

# Benton Park News



**Our Target Attendance Figure is 96%**  
**Let's do our best to hit our target this year!**

8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. It is lovely to see you all back and to welcome many new faces amongst both the pupils and the staff. In Year 3/4 we are joined by a new teaching assistant, Mrs Fuller and also by a fulltime teaching student Mr Errington who will be with Mr Cowen's class for the majority of the school year. It is always a pleasure to see the new reception and nursery children get settled in to school and although we have only done one day I am happy to report I only saw happy faces (even amongst the staff!).

We are trialling Key Stage 2 children walking straight into school each morning. Doors will open at 8.45am and close at 8.50am, allowing children the chance to come straight in to school and get working. In Key Stage 1 children will continue to collect a dinner band and then line up with their class teacher.

Below are a few reminders that I feel are important, so please take a good look so that you are aware.

Finally, I hope that you have a great time at Benton Park this year. A very nice Year 6 leavers assembly on the last day of term made me feel proud and privileged to lead this school and I am pleased to be able to share it with all the pupils, parents and governors who make it such a wonderful community.

Alice Witherow

## The Walking Bus

The walking bus will return in the next few weeks. Staff are currently settling children in to their new classes and new routines so we do not have staff availability to monitor the walking bus at this stage.

## Attendance and Lateness

Please ensure your child is in school every day and gets to school on time. These habits are very important. If your child is unwell please phone the school office and let us know. A daily check of registers means that we will contact you if we do not know why your child is absent.

## Mobile Phones

Only children in Years 5 and 6 should bring their mobile phones in to school. These must be handed in at the start of the day. They will be stored securely until the end of the day. The school is not liable and will not take any responsibility for loss or damage to a mobile phone.

## School Uniform

Children must wear school uniform. This is available from Emblematic, or a jumper in the school colours can be worn. Further information about uniform and PE kit is in your child's routines letter which will come home with them tonight. Please ensure you keep a copy of this letter so that you are aware of the days the children do PE etc.

## Payments and Messages

Please can you pay dinner money through School Gateway or by putting it in an envelope with the child's name on it and placing it in the post boxes in the playground. All messages will be passed to the school office either way. You can find more information about School Gateway and how to register on the back of this newsletter.

Should you wish to talk to me about any issue, please make an appointment to see me. This term I am working for one day per week with the Local Authority. This will usually be on a Tuesday. In my absence Mr Shepherd is always able to speak to you. In the first instance however can I suggest you speak to a class teacher or a phase leader – details of these will be in your child's letter tonight. All staff are really happy to meet with you after school, please don't hesitate to ask.

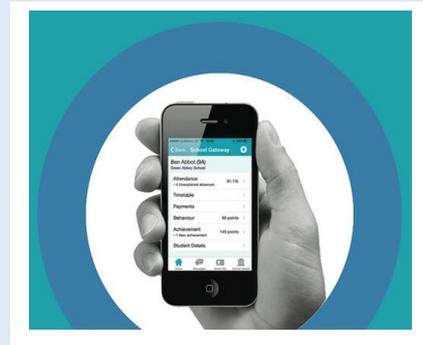
Miss Alice Witherow  
Website:

[www.bentonpark.newcastle.sch.uk](http://www.bentonpark.newcastle.sch.uk)  
School Office 0191 2665122

## School Gateway

School Gateway will enable you to do the following things:

- Pay for school dinners with a credit or debit card
- Pay for Benton Buttons
- Sign up and pay for After School Clubs
- Pay for school trips and sign consent forms online
- Receive text messages and emails



### **We encourage you to download the app!**

If you have a smartphone, please download the School Gateway app from your app store (Android and iPhone). The app will give you the same information as the website and it can even save the school money when we send you a text message.

Alternatively you can visit the website [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com) and click 'New User'. You will receive a text message with a PIN number. You then use this PIN number to log in to your account.

The office staff will be happy to assist you any way they can.

## Term Dates 2017/18

<b>Autumn Term</b>	
<b>Teacher Training Day – School closed to pupils</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
School opens	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
School ends for half term	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Teacher Training Day – School closed to pupils</b>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
School re-opens	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
School ends for Christmas	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2017

<b>Spring Term</b>	
School opens	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
School ends for half term	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
<b>Teacher Training Day – School closed to pupils</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
School re-opens	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
School ends for Easter	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018

<b>Summer Term</b>	
School opens	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
School ends for half term	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
School re-opens	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
School ends for Summer	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018