



Message from Ms Drew

We started the Christmas festivities on Friday last week, with our BIG Benthal XMAS lights switch on and Winter Fair. It was extremely well attended and everyone had lots of fun. I would like to say a huge thank you to Friends of Benthal and all the other volunteers and staff, in the preparation and staying to help out.

Later that evening we had 4.6 for Dinner with Santa! Santa couldn't wait to eat the festive menu that Chef Alex and Rani had prepared. He spoke to me and said how lovely it was to visit the school again and to have such a tasty dinner with so many families. Santa also said that he thought the reindeer would love to try the harissa carrots! I thanked him for visiting us as I knew that it was a very busy time for him and that he had an invite for dinner next year.

The festivities have continued with a wonderful Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show today. Thank you to all those parents/carers and family members that were able to attend, it was lovely to see everyone. The Junior Carol Concert is next week on Wednesday afternoon. Thank you to the children, staff and music teachers for their hard work in bringing it all together.

It is also Christmas Lunch on Thursday 14th December, as is tradition now at Benthal; all children can wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper on this day- uniform on the bottom half please.

There are two more weeks to go before the end of the term with lots going on. Please check dates for events here on the newsletter.

Have a great weekend,

Ms Drew

Headteacher



CURRICULUM NEWS

NURSERY

Have been very busy this week! We read some stories about Elmer the elephant and used this as a starting point for talking about colours. We have been sorting colours in the tray. We have been practicing our scissor skills by cutting playdough and using paint and stampers to practice number recognition. In PE with coach H we have been practicing balancing, jumping and



RECEPTION

Have been learning about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. We learnt that the festival lasts for eight days and that the ninth candle on the Menorah is used to light the other candles. Here is one of the Menorahs and a couple of the stars we made this week.



Year 1 have been learning about shapes. They have been naming the main 3D shapes and sorting them into set criteria. Can it roll? Can it be stacked? Does it have a curved face?



SPAIN MEETING FOR THOSE INVITED

YEAR 5 PARENTS/CARERS



Please remember there is a short meeting for Year 5 parents/carers that received a letter from me confirming your child is eligible to attend the residential to Madrid for free. See you on Friday 15th December at 9.05am in the small hall to find out more information before making your decision.

Contact information

Please be reminded that if any of your personal information changes, for example, your telephone number, your email address or your home address, please ensure that you let the school office know. Please provide at least two emergency numbers for your child.

INCIDENT IN VINE CLOSE

I know, like me, the entire school community is shocked and concerned at the terrible incident that occurred on Tuesday evening in Vine Close. This is our local area, where we all live and work. It has affected us as a staff and you our families in different ways. The school is receiving support from Hackney Council and from our Schools Police Liaison Officer in how we support the children and the staff. I know Hackney Council will be sending out further information to all residents in the area in the next day or so regarding this matter and where to find support for you and your families.

Benthal Winter Fair & XMAS Lights Switch-On

We would like to thank all parents, staff and families who attended our fundraising Benthal Winter Fair last week and helped on the day. We raised over £1,000! Children enjoyed Benthal festive activities, which included the bouncy castle, arts and crafts, cinema, Santa's grotto and gift stalls.



DATES TO REMEMBER



KS2 Carol Concert

13th December at 2.15pm

Christmas Lunch and Christmas

Jumper Day

14th December 2023

Pantomime at School for Year 1 to Year 6

15th December 1pm to 2pm

Madrid trip meeting for Year 5 parents (targeted children only)

15th December 9.05-9.30am

Fundraising Cake Sale- Year 5 & Year 6

Friday 15th of December is the turn of Y5 & Y6 parents/carers in the junior playground

Last day of the term

Thursday 21st of December at 1.30pm (No play-centre)

Christmas Break

22nd December 2023-5th January 2024

Holiday Activity Scheme

2nd to 5th January 2024 (free for FSM children)

Inset Days 2023/24

8th of January 2024

3rd of June 2024

24th of July 2024

Dinner with Santa

We would like to say a big "Thank you" to our chef Alex and Rani for cooking a delicious Christmas meal, which was well presented and tasted great. We hope parents/carers who attended Dinner with Santa had a fun-filled evening with raffle, quiz and amazing food.

