



## Message from Ms Drew



Welcome back to Benthal and a Happy New Year to you all. I think it I still ok to say it!

It was lovely to see all the children back at the start of January. There were lots of smiling faces from children, eager to catch up with their friends, parents/carers & staff. It was definitely an uplifting way to start 2026.

The children look very grown-up and smart in their school uniforms. They have settled quickly into learning routines and like always, the school is calm and focused with lots going on. The behaviour for learning is outstanding! The children have started their new Science topic block and the teachers have emailed out the curriculum letters for the 'irresistible learning' taking place this term.

Typically, the weather has been extremely changeable; continuing to be quite cold in the coming days. Please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf to put on during playtimes.

Please remember, that all parents/carers are welcome to come into the school playground at drop off and pick up time. Please note that the playground gate on Rendlesham Road opens at 8.40am, however, there is no school adult supervision until staff come on duty at 8.50am for Y2-Y6. Children on site in the playground during those 10 minutes remain the responsibility of their parents/carers.

Have a great weekend,

Ms Drew



### *Benthal is a Mobile Free Zone!*

Gentle reminder not to use your mobile phones in the playgrounds, courtyard and by the school office at drop off and pick up times, please. Instead, use that moment to speak to your child about their day, about their learning, about anything really. Thank you to all the parents and carers that have remembered. Everyone has been really supportive of this initiative, we need to keep it going and talk, face-to-face more. I'm sure you'll agree that it is important for your child's development to have the opportunity to speak about something with an adult.



### *Benthal Attendance*

#### **Autumn Term**

Rowan class won attendance in the autumn term (November 3rd - December 19th) with a attendance percentage of 88.7%

#### **Spring Term**

Arbutus was in the lead with the highest attendance at 92.5% during the first week back and still in the lead with 93.8% last week.

Well done Rowan and Arbutus classes! Overall the whole school percentage is currently at 89.7% for these first few weeks. Will a different class beat Arbutus next week?

# Curriculum News—Early Years Foundation Stage

## Reception Aspen Class

In Aspen Class, we have been reading the story of “Whatever Next” by Jill Murphy. We have learnt to predict what might happen in the story, sequence the events, and create a story map. We have also discussed how a list will help us when organizing a party on the Moon. We then created our own list and shared with our friends.

In Maths, we revised measuring mass and capacity. We used non-standard units such as cubes to measure the mass of objects and the capacity of containers. We have also learnt to identify and represent numbers 6, 7 and 8.

Our topic is Space for this term. We imagined looking through the Hubble telescope and explored the different types of galaxies. Did you know there are three types of galaxies- elliptical, spiral and irregular? We have then painted our own galaxies as a creative response.



## Nursery Cherry Class

Cherry class had a graduation on the 19.12.25 for Liam, Ayah and Ayse as they got ready to move into Mulberry class in January 2026. We wish you all the best!

Cherry class have been learning about People Who Help Us.



We made handprint firefighters and we learnt our words of the week which were Help and Emergency.



Cherry class made rice cake snowflakes during cooking last Friday to represent winter.

They mixed icing sugar and water and added blue food colouring.





## Nursery Mulberry Class

This week Mulberry class have been learning about Transport and Journeys.

Mulberry have been looking at different modes of transport including cars, airplanes, trains, bike riding and walking. It's so fun to learn through play!





## Zones of Regulations

Thank you to parents who attended the zones of regulations workshop today, we hope it was useful

## Benthal Christmas Holiday Playscheme

Benthal's Holiday Playscheme was open to pupils in all year groups, who are entitled to means tested free school meals. The scheme was free and all children had a fun-packed four days, which included a coding session, cooking sessions and a skating trip to the Lea Valley Ice Centre.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### TERM DATES 2025/2026



#### Year 3 and 4 Apollo Music Workshop

Friday 6th February

#### Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court Palace

Friday 13th February

#### Half Term

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February

#### Year 4 Swimming Lessons

Monday 23rd February - Friday 6th March

#### Year 6 Bikeability Week 1

Monday 9th March - Friday 13th March

#### Year 6 Bikeability Week 2

Monday 16th March - Friday 20th March

#### Spring Term ends

Friday 27th March

#### Easter Break

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

#### Summer Term begins

Monday 13th April

#### Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May

#### Year 6 SATS

Monday 11th May - Thursday 15th May

#### Year 4 Residential Trip to Kench Hill

Tuesday 12th May - Friday 16th May

#### Half Term

Monday 25th - Friday 29th May

#### INSET Day

Monday 1st June No pupils attend

#### Summer Term ends

Friday 17th July at 1:30pm No Playcentre

#### INSET Day

Monday 20th July No pupils attend

## Reminders

- Please pay for afterschool clubs for the spring term
- Please inform office if you have changed your address or phone number as it's essential we have an up-to-date contact information for each child.

## Afterschool Clubs

We have a range on new afterschool clubs this term, those include Taekwondo, Coding, Art and Cooking, Dodgeball and Origami. Please sign up your child if you have not done so yet. To support Benthal families, this term we offer one free club to each child, entitled to means-tested free school meals, please let the office know which one they would like to join.