



Message from Ms Drew

Well here we are, one more week and it is the half term break!

It has been such a busy half term with lots going on at Benthal, with trips out and about and visitors to the school. We certainly do not sit still at Benthal.

The children will be ending their science block and will begin their BCC topic on their return. Each BCC topic will focus on geographical and historical skills and enables the children to learn about the topic in depth, this means they remember more. I cannot wait for you to see all the 'irresistible learning' produced by the children during Parents Evening next half term.

The days are beginning to get brighter but the temperature is still very much winter. Please ensure your child wears layers as part of their school uniform and a coat. Everyone needs to keep wrapped up.

Have a great weekend,

Ms Drew

Class Assemblies

All parents are invited to attend their child's class assembly. These will take place on Fridays from 9.15-

Date	Class
10th February	Hornbeam
24th February	Beech
3rd March	Birch
10th March	Willow
28th April	Magnolia

9.30am in the large hall.

Friends of Benthal Cake Sale

A massive thank you to Friends of Benthal for organising another very popular cake sale this afternoon, raising valuable funds for all Benthal pupils.

New parents are always welcome to get involved with fundraising ideas!



Serrula Class Assembly

Well done to Serrula class for their fantastic and informative assembly this morning. It was linked to all their learning in their BCC topic Ancient Egyptians from the Autumn term. This is the first class assembly we have had since the pandemic and Serrula class kickstarted the new rota brilliantly. Thank you to the parents/carers and family members that came today, it was lovely to see you. I'm looking forward to Hornbeam's assembly next week.



SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS

We will be issuing supermarket vouchers for children entitled to benefit-related Free School Meals to cover **February Half Term (Mon 13 - Fri 17 February)**.

The value of the vouchers is **£25** per child. Please ensure we have a correct e-mail address for you.

If you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals and you need help applying, please contact Office.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS Eligibility Update **Protection from roll out of Universal Credit** **extended from 31/03/23 to 31/03/2025**

The Free School Meal (FSM) protections policy was introduced in 2018 to protect those eligible for FSM from becoming ineligible while Universal Credit (UC) is being rolled out. The end date for protections has now been extended from March 2023 until March 2025.

This means that a pupil who was FSM eligible on 1 April 2018, or who has become eligible under benefits/low-earnings criteria since then, will continue to receive free meals, even if their household income exceeds the eligibility threshold, up until March 2025 and then until the end of their phase of education.

MUSIC LESSONS

We are pleased to continue to offer the following Music Lessons for KS2 pupils:

Ukelele for Years 3 to 6 on Tuesdays

Trombone, Saxophone, Flute and Clarinet for Year 4 to 6 on Tuesdays

Violin and Cello for Year 5 and 6 on Wednesdays

All lessons take place during the school day. Please contact the Office for sign up forms.



Birch Class Sailing Sessions

Birch class have been enjoying sailing sessions every Friday this half term at the West Reservoir Centre. These sessions are part of the children's PE curriculum, and are an excellent opportunity to learn valuable life skills and build confidence in team work, taking responsibility and perseverance.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 13 - Friday 17 February

Half Term Holiday



Friday 24 February

Willow Class Sailing Sessions begin

Thursday 2 March

World Book Day - Dress up as your favourite book character!

Thursday 2 March - Thursday 9 March

Travelling Book Fair is coming to Benthall

Friday 17 March

RED NOSE DAY

Thursday 23 March

Parent's Evening from 4pm

Wednesday 29 - Thursday 30 March

Visit from Raimondo Lulio School

Friday 31 March

Last Day of Spring Term: School finishes at 1:30pm (**NO PLAYCENTRE or CLUBS**)

Tuesday 2 May - Friday 5 May

Year 4 to Kench Hill

CHEF ALEX'S CREATIONS

We were treated to these delicious courgette pastry flowers on Tuesday's menu. Thank you to Chef Alex for the thought that goes into all the menu options to cater for everyone.



REMINDERS

- Please check your Scopay accounts and make sure outstanding payments are cleared. All school services should be paid for in advance.
- Please ensure all pupils bring the correct PE kit for their lessons: white t-shirt, black shorts/bottoms and trainers (plimsolls for KS1 and Early Years).