

Monday 1st March 2021,



I have waited ages to say this 'Welcome Back to Benthal!'

Dear Parents/Carers & Children in Reception,

I hope you and your families have been keeping well and have kept safe during this national lockdown.

Last week the Prime Minister told teachers that all children would be able to come back to school in March. I am so very glad; I cannot wait to see you all at the gate, in the playground, in your classrooms and with your teachers. I know some children have been with us at Benthal throughout this time and I am sure they will be equally excited to have their friends back.

I haven't seen some of you since mid-December, which feels like such a long time ago. But now you are on the verge of returning and there are lots of things I need to remind you off.

Please go through the updated rules with your child to prepare them for their return

Firstly ALL Reception children will return to Benthal on Wednesday 10th March 2021.

The staggered times and the entrance to use has not changed but I have added it here in case you have forgotten.

	Drop off and Pick Up times	Entrance to be used
Reception	9.00am-3.30pm	Maury Road Gate- please queue up along the fence

Health and Safety Rules to keep us all safe- a reminder

Year Group Bubbles and the Classroom

- You will be in a Year Group Bubble group this is the same as the Autumn Term
- It is OK for you to be near other children in your Year Group Bubble group but the grown-ups still need to keep their distance from you as much as possible
- You will be able to choose reading books from your class book corner and take them home to read, you just need to put them in a special box when you return them so they can be cleaned before they go back on the shelf
- We also need to keep windows open to make sure that fresh air is going around the room all the time

Hand washing and keeping clean is still really important

- You will need to wash your hands with soap and water lots of times in the day
- Hand sanitiser is in every classroom and around the school, which you can use
- Remember when you cough or sneeze to wash your hands or use the hand sanitiser.
- Your class tables will be cleaned during lunch time

Corridor and Toilets- nothing has changed here

- If you are in Reception you can use the toilets in your classroom as normal. Make sure you wash your hands afterwards.

Playground Rules

Please remember that we all have to follow the new rules to make sure that everyone keeps safe.

Stay on Green Behaviour and Zones of Regulation

Our behaviour system is still in place. Green behaviour is expected by all children once they come into the school. The Zones of Regulation displays are up in your classrooms and your teacher will spend time reminding you of Stay on Green behaviour and helping you remember how to talk about how you are feeling using the Zones of Regulation display.

Lunch times

There are set times for you to come into the hall to eat your lunch. You will sit at lunch tables in your Year Group Bubble group. This is for all children having a school lunch or if you bring a packed lunch. Grownups will be in the hall to help you with this.

Coats, bags and packed lunches

If you bring a coat or bag into school it can go onto your coat peg as normal.

Learners

I have been really pleased in how you have all been completing your home learning packs either here at school or at home and even more pleased with the huge amount of children using Zoom to be with your teachers. All the teachers and support staff have worked incredibly hard to make sure you have been learning the topics you would have if you had all been in school.

Achievers

Lots of teachers have told me how pleased they are with your learning and how you have made progress, especially in reading. Your teachers will need to find out what you know to help them understand what they need to teach you next. Everyone has learned lots of different things so please do not worry if your friend knows something and you don't. I'm not worried. The teachers and all the staff will help you.

Friends

I know that you will all be excited to see your friends. Please remember when you do you mustn't hug or get really, really close to them. This is to keep you safe and the grown-ups safe. Also, some children might feel a bit sad or upset sometimes and we need to make sure that they are Ok. The most important thing is that we must use kind words all the time when we speak to each other.

Teachers need time to prepare - IMPORTANT information for the grown-ups

When the children returned in September last year teachers had time to prepare for the children's return during the August summer holiday. As you can appreciate it is slightly more challenging for teachers and support staff this time around.

Therefore, in order for the teachers to have time to prepare their classrooms and get organised for the children's return **teachers will not be delivering live teaching lessons on Zoom for Reception children on:**

- Friday 5th March
- Monday 8th March
- Tuesday 9th March

Instead home learning children will complete tasks independently. These tasks will be uploaded to Tapestry. The eligible children that are currently in school **WILL** be able to be in school on those three days as normal.

I would like to thank all the grown-ups at home. You have been crucial in making sure your child has continued to learn either collecting the home learning packs or ensuring they stay focused during the Zoom lessons. You have been fantastic; the teachers could not have done it without you. Your lovely kind words of thanks to the teachers gave a well-deserved boost for all the staff and it was very much appreciated.

All the teachers and adults in the school are very excited to see you all soon. Benthall is safe and ready to welcome you all back. I cannot wait. See you on Wednesday 10th March, bright and early!

Take care,

From Ms Drew

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