



Welcome Back to Benthal!

Dear Parent/Carers of Children in the Infants,

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 the children and grown-ups. 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 Tuesday 8th September, to see everyone.

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

The children will at last be able to see their friends again, to play in the playground, to see their teachers, to be in their new classrooms and to start all the exciting topics and learning. Also remember all children need to wear their school uniform.

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 the children and all the adults at Benthal safe. There are some changes that will happen from Tuesday 8th September that is important for everyone to know about.

Please remember to use the correct entrance and to arrive and leave at the time. Once you have dropped off or picked up your child you must leave the courtyard area promptly. Please ensure that you are keeping your distance from other parents/carers whilst you are waiting.

	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	9.00am-3.30pm	Courtyard Entrance – Juniper Classroom Gate Magnolia, front door of the school under the arch

Here are the changes and the new health & safety rules that you can go through with your child.

Year Group Bubble Groups

- You will be in a Year Group Bubble groups
- 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
- Each Year Group Bubble group has their own time table for playtimes 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
- 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

Hand washing and keeping clean

- 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

- 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 Year 1 you can use the toilets in your classroom as normal. If it's playtime you can use the Year 2 toilets as normal.
- Only 1 child at a time to use the toilets, you are not allowed to play in the toilets.
- 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!

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. 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
-
- All Infant children will have a turn in each zone across the week.
 - Morning or afternoon playtimes you are allowed to go into any zone.
 - 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 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

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. 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

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 topics, doing art, having PE lessons with Nesta and music with Ms Gent as normal

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. 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 all our families returning. Benthall is safe and ready to welcome everyone 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 morning, bright and early!

Take care,

From Ms Drew

Head teacher
Benthall Primary School