



Message from Ms Drew

The weather has certainly changed and winter is upon us. There have been a few frosty mornings, make sure you wrap up warm and remember to bring your coat to school.

We had a visit from the new Interim Director of Education for Hackney- Mr Paul Senior, last week. He is new to the borough and has been scheduling visits to visit Hackney schools. He was impressed with what he saw from what he was saying on the tour of the school 'the children are very focused on their learning.....you can clearly see what the learning is from the activities..... all the children are engaged in their learning'. He was particularly impressed with our awards for our Modern Foreign Language work in the school, especially once he had read the detailed pen-pal letters written in Spanish by our year five pupils. It was a "good news story that needed to be communicated". It was a very proud moment for me.

We have lots going on this week. Christmas arrives at Benthal on Friday 2nd December with our annual BIG Benthal XMAS lights switch on. We also have the Winter Fair too.

Come and join in the fun outside in the courtyard, and the Early Years playground from 3.30pm- 6.00pm. The lights will be switched on at approximately 4.00pm. There will be lots going on with festive music & food and activity stalls, including Santa's Grotto, a festive film and something new for this year -Dinner with Santa!

'Dinner with Santa' is 6.00-7.00pm. You need to pre-pay for your tickets by Thursday 1st December as it is seat limited. I hope Santa has a good appetite as our new Chef Educator, Chef Alex, will be serving a two-course festive meal. It should be lots of fun.

All the money raised will directly benefit our Benthal children, so please dig deep and give as much as you can. See you all there and remember to bring your singing voices to join in with festive songs!

Ms Drew

Benthal Christmas Playscheme

We are running a Christmas Playscheme for children in all year groups from Nursery to Year 6, who are entitled to Free School Meals from **Monday 19th December** until **Thursday 22nd December, from 10:00am - 2:00pm**.

This provision is free of charge and a nutritious lunch will be provided.

Activities will include arts and crafts, a range of sports, indoor and outdoor games. The Playscheme will be run by Benthal's experienced playworkers and nursery nurses, who will ensure the children have lots of Christmas fun activities. There will be a trip to Little Angel theatre on one of the days to see a Christmas puppet show (free of charge).

All children currently eligible will have received an email already. If you think you are eligible, or need help with your Free School Meals application, please contact the School Office.

Registration for places need to be received by **Monday 12th December at 9am**.

Holiday Vouchers

If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please apply as soon as possible, in order to receive Holiday Vouchers for this Christmas holiday.

Please contact the Office if you need assistance with applications.

Support Sessions for Reception Place Applications

We will be holding support sessions in the library for parents and carers who would like help with their applications on:

- Wednesday 30 Nov 9:15am
- Monday 5 Dec 9:15am
- Tuesday 6 Dec 9:15am

Drop Off and Collection

Parents and carers are reminded that children need to be dropped off and collected at the correct gates.

Early Years and Year 1 children should arrive by 9:00am, using the Benthall Road gates.



Year 2 - 6 children should arrive and be in the line by 8:55am, using the Rendlesham Road gates.

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time, so that they have a good start to the morning and have an entire Reading or Phonics lesson uninterrupted.

Attendance/Punctuality Individual Meetings

We would like to support parents/carers in improving their child/ren punctuality and attendance.

In order to do this, the school will arrange individual meetings with the School Attendance Officer Miss Ward and the Headteacher Ms Drew to see if the school can help in any way.

