



Message from Ms Drew

The Benthal swifts arrived to fly over the school last week! I am amazed that these tiny birds fly to us all the way from South Africa, which is more than 9,000km in distance. They will stay with us for a few months and then leave for their return journey in August. On a clear day you will see these tiny black feathered birds flying very high in the sky. They are shaped like a curve and you will hear them making high pitched squeaks, really lovely.



Year 6 are at their residential this week, we are trialling a new destination called Cuffleys. It is an outward bound centre in Hertfordshire. I'm sure they will have a great time swinging, climbing and balancing and enjoy sleeping in yurts! They have all worked incredibly hard this year and deserve this time in the countryside after finishing their SATs.

Have a great half term, lets hope we'll have some nice weather. See you all on Wednesday 7th of June.

Ms Drew

CYCLING AWARD - GOLD FOR BENTHAL PUPIL



We would like to share with you that Lucio came first and won the gold medal for the Hackney Cycling League in the Year 4 category last week. Ten other Hackney primary schools participated with over 100 children racing in their different age group categories. Well done Lucio for winning Gold! We are very proud of you.

Some of the pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 had a road safety post assessment session as part of their Bikeability cycle training. The pupils all passed with flying colours. We wish them a safe and happy cycle life.



BENTHAL OUTDOOR LEARNING

We are very fortunate to have a huge outdoor space, which is the third biggest Hackney primary school outdoor space. We take pride and use it profoundly both during the school day and after school—for Benthal playcentre. Children enjoy their playtime in the grass in the Forest school area, learn about nature and plants in "Benthal Secret Garden" and explore pond life around the school's pond. We also have afterschool sport clubs (football, cricket, tennis and volleyball) which take place outdoors to promote a healthy lifestyle for children.

We are very grateful to our PTA Friends of Benthal for their support and fundraising for a number of years. We would like to say a big "Thank you" for FoB's fundraising for the recent purchase of playground picnic benches and parasols —please see how much children are enjoying them!



Benthal outdoor learning

While children enjoy the outdoor learning and playing in the sunshine, we are also keen to improve our green areas and flower beds, so calling all parents who can volunteer a couple of hours of their time to help us with gardening. If you are interested, please email the school office.



Free School Meals Updates

- To qualify for Free School Meals, you must be a Hackney resident and get one of the benefits below: income support, JSA, child tax credit/working tax credit and getting no more than £16190 a year, pension credit, income-related employment and support allowance or universal credit with a net earnings threshold of £15,400 a year. Please apply online using the link below if you think your child could be entitled <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/apply-free-school-meals>
- If your child is entitled to means-tested free school meals, you will receive a supermarket voucher to cover May half-term. Please ensure the school has your up-to-date email address.
- School uniform grant at age of 11: your child can get a school uniform grant if they are transferring from primary (Year 6) to secondary school (Year 7). Apply once you have accepted the secondary school transfer offer from Hackney Education. Eligible applicants can expect to receive their grant prior to the start of term if they apply before 30 June. Please see more information online <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/school-uniform-grant-age-11>

PANTS SESSIONS

As a part of our PHSE curriculum, all children had PANTS assembly with our SENDCO Miss Joseph this week. They were told how to keep themselves safe as the school need to ensure they feel confident if they needs to report anything concerning to school staff. We also emailed all parents a NSPCC booklet

"Simple conversations to help keep your child safe—talk PANTS and stay safe" and would urge you to read it as it is very important that your child understands these rules and knows how to stay safe.



DATES TO REMEMBER



29th May-2 June May Half

Term holiday

Monday 5th and Tuesday

6th June

Inset Days—school closed for pupils

Friday 9th June

Year 2 trip to the Tower of London

19 and 20th June

Visit from Raimondo Lulio School Madrid

Tuesday 27th of June

Key Stage 2 Sports Day

Wednesday 28th of June

Key Stage 1 Sports Day

Saturday 1st of July

Benthal Fundraising Summer Fair

Thursday 13th July

Parents open day to collect school reports

Thursday 20th July

End of year class party for all pupils

Reminders:

- Please ensure you stay with your children and supervise them until 8.50am when school staff come on duty and collect children from the playground. Please speak to your child about "stranger danger" if they are in Year 5 and 6 and they have permission to walk home alone to ensure their journey to and from school is safe.
- Parents are welcome to stay with their children in the early years playground before the start of the school day, but we kindly request not to enter the classrooms and nursery corridor after 9am due to safeguarding reasons. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
- Please be reminded that no scooters or bikes are allowed to be ridden on school premises and grounds due to Health and Safety, please ensure your child walks their bike or scooter to a designated place once they enter through the school gates.
- We are a nut-free school so would remind all parents to ensure that no nut ingredients or nut traces are allowed in your child's packed lunch. If your child has developed a new allergy or medical condition, please let the school office know.
- If your child has been offered a place in Benthal reception class for September 2023, please remember to accept the offer via eadmissions portal.
- Children aged 11-15 can get free and discounted travel on all London transport services with a Zip Oyster photocard, please remember to apply for a new oyster card if your child is in year 6.