



Benhall Infant School and Pre-School

Newsletter – 25.09.26

<http://www.benhallinfantschool.co.uk/> All enquires: admin@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk

Dear Families,

This month at Benhall



The month of September has been full to the brim of creative learning and the children have shown many purple learner skills. Our new pre-school and Reception children have settled fantastically and our KS1 children have been incredible role models around school, including assemblies and lunchtimes. A big thank you to our Year 2 playground buddies who have supported our new children in the lunch hall and the playground. Thank you so much for getting your children into school on time, our new system has become really slick and it is great to have so many children in school ready to learn. Just a reminder that we open the school gates just before 8.30am, class doors open at 8.35am and close at 8.40am, followed by the gates closing. If your child's class door has been closed, you must enter through the main office so they can be signed in and have chance to choose a lunch choice. We have decided as a team that our newsletter will now be monthly, in the hope that you do not feel bombarded but still receive the appropriate information. Wherever possible any other communication will be sent on a Friday unless an urgent message needs to be sent out. All communications, including our first aid will now come through Tapestry. Please do make sure you have an active account and if you have any issues then one of the office staff will be able to help. We know how important it is to have diary dates so please take a look at the dates at the end of the letter, as well as this all diary dates for the year are on our school website.

This term we would like to thank our retiring PTA team and are now excited to share our new team:

Chair: Paul Major

Vice Chair: Rich Murphy

Treasurer: Andy Little

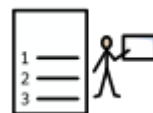
Secretary: Naomi Thomas

The team are very excited to get planning and supporting the school and children here at Benhall. If you are interested in joining, supporting or helping out then please contact pta@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk 😊



Subject Focus: Maths

Now that we have a monthly newsletter, we thought it would be good to share a monthly curriculum subject focus with you and tell you all about our new and exciting learning opportunities in that subject. Our staff team attended the INSET at the start of September in school, with the focus on Maths. The Maths team: Miss Bilton, Mrs Spence, Mrs Norman and Miss Pates celebrated our current successes – a range of resources in school, our Numeracy nook where children can play maths games and that our Maths fluency sessions have shown consistency throughout the school. The Maths team also shared a new format for KS1 lessons with the **'Try it, Secure it and Deepen it'** method. Our KS1 children have taken to it incredibly well and so many of them are motivated to try and deepen their mathematical understanding in every session! The sessions also start with a quick rapid recall activity, we would love it if you could ask your child what they have started with in Maths! Mrs Lloyd and the team in Rainbow room have also been ensuring daily maths activities take place indoors and outdoors with lots of opportunities for talk, physical fun and songs. Well done to the Maths team for working so hard and making sure Maths is accessible and suitably challenging for all of our learners.





Purple Learning:

Purple learning is at the heart of everything we do during the school day and our positive learning behaviours are always seen so naturally across school. Children attend a purple learning assembly every Thursday as well as class discussions throughout the week. The themes and purple learning behaviours we focus on termly are:

Term 1: Our Community and Curiosity

Term 2: Responsibility and Embracing challenges

Term 3: Acceptance, Difference and Perseverance

Term 4: Respect, Tolerance and Learning from feedback

Term 5: Kindness and Effort is the key

Term 6: Freedom and Celebrating others

September Purple Learners:

Our children who have been chosen as purple learners this term are: Rainbow – Finley, all the children, Arthur; Orange – Jack; Yellow – Ethan; Green – Freya, Jesse, Kaison; Blue – Ace, Florence, Winter; Indigo – Thomas, River, Seb; Violet – Leo, Harvey, Noah E. These children will attend or have attended an afternoon tea with Mrs James. Yummy!



Healthy Lunchtimes:

We are very proud of our Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL) 'Healthy Schools' award. As such, we actively encourage our children's physical and mental health and well-being.

There is absolutely no expectation that lunch needs to look a particular way or be a traditional "school packed lunch". We are happy for children to bring foods that are familiar to them and reflect their family, culture, and home life. This might include foods such as rice, pasta, couscous, chapatti, wraps, pitta, noodles, lentils, beans, hummus, eggs, meat, or fish (no shellfish please), alongside fruit and vegetables.

