



### **Message from Ms Drew**

We started the Christmas festivities on Friday 2nd December, 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 other volunteers, in the preparation and staying to help out.

Later that evening we had 50 for Dinner with Santa! Chef Alex and Rani had prepared a wonderful festive menu and I turned into Benthal Maître d' for the evening. It was very successful and something we will repeat next year.

The festivities continued with a wonderful KS2 Carol Concert on Wed 7th December and the KS1 Christmas Show last Friday. Thank you to all those parents/carers and family members that were able to attend, it was lovely to see everyone. Thank you to the children, staff and music teachers for their hard work in bringing it all together.

I continue to have meetings with Hackney Council regarding the building development next to the school on Rendelsham Road. I am pleased to report we are getting closer to a solution to safeguard and protect the children and I am hoping that I will be able to share with you more news on this in the New Year.

It has been a very busy term for us all, including Parents Evening yesterday. I am so very proud of all the children and the staff. The children have been truly amazing; their behaviour for learning is excellent. I wanted 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



### **Curriculum Updates**

We have continued to have great success with blocking our curriculum this term. The children have daily reading, writing and maths lessons and weekly Computing/Spanish, Music/PE and RE/PSHE lessons. In addition to this the children have blocked afternoon Science, BCC Humanities (History & Geography topics) and Art & DT lessons according to our termly overview.

The children are totally immersed in the knowledge and skills for that particular subject or topic for a few weeks, or blocked, which has resulted in the children producing high quality work and remembering more. We had a visit from Hackney Education back in the Summer term and again more recently this term, to see how we were delivering the curriculum and the fantastic impact it was having on the children. The visitor was very impressed with the children's learning in their books and how the children were able to conduct detailed conversations about their learning. I felt very proud. If you were able to attend the Parents Evening on Thursday 8th December, I hope you managed to look at the children's books to see for yourself their excellent work.

### ***Saying Goodbye to Ms Cammarata***

It is with great sadness that we need to inform everyone that Ms Cammarata has made the difficult decision to leave Benthall at the end of this term to spend time with her family.

Ms Cammarata has worked at the school since 2014, supporting individual children, groups of children and preparing Year 6 pupils for SATs, gaining fantastic results.

Ms Cammarata will be greatly missed in the school by staff and pupils alike. We wish her and her family well for the future.

### **Scarlet Fever**

We have sent all parents a letter from the Director of Public Health regarding high levels of scarlet fever (caused by group A streptococcus).

We would like to assure you that we are monitoring the situation and follow NHS guidance very closely.

We will advise parents if we notice children displaying any of the above symptoms at school.

Please remind your child about the importance of good hand hygiene; washing with soap for 20 seconds; using tissues to blow their nose. We have tissues and hand sanitisers throughout the school.

### **Benthall Extracurricular Activities**

We take pride in Benthall's extracurricular offer, which includes a wide range of afterschool reasonably priced clubs, wrap-around provision (which is offered free of charge to all nursery and reception children) and music lessons.

If you have any suggestions regarding afterschool clubs for the Spring term, please e-mail the School Office at [office@benthall.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:office@benthall.hackney.sch.uk)

We continue offering free taster sessions for our Playcentre, please contact the School Office to book a date.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **Tuesday 13 December**

**Year 3 and 6 to Hackney Empire Pantomime Nursery, Year 1 and 2 - Pantomime at school**

*Parents are reminded to make payments online— your child will not be able to attend if no payment is made*

#### **Wednesday 14 December**

**Year 4 and 5 to Hackney Empire Pantomime**

*Parents are reminded to make payments online— your child will not be able to attend if no payment is made*

#### **Thursday 15 December**

**Christmas class parties for Nursery, Reception Years 1, 2, 3 and 4**

*Parents are asked to leave party food with a class teacher in the morning at drop-off time*

#### **Friday 16 December**

**Last day of the term**

**School finishes at 1.30pm (no Playcentre)**

#### **Monday 19 - Thursday 22 December**

**10am-2pm**

**HAF Playscheme**

#### **Tuesday 3 January 2023**

**Inset Day**

#### **Wednesday 4 January 2023**

**Pupils return to school**

#### **Sunday 15 January 2023**

**Reception applications deadline**



### **Reminders**

- **Holiday Activity Playscheme**—we are running a Christmas Playscheme for children in all year groups from Nursery to Year 6, who are entitled to Free School Meals from Monday 19th December until Thursday 22nd December from 10:00am - 2:00pm. This provision is free of charge and a nutritious lunch will be provided. Take part in fun-filled activities and free trips! Please ask the School Office staff for a registration form. A food hamper will be given to all pupils attending the Playscheme.
- **Supermarket Vouchers** - If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please apply as soon as possible, in order to receive Holiday Vouchers for this Christmas holiday.
- **Reception Application** support sessions will take place on 14th and 15th of December 2.30-3.30pm, no booking is required.
- Please check your child's accounts and clear the balances to enable children to continue using school services in the Spring term.



## A collage of seven photographs documenting a 'Lunch Time Code of Conduct' event. The images show children in school uniforms sitting at long tables, eating and talking. Some children are wearing colorful headbands. A chef in a white uniform is seen interacting with a student. A group of seven adults, including a woman in a red hijab, are standing together for a photo. The background features a banner with the 'Lunch Time Code of Conduct' rules.