



Message from Ms Drew

Welcome back to Benthal and a Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you and your families have kept safe and well over the festive period.

It was lovely to see all the children on Tuesday. There have been lots of smiling faces from children, eager to catch up with their friends, parents/carers & staff. It was definitely an uplifting way to start 2024.

The children look very grown-up and smart in their school uniforms. They have settled quickly into learning routines and like always, the school is calm and focused with lots going on. The behaviour for learning is outstanding! The children will be starting their new Science topic block this week and very soon the teachers will be emailing out curriculum letters for this terms 'irresistible learning' taking place.

Please remember, that all parents/carers are welcome to come into the school playground at drop off and pick up times and wait with their child from Year 2-6. Please note that the playground gate on Rendlesham Road opens at 8.40am, however, there is no school adult supervision until staff come on duty at 8.50am. Children on site in the playground during those 10 minutes remain the responsibility of their parents/carers.

Have a great weekend,

Baby News!

Ms Nkaka has had her baby - a little girl! She was born during the Christmas break. Mum and baby doing very well. Congratulations to all the family. This is really lovely news to start 2024. We cannot wait to see some pictures of her beautiful bundle of joy. Fantastic!



Benthal a Mobile Free Zone!

Gentle reminder not to use your mobile phones in the playgrounds, courtyard and by the school office at drop off and pick up times, please. Instead, use that moment to speak to your child about their day, about their learning, about anything really. Thank you to all the parents and carers that remembered on Tuesday. Everyone has been really supportive of this initiative, we need to keep it going and talk, face-to-face more.



Mobile Phone Free Zone

Parent's Code of Conduct

We have attached Benthal Parent Code of Conduct, please take a moment to read the document to be reminded on expectations. As a school community it is vital that Benthal children and staff feel valued and safe in the space in which they learn and work. Thank you.



Change of contact

Please inform the office about any change of contact details. If you have unsubscribed from school emails in error, you can re-subscribe in order not to miss out on vital school information. Please be reminded that if you have T2P app, you will not get text alerts, please check your app for updates. Please be reminded that you can find Benthal term dates in the newsletter as well as on Benthal website.

CURRICULUM NEWS

Reception In Pine Class we had great fun dyeing pasta and making necklaces and playing with blue spaghetti. We are also enjoying our new topic *People Who Help Us* and love acting out the different professions.



Year 1 Year 1 have been doing lots of speaking and listening activities. This week we performed 'We're going on a lion hunt'.



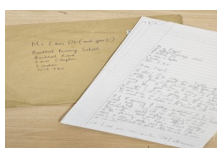
Year 2 Year 2 have been working really hard in Maths and practicing subtraction using column method.

In Science, we have started our exciting new topic 'Everyday Materials', the children will be taking part in lots of different experiments.



Year 3 Serrula class have started learning about Benjamin Zephaniah. We are really enjoying reading and performing his poems!

Year 6 - Received Pen pals from Miss Attard's new class in Cambridgeshire. Soon Arbutus will write back to them and we are extremely excited to become good friends with them.



Afterschool Clubs

We are pleased to announce that Benthall afterschool clubs will resume on 15th of January. This term we continue our popular clubs like football, ballet, cricket, cooking, table tennis and basketball and we also have some new exciting clubs like origami, street dance and lego for reception class.

Despite the cost of living increases, we kept the clubs prices at £3 per session and this term we also offer free club places for children, entitled to means-tested free school meals (table tennis, street dance, ballet, basketball and cricket)

If you have not already applied, please use the link below to apply for a place for your child.

<https://forms.gle/13PK8izM4ng6pAWP7>

DATES TO REMEMBER



Reception and Year 1 Dental Visit

18th of January

Reception & Year 1 School fluoride Varnish Programme

29th January

Residential trip to Spain - Year 4 and 5

5-9th 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

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

Reception Class Applications

Please be reminded that if your child turns 4 years old before the 1st September 2024, you need to apply for a reception place by the 15th January 2024. If you require any help with the application process, please come and see a member of staff in the office who will be more than happy to help.

Benthall 2 Year Old Nursery Provision

We are very excited about extending our nursery provision for 2-year olds, which will start next week. Please find below the link to see if your child is eligible for a funded 2 year old place at Benthall.

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

If your child is not currently eligible for a funded nursery place, the cost is £18 per Session or £36 for the whole day.

Please be reminded that we accept childcare vouchers, student finance payments and tax-free childcare account payments, which will allow you to save significantly on your childcare cost.