



Welcome Back to Benthal!

Dear Children in the Juniors,

I hope you and your families are keeping well, and you have enjoyed all the lovely weather over the summer holiday.

I just wanted to write to you before the start of the year to let you know how proud I am of all of you. It has been a very difficult time for everyone and something that all of us will remember forever. I, along with all the teachers, cannot wait for Monday 7th September 2020 to see you.

It feels like such a long time ago since I have seen some of you, I'm sure you've all grown and I'm going to be amazed at the difference. I'm sure you are all excited too! At last you will be able to see your friends again, to play in the playground, to see your teachers, to be in your new classrooms, to start all the exciting topics and learning.

During the school being closed, I know that some of you have been at home working hard with your Home Learning Packs that the teachers have given you and some of you have been at school completing your Home Learning Pack tasks.

BUT now we are going to be back all together again!

New Rules and Keeping Safe

Whilst the government have said that all schools can return we still need to make sure that we are keeping you and all the adults at Benthal safe. There are some changes that will happen from Monday 7th September that is important for you to know about, so that we can keep everyone safe. I know some of you have been at school throughout the school closure but over the summer holiday there have been more changes so it is important for you to know too. Because of these changes the school is different. It is not how it was before you left.

Remember **all** of you need to use the correct entrance, to arrive and leave at the time given to your parent/carer in July. You will need to queue up at the gate if you are using Rendelsham Road entrance or at the small corner door if you are using the courtyard entrance. Also remember to wear your school uniform too.

	Drop off and Pick Up times	Entrance to be used
Year 6	8.45am-3.15pm	Rendelsham Road Gate
Year 5	9.15am-3.45pm	Rendelsham Road Gate
Year 4	9.05am-3.35pm	Rendelsham Road Gate
Year 3	9.15am-3.45pm	Courtyard Entrance side door

I just want to go through with you the changes and the new health & safety rules that we all have to strictly follow.

Year Group Bubble Groups

- You will be in a Year Group Bubble group (this will be the two classes in your year group)
- The classrooms have been organised so that you will sit in pairs, with all the tables facing the board
- Your teacher may want you to sit with different children for different lessons in your classroom, this is OK, but there won't be group work
- Your teachers in your Year Group Bubble may want you to work with children in the other class, this is OK too, because they are part of your Year Group Bubble group
- 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**
- Each Year Group Bubble group has their own time table for morning playtime and lunch time including when you eat in the large hall
- Whilst it is OK for you to be near other children in your Year Group Bubble group, the grown-ups still need to keep their distance from you as much as possible
- 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

Hand washing and keeping clean

You will need to wash your hands lots of times throughout the day. Every time you move from one place to another hand washing with soap and water is vital to keeping you and all the adults safe. We also have hand sanitiser in every classroom and around the school, which you can use during the day as well. Remember when you cough or sneeze to wash your hands or use the hand sanitiser.

Your class tables will be cleaned during lunch time and the outside of your resources zippy wallet will be cleaned at the end of the day. Even the laptops and headphones are cleaned with special disinfectant cloths every time they are used!

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, but as you are older children we expect you to do some of the remembering too. Please make sure that you are following the instructions given to you by the adults.

Corridor and Toilets

- If you are in Year 3 or 4 you can only use your Yr3/4 corridor to go from the playground to your classroom or when going into the large hall to eat
- You can only use the Yr 3/4 toilets. You must not use any other toilets in the school. No other children will be using these toilets. These are the toilets you will use to wash your hands. If you are using these toilets, there is a great surprise for you all when you return! CLUE: We will have to have a grand opening of these!
- If you are in Year 5 or 6 you can only use your Yr5/6 corridor to go from the playground to your classroom or when going into the large hall to eat. You must not use the Yr 3/4 corridor to leave the large hall to go out to play but use the Yr5/6 corridor instead
- You can only use the Yr 5/6 toilets. You must not use any other toilets in the school. No other children will be using these toilets.
- Only 1 child at a time to use the toilets, you are not allowed to hang around in the toilets.

Playground Zones & Rules

There are strict playground rules in place to ensure that you and 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.

Firstly, the playground has been divided into three zones:

- Zone 1= football pitch & swing
- Zone 2= lower playground
- Zone 3= Outdoor gym equipment and the climbing frame

All KS2 children will be rotated to have a turn in each zone across the week. All the adults have been given a copy of the timetable and I have put one up on all the playground doors.

Morning playtimes you are allowed to go into any zone, as only one Year Group Bubble group at a time will be having a morning playtime. Playground zones will be used for **every** lunch time playtime.

New 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 King Ball, 'It' or 'Tag' style chasing games
- Only 5 children on the swing, you all have to face the same direction
- Only 5 children on the climbing frame at a time
- You can use the outdoor gym equipment at any time as normal
- You can chat with your friends but you must not hug or huddle close together and you must not touch any adults
- You must stay in your zone

A set of playtime equipment has been organised for each Year Group Bubble Group to use by H'.

Stay on Green Behaviour

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. Your teacher will spend time reminding you of Stay on Green behaviour.

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. If you are packed lunch you can put your lunch bag on your trolley in your corridor.

Learners

All the teachers and staff in the school know that you have missed a lot of learning and are ready to give you all the help that you need to catch up with reading, writing and maths. Please do not worry about this as everyone will need lots of help. Remember you will be starting your new BCC and science topics, doing art, having PE lessons with H' and Nesta and music with Ms Coggin or Ms Gent as normal. Sailing and swimming lessons will not be happening until the Spring term for Year 6 and Year 4, I'll keep you updated on this. You need to do your bit by listening to the grown-ups and putting effort into all your lessons, including any home learning tasks.

Achievers

I have told all the teachers that they will need to teach you the lessons that you should have had in the summer term, in the first part of the new term. This means that the teachers might be using activities with a different year group label on it. Please do not worry about this; by doing this the teachers are helping you to catch up.

Friends

I know that you are going to 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. Also, some children might feel a bit sad or upset sometimes and we need to make sure that they are Ok. We must use kind words all the time when we speak to each other. Remember to bring in your 'Happiness Box' to school. I've made mine already and I have been busy putting things inside that make me feel happy. What will you put in yours?

All the teachers and adults in the school are very excited to see you all. 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 Monday morning, bright and early!

Take care,

From Ms Drew

Head teacher
Benthall Primary School