



Message from Ms Drew

Welcome back to school. I hope you all enjoyed the festivities of the season. It was lovely to see the children last week. They have returned looking smart, very grown up and eager to learn. The behaviour in the school continues to be excellent.

Thank you to all those parents/carers that completed the Home Learning Survey before the Christmas holidays (if you haven't handed it in yet then you still can at the office). From the returns that we have had there has been an overwhelming positive reaction to the new style Home Learning which is fantastic. You have told me that the children are really enjoying the project challenges. I have seen some across KS2 and they demonstrate creativity and effort very well. Lots of you are enjoying 'chatter time' with your children and say that 2 weeks is enough time to complete the Home Learning. Here are some of your comments, "My child comes home excited to do these projects", "My child is enjoying home work so much more!", "Much better home work, best we have ever had".

Thank you for your support in embracing this change. The new six week cycle (2 week blocks) for this half term begin from today and will now continue for the rest of the school year. Lastly, hope to see you at the Council meeting next week. Have a great weekend.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 23rd Jan

Meeting with Hackney Council/Hackney Learning Trust regarding school building at 9.05am

Monday 28th Jan

SATs meeting for Y2
Parents at 9.05am (small hall)

Monday 18th Feb—Friday 23 Feb

Half Term

Friday 25th Feb

INSET DAY

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

Rec Singing Assembly for parents

Trips

Wednesday 23rd Jan

YR6 Junior Citizenship @
Hackney Library

Friday 1st Feb

Hornbeam Class to British Library

Monday 4th Feb

Serrula Class to British Library

Monday 11th—Friday 15th Feb

YR5 Spain, Madrid

Monday 11th Feb

YR1 @ LSO Barbican

Curriculum

Thank you to all those parents and carers that came to the Mathletics meeting on Monday morning. We had a good turnout both Ms Owen and Ms Fernandez were very pleased. Remember your child should have come home with a Mathletics letter with their username and password attached. The online maths activities will run alongside the Home Learning 2 week blocks and will match what they have learnt in class. If you have any questions or you encounter any problems please contact Ms Owen for KS2 and Ms Fernandez for KS1 and EYFS.



Staff Updates



We are pleased to inform you that we have now recruited a new premises manager and would like to officially welcome Mr Patrick Connor, who has worked for us from last term, to our Benthal team. Also, we were successful in recruiting a part-time gardener, Mr James Kingston, who started with us in December 2018 and is currently in the process of planning the school garden improvements for the spring season to make the outdoor areas more attractive for our pupils.

Benthal Building News



As you all know, the Council has decided to pause indefinitely its proposals to build a second secondary school in the Borough and therefore the proposal for moving Benthal has also been paused indefinitely. As Benthal will remain in its current building for the foreseeable future, we are pleased to inform all Benthal community that we have some building and grounds improvement works planned for this academic year. The schedule of works will include painting internal and external areas of the building, school roof repairs, pupil toilets refurbishment, replacement of the boiler and playground improvements later this year, which will make our school more attractive and welcoming.

The meeting with Hackney Council and Hackney Learning Trust regarding the school building will take place on **Wednesday 23rd January at 9.05am** in the small hall, and we hope as many of you as possible can attend.

Benthal Values Certificate Winners

ARBUTUS— T'Shaana & Arda **WILLOW**—Scarlett & Khadija **ASH**— Kyvun & Shaun **BEECH**—Valentina & Jasmine **ELDER**— Abubaukker & Maxwell **MAGNOLIA**— Emilia

HAZEL—Keyaan & Ruqayyah **HAZEL**— Lola **HORNBEAM**— Mahi **ROWAN**— Jael & Winner **JUNIPER**— Elke

Paperless Office

Parents are reminded to provide their email addresses to the school office if you have not done so yet. You will receive the newsletter and school letters by email which is a much faster and effective way of communication and will also help us with our efficiency savings. Thanks

Reminders

- We have a lot of lost property items in the school, which will be displayed on a table in the KS2 playground next week, from Monday to Friday, so owners will have a chance to reunite with their belongings. Anything not claimed by Monday 28th January will be disposed of.
- We have a few afternoon nursery places left, so if your child turned three or you know somebody, who might be interested, please contact the office staff.
- We still have spaces for some afterschool clubs: Get Growing and Drumming on Monday, Football and Board Games on Tuesday, Martial Arts and Lego Clubs on Thursday and Chess on Fridays. Please be reminded that if your child attends the playcentre, they can attend one club free of charge provided they attend the playcentre on that day of the week.

Nursery

Our BCC topic this term is:
Minibeasts



Reception



Our BCC topic this term is:
Transport

Year 1



Our BCC topic this term is:
Wonderful Weather

Year 2

Our BCC topic this term is:
Castle & Dragons



Year 3

Our BCC topic this term is:
The Settlers



Year 4



Our BCC topic this term is:
The Vikings

Year 5



Our BCC topic this term is:
Off with your Head

Year 6

Our BCC topic this term is:
Pyramids



Attendance

Well done Ash & Arbutus classes last weeks winners with 100% attendance