



### Message from Ms Drew

As we come to the end of the term and of course the end of 2023, I have been very reflective of the year. There has been some challenging moments for us all and like always the entire Benthal community pulls together to get through it.

Benthal has seen great successes throughout this year too. Firstly, with our overwhelmingly triumphant OFSTED inspection back in June. And, our fantastic achievements with our test results, particularly for our SATS results for Year 2 and Year 6 in July. Our results showed in many of the subjects we outperformed the national averages, which is amazing.

Of course this success does not happen without the continued hard work of the staff at Benthal. I am so very proud of all the children and the staff. The children have been truly amazing; their behaviour for learning is outstanding. I want to say a huge thank you to all the teachers, who have worked incredibly hard to continue with delivering high quality 'irresistible learning' for the children. And, to all the support staff that work across the school a thank you to them also. Everyone deserves a good rest.

Finally, thank you to all our Benthal families for your continued support and kind words. On behalf of all the staff at Benthal I would like to wish all our families a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Take care. Ms Drew



## STOP PRESS!

### Excellent times-tables results at Benthal!

The government have just announced the results of the national figures for the Year 4 times-tables tests taken back in June. I am absolutely thrilled to announce that Year 4, now our Year 5 pupils, outperformed the national figures by a significant amount. Well done children.

National figures for answering all 25 questions correctly = 29% the overall mean score was 20.2

Benthal figures for answering all 25 questions correctly = **39% the overall mean score for Benthal was 21.6**



Instagram

### Early Years & Insta!

Some exciting news for 2024.

We are re-launching our

Early Years Instagram account in the Spring term.

The address is: **benthalearlyyears** where you will see regular update posts and pictures in order to share all the 'irresistible learning' that our Early Years children experience. We will let you know in the New Year when it is live.

### Benthal Wellbeing

The long dark days can be a difficult time for children and adults alike. Follow Ms Morgan's top tips for self care over the holidays.

1. Get enough sleep (Children aged 6-12 years old need around 10 hours a day)
2. Move your body every day – put on some of your favourite music and dance around or go for a little walk and look at the changes outdoors.
3. Balance all the holiday food with some fresh fruit and vegetables every day.
4. Take some time to be mindful, use one of the resources I have linked below.
5. Try to meet up with some friends, maybe for a walk or a scoot.

For more Wellbeing tips and mindfulness advice see <https://www.kooth.com/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EKPfQYi7GQ&ab\\_channel=SesameStret](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EKPfQYi7GQ&ab_channel=SesameStret)

Or complete some of the activities on the attachment from Mentally Healthy Schools.

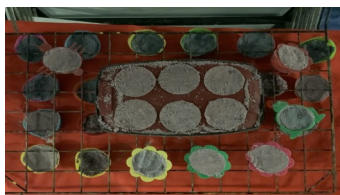
### Consultation for Parents/Carers

Are you interested in seeking professional advice for you and/or your child's wellbeing, physical/mental health or learning? Benthal's multi-disciplinary team of specialists, Jill Joseph (Assistant Head Teacher for Inclusion and Safeguarding), Miriam Woolfson (Mental Health Consultant), Hannah Ricketts (Speech and language therapist) and Kelly Durcan (Specialist Teacher) are offering free, confidential consultation meetings for parents or carers who would like help or advice in managing challenges to do with learning, behaviour, health, wellbeing or anything else. You will be given an opportunity to share your concerns/challenges with us and we will offer advice, support and next steps. You may also be advised about other services who can offer help and support.

Would you like to speak to Benthal's specialists' team? In person or online? We are offering two 30-minute sessions on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, starting at 9:30 and 10:05. Please email [joseph@benthal.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:joseph@benthal.hackney.sch.uk) if you are interested in booking a session.

## CURRICULUM NEWS

**Reception** Pine and Mulberry Class spent the afternoon together on Tuesday and made bath bombs with Ms Morgan.



**Year 1** As part of DT week, year 1 designed and made different types of kites. We even tested them outside!



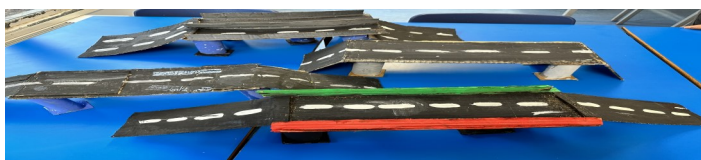
**Year 2** In Elder class, we have been designing hand puppets! The children designed their puppets then created them using felt and stitching them together. We had to be very careful whilst stitching. The children will be able to play with these and put on puppet shows for their families!



**Year 3** have made their own bags using felt as our primary material. Stitching together our own bags was a great learning experience. This was inspired by our topic on the Stone Age.



**Year 5** built bridges as part of their DT topic.



**Year 6** Based on the painting of Gustav Klimt 'The Tree Of Life', we drew the outline of a tree that stretched out and up to the Heavens to represent life and death. We used golden



## DATES TO REMEMBER



### Christmas Break

22nd December 2023-5th January 2024

### Holiday Activity Scheme

2nd to 5th January 2024 (free for Free School Meals children)

### Year 4 Trip to Apollo Music Orchestra Concert

12th January

### Reception and Year 1 Dental Visit

18th of January

### Residential trip to Spain - Year 4/5

5-9th of February

### Kench Hill Residential Trip—Year 5

7th May -10th May

### Cuffley Residential Trip—Year 6

22nd May — 25th May

### Inset Days 2023/24

8th of January 2024

3rd of June 2024

24th of July 2024

## Christmas festivities at Benthal

Christmas festivities have continued at Benthal. Children were treated to a pantomime "Robin Hood" by M & M Productions last week in school and enjoyed themselves at class parties yesterday.

We wish all Benthal community merry Christmas and happy New Year and we hope that all your warmest wishes come true.

