childcare for 2-Year Olds

Parents who work and earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national Minimum Wage and earn less than £100,00 adjusted net income per year, are entitled to 30 hours free childcare a week for children aged three to four. Please use the link below to apply

<https://portal.learningtrust.co.uk/Synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/EarlyYears.aspx>

Now Benthall 2 year old nursery is open from 9am-12pm for entitled children e.g. Income support; job seekers allowance, employment & support allowance; tax credits; universal credit; NASS Support; working tax credit. 2 year olds can also get free childcare if they are looked after by a local council, they have an EHC plan; Disability Living allowance or they have left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or residence order.

**From April 2024**, the funding for 15hrs for 2 year olds will extend to working parents.

Your child will turn 2 years old before 1st of April 2024; You earn at least £8,670 a year and less than £100,000 a year adjusted net income, which is your income after some tax reliefs and deductions; If you are a couple you both will need to earn between these amounts.

We will have part-time (morning and afternoon) and full-time nursery places from April 2024 in our 2-year old nursery, so please apply early to secure your preferred session.