



Welcome from Miss Drew

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a good half term break.



The weather was very mild with some sunny moments. The signs of spring are definitely with us. I have seen many of the Benthal daffodils starting to flower; it is lovely to see bright yellow colours everywhere after the darkness of winter. I have also started to see blossom on trees. Have a look on your way to school or home. What signs of spring do you see out and about?

It was also Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day last week. I gave an assembly on why lots of people celebrate it and the reason why we eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. I like mine to be very simple with a squeeze of lemon and sprinkle of sugar. Delicious!

We have begun our next block of learning with all classes beginning their BCC topics. The children will be immersed in historical or geographical skills helping them to know more and remember more. You will be able to see your child's 'irresistible learning' in their books at Parents Evening towards the end of the term.

Finally, Benthal was on the early evening ITV news on Tuesday evening! Year 5 is part of a year-long learning programme with the Greener Schools Project. A TV news journalist came in on Tuesday and recorded a lesson with Birch Class children and then it aired that evening. If you didn't see it, here is the link, via You Tube, below. The children were amazing; other Head Teachers have told me how impressed they were at how confident and articulate the children were. I am very proud!

Have a great weekend,

Ms Drew

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMzE0An6K8I> (<https://www.youtube.com/>

### **Benthal Earthquake Appeal**

The entire Benthal community have been horrified by the recent Turkey-Syria earthquakes, and deeply saddened by the huge loss of life. We had a non-uniform day on 10th of February to raise funds to support aid efforts. We have collected £758.60 and we would like to thank all Benthal community for their kindness. The funds have been passed to Ahbap and Red Cross and we hope it will make a difference to those in need.



### **School punctuality**

Please be reminded that good punctuality at school is essential for pupils to achieve their full educational potential. Children who arrive late can feel embarrassed, left out and miss out on important introductions to lessons or interventions which happen in the mornings (e.g. phonics).

It is also vital for children to form good habits for later life, when they move to secondary schools.

Please ensure your child arrives to school on time in order to start the school day and does not miss out on essential learning.



### **Beech Class Assembly**

Year 5 Birch Class held a class assembly about the novel 'Krendlekrax' by Phillip Ridley. The assembly was based on a great book that explored many themes including love, loss and loyalty. Thank you to all parents & carers who attended the assembly.

### **Trip to Spain**

Once again, we are pleased to announce that our partnership with our twin school *Colegio Raimundo Lulio* in Madrid continues to be a resounding success. Some of our year 5 pupils had the opportunity to participate in this year's trip and they all said how much they enjoyed the experience. In addition to visiting the school and having the opportunity to speak Spanish and experience the culture, they also paid a visit to the Prado Museum, Real Madrid football Stadium and went on a city walk to explore some of the historical aspects of Madrid. The pupils also wrote postcards and posted these to the UK so hopefully their parents will receive a wonderful surprise through their letterboxes! We look forward to the exchange visit by pupils from Colegio Raimundo Lulio in March later this year.



### **Benthal "Green" School ITV filming**

On Tuesday, our year 5 pupils were filmed for ITV News London for their participation in the 'Green Schools' Project. The project was created and introduced by our former governor Henry Greenwood. The programme encourages pupils to learn about climate change and conduct a school project to reduce our carbon



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**



#### **Friday 3 March**

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

**Friends of Benthal** meeting in the school library - 9.00-9.45am

#### **Friday 3 March - Thursday 9 March**

Travelling Book Fair is coming to Benthal

#### **Friday 3rd March - Birch Class assembly**

#### **Friday 10th March - Willow Class Assembly**

#### **Friday 17 March**

RED NOSE DAY

#### **Thursday 23 March**

Parent's Evening from 4pm

#### **Friday 25 March**

Class photos

#### **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**)

#### **Friday 28th April – Magnolia Class assembly**

#### **Tuesday 2 May - Friday 5 May**

Year 4 residential trip to Kench Hill

### **Benthal wraparound care**

We continue offering free taster sessions in our breakfast club (8am-9am) and playcentre (3.30-6pm). A range of fun-filled and educational activities are on offer every day, as well as indoor and outdoor games, crafts and sport. We serve nutritious breakfast with a choice of porridge, cereal, bagel or toast in the morning and tasty hot meals after school in the playcentre. The price of our breakfast club provision is £2.50 and free of charge for children entitled to free school meals. The playcentre costs £13.50 per day and £8.50 for children entitled to free school meals. We accept childcare vouchers and tax free childcare payments, allowing you to save more on childcare costs.