



Message from Ms Drew



The snow finally came to Benthal although it didn't stay long.

Thank you to those parents/carers that were able to attend the meeting with representatives from the council regarding the school building. It was important that the council heard your voices as well as mine. You will be pleased to know that we have improvements scheduled for the half term. Ms Anna Jassim and I also met with a playground equipment designer for the infant and junior playground. They will send some designs soon, which I can share with school council for their thoughts. It is exciting times for Benthal and confirms for the community that we are here to stay!

Something new—I am considering opening the school for 5 days during Easter to run an Easter Holiday Club. It would be from Monday 8th April—12th April, from 8am to 6pm and would cost approximately £25-30 per day. If you are interested, please let the office staff know. If we can get the numbers then we can trial it this Easter.

Finally, towards the end of the Autumn term, I was invited by the 'Governors for Schools' group to speak at their London conference, giving Head teachers perspective on governance in schools. It went very well with the CEO requesting additional material. I have since been filmed by the team, discussing the importance of strong governance in schools.

This will be used as part of their recruitment campaign for potential governors across the U.K. and for Head teachers. I am also going to end up on a printed postcard. Benthal school will be known across the UK!

I am very proud of the work that I did last year with Benthal school governors and to see this different approach being commended and adopted by others is fantastic!
Have a great weekend!



School Lettings

We would like to remind the Benthal community that we have spaces available for hire outside of school hours and during school holidays.



MAIN HALL:

The main hall seats up to 100, and it is ideal for functions, plays, performing arts, workshops, community events, exercise classes and meetings. The hall also has kitchenette facilities, which can be booked.

SMALL HALL:

The infant hall can seat up to 50 people and is ideal for smaller events and meetings.

SPORT PITCHES

Sport pitches are available for outdoor games and competitions.

For rates and more details, please enquire in the school office.

Dates to Remember

Thursday 14th Feb
Reception parents stay to read with their child 9.00-9.10am

Friday 15th Feb
YR 1 parents stay to read with their child 9.00-9.10am

Monday 18th Feb—Friday 22 Feb
Half Term

Monday 25th Feb
INSET DAY

Thursday 7th March
World Book Day

Friday 8th March
Class Photographs

Thursday 14th Mar
Phonics Meeting for YR1
Parents at 9.05am (small hall)

Thursday 28th Mar
Parents Evening

Friday 29th Mar
KS2 Musical Show at 9.30am

Friday 5th Apr
Last day of term



Assemblies

Friday 8th Feb
Beech Class

Friday 15th Feb
Hazel Class

Friday 1st Mar
Serrula Class

Friday 8th Mar
Hornbeam Class

Friday 15th Mar
Juniper Class

Friday 22nd Mar
Magnolia Class

Wednesday 27th Mar
Reception Singing Assembly for parents

Trips

Monday 4th Feb
Serrula Class to British Library

Monday 11th—Friday 15th Feb
YR5 Spain, Madrid

Friday 1st March
Reception to Transport Museum

Monday 11th Mar
YR1 to LSO Barbican

Absence Reporting Procedure

All parents/carers are asked to follow the following procedures to inform the school that your child will be absent:

- Please contact the school office no later than 9 am to explain your child's absence.
- This can be done by calling into the school office, telephoning or emailing.
- Please tell us the nature of the illness and the expected duration of the absence.
- If the school is not informed of the absence, you will be called by the school office on the first day your child is off asking to explain the absence.
- Any unexplained absences will be unauthorised.
- You must contact the school on each day of your child's absence so we can accurately record the absence.



Benthal Values Certificate Winners

ARBUTUS— Emaan **WILLOW**—Inaaya **ELDER**— Tara **MAGNOLIA**— Rafael **JUNIPER**—David

HAZEL—Richie **HAZEL**— Lola **ROWAN**— Zidan

Nursery Places

If you have a child or know someone with a child that turns 3 years old before the 31st March 2019, they could join our nursery in the summer term. If you are interested, please speak to the office staff to have your child registered. We offer full-time and part-time places as well as extended services, which means our nursery is open from 8am until 6pm to accommodate the needs of working parents.

Reading Mornings

Reception and Y1 parents are invited to come in to the classroom and read with their child from 9.00-9.10am. This will be every Thursdays (Reception) + Fridays (Year 1) starting from Thursday 14th February. We hope to see you all.

Reminders

- Please be reminded that office hours are from 8am to 5pm. If you would like to pick up your child's bike after 5pm, please ask play centre staff for assistance.
- We have spaces for both breakfast club (which is open 8am-9am) and Benthall playcentre (3:30pm-6pm). The cost for breakfast club is £2 daily and for the play centre—£10 (£5 for those who are entitled to free school meals). We also offer emergency childcare within breakfast club and playcentre, which can be booked at short notice via the school office. Please speak to the office staff if you have any questions or would like to register your child.
- Please note that all payments for the school services are required in advance. Please check your online account regularly to ensure you are up-to-date with the payments.

Nursery



Nursery have been learning about minibeasts and especially looking at the life cycle of a butterfly.

Reception

This week, we took part in a special yoga workshop. We made our favourite forms of transport.



Year 1



We have been learning about the different seasons. Have a look at some of our lovely home projects. Can you guess what the seasons are?

Year 2



This week we've looked at where to build a castle that no one would want to attack. We've thought about the human and physical features of landscapes.

Year 3



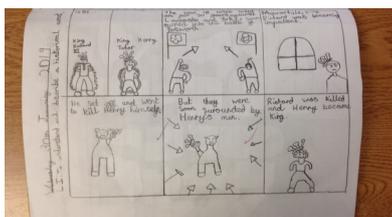
We have started learning about Early Settlers. We have begun by looking at the differences between Anglo Saxon warriors and Romans (who we learned about last term.) We made Anglo Saxon helmets for our classroom display.

Year 4



The Vikings are coming! Year 4 are learning lots about the Norsemen and why they chose to raid and settle in Britain.

Year 5



We have been learning about the Battle of Bosworth and The war of the Roses.

Year 6



Last week, we attended workshops about how to keep safe in London.

Attendance

Well done Birch class last weeks winners with 99.3% attendance.