During the meeting we will discuss the reasons for your child's absence/lateness, using your child's attendance grid, and look into the ways how to improve your child's attendance and timekeeping.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 2 December

BIG Benthall Xmas Lights Switch-On 4.00pm
Benthall Winter Fair 3.30 - 6.00pm

Wednesday 7 December

Benthall Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service

Thursday 8 December

Christmas Lunch - ***Wear a Christmas jumper!***
Parents' Evening 4.00-8.00pm

Friday 9 December

Key Stage 1 Christmas Show

Tuesday 13 December

Year 3 and 6 to Hackney Empire Pantomime
Nursery, Year 1 and 2 - Pantomime at school

Wednesday 14 December

Year 4 and 5 to Hackney Empire Pantomime

Friday 16 December

Last day of the term
School finishes at 1.30pm (no Playcentre)

Tuesday 3 January 2023

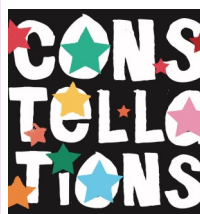
Inset Day

Wednesday 4 January 2023

Pupils return to school

Sunday 15 January 2023

Deadline for Reception place applications



CONSTELLATIONS Community Project

Last Wednesday, Year 4 Beech took part in workshops as part of a community lights project called Constellations. The children made their own star-shaped lanterns from willow and tissue paper. Children and parents are invited to join a lantern procession along Church Street on **Saturday 3rd December 4pm** from Stoke Newington Town Hall to a free community celebration outside the fire station.

BENTHAL CREATIVE CURRICULUM

Nursery - Amazing Animals

Nursery have been reading lots of books about animals and creating artworks of their favourites. We have been looking at colours and texture, as well as different kinds of animal homes.



Reception - The Way Back Home



Reception have been reading 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers. They have made some wonderful props featured in the story, including aeroplanes and spaceships!

Year 1 - Where in The World Am I?



Year 1 have been exploring the local neighbourhood, and went on a walk around Rectory Walk. They created a street map featuring buildings and shops they passed.

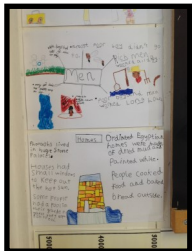
They have also been looking at maps of London and the UK.

Year 2 - Homes



Year 2 are looking at different types of home, and how they compare in different parts of the world. They will also be looking at continents, oceans and how the climate varies across the globe.

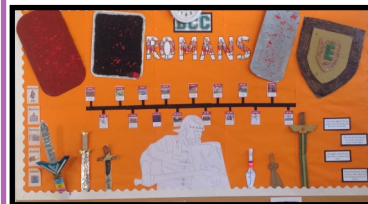
Year 3 - Ancient Egyptians



Year 3 have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. They have been looking at the kinds of foods the Egyptians used to eat, and the different roles men and women had.



Year 4 - Romans



Year 4 have been looking at the Romans; why they settled in London; how they lived and what they wore; and their impact on life in Britain today.

They especially enjoyed learning about gladiators and the fierce fights that would take place in the arena.

Year 5 - Rainforests and The Water Cycle

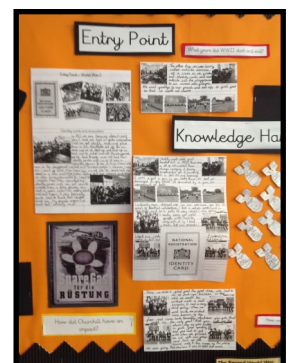


Year 5 have been taking an in-depth look at The Water Cycle, the path that all water follows as it moves around Earth in different states. The children have also been very engaged in learning about the importance of rainforests, and the impact of deforestation on the global environment. They also discovered that rainforests were made up of several layers, the sheer variety of plant and animal species that live within them; and that some of those plants are actually used to produce modern medicines.

Year 6 - World War Two



Year 6 have produced some fantastic creative written work on World War Two, based on historical diary entries. They have learnt about significant dates and events during the war, who Hitler was and the role that he played, as well as why it was an especially important time for women.





Benthal Primary School

Christmas Menu

Thursday 8th December 2022

Mains

Turkey Breast Crown

Roast Lamb

Lentil Wellington (Vegetarian)

Sides

Roast Potatoes

Stuffing Balls

Yorkshire Pudding

Brussel Sprouts

Carrots

Sauces

Handmade Gravy

Cherry Sauce

Salad

Red Cabbage and Apple

Rainbow Coleslaw

Dessert

Mince Pie

Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Sauce