As a general guide, it is helpful to include a starchy food for energy, a source of protein, some fruit and/or vegetables, and a dairy food or suitable alternative. Water is the preferred drink.

Please remember that young children need food prepared in an appropriate way for their age. For example, grapes should be washed and cut lengthways, and other foods should be cut into manageable pieces to reduce the risk of choking.

If your child is bringing in a packed lunch, please do not send the following items into school for lunch: chocolate, sweets, foods with high salt and sugar content.



School Council:

Each class took part in an important vote (learning the importance of Democracy) after children stood for School Council and presented their ideas regarding why they would make the perfect candidate. A massive well done to all children who stood, we know that this can be nerve wracking but they all shone! The new school council team for Autumn term was announced in last weeks assembly and we would like to congratulate: Arley, Bobby, Florence, Eva, Annabel, Mabel, Oakley and Lenny! They now have their shiny school council badges and are in the process of planning the first event of the academic year. Watch this space. More information will be uploaded to Tapestry very soon.

We hope that you have a wonderful weekend, stay safe.

Love from Mrs James and the Benhall Team xx

Notices

- Please remember to check Tapestry for school updates, including photos and observations of your child learning. This is now our main form of communication.
- All children should have a waterproof coat in school which should be labelled with your child's name and class
- Children should not bring rucksacks into school, we do not have the space in our cloakrooms. Children need a book bag, water bottle, coat and packed lunch (if not hot dinners)



Benhall Diary Dates Autumn Term:

Thursday 1 st October	School census day – This is the day when the school is required to send off data to the DFE. We would like all children to have a hot dinner this day to ensure the school receives as much funding as possible.
Monday 5 th October	Nasal flu vaccination available for all children in school. Please complete this form to opt either in OR out https://www.ghcimmunisations.co.uk//Forms/Flu?schoolcode=GC115598
Monday 5 th to Thursday 8 th October	Please send in items of food for our harvest collection to be sent to Cheltenham Foodbank
Thursday 8 th October	Harvest Assembly
Friday 9 th October	Harvest collection by Cheltenham Foodbank
Monday 12 th October	Pre-school curriculum meeting for families 6-7pm
Tuesday 13 th October	Reception curriculum meeting for families 6-7pm
Wednesday 21 st October	Last day of term 'Read with me' event after drop off (grandparent or special person to come into school to read with their child/ren). Donate a book for the class from our Amazon booklist. 8.40am-9.00am
Wednesday 21 st October	Last day of term – normal finish time
Thursday 22 nd October and Friday 23 rd October	Inset Day – school and pre-school closed
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th October	HALF TERM
Monday 2 nd November	School and Pre-School re-open
Monday 9 th November and Wednesday 11 th November	Parents' Evening – 3.30-6.00pm – all classes (not pre-school)
Tuesday 10 th November	9.15 Indigo class assembly
Wednesday 11 th November	1.15pm Armistice Day – Remembrance assembly for whole school and pre-school.

Tuesday 17 th November	9.15 Violet class assembly
Wednesday 18 th November	9.30 am Open morning for new YR families 2027-2028 to be pre-booked with school office. 6pm Open evening for new YR families 2027-2028 to be pre-booked with school office
Friday 20 th November	Children in Need – charity fundraising event – donations raised will be sent to the charity
Tuesday 24 th November and Thursday 26 th November	9.30 am Open morning for new YR families 2027-2028 to be pre-booked with school office
Saturday 28 th November	Panto – 5.00pm
Friday 4 th December	Christmas decorations go up around pre-school and school led by school council
To be confirmed with PTA	PTA Christmas event TBC
Tuesday 8 th December	9.15 Reception nativity dress rehearsal to whole school
Wednesday 9 th and Thursday 10 th December	9.15 Reception nativity
Thursday 10 th December	Christmas Jumper day – wear a Christmas jumper and donate £2 to Save the Children
Friday 11 th December	9.15 Pre-school Christmas celebration
Monday 14 th December	KS1 carols around the Xmas tree with families 2.30-3pm
Tuesday 15 th December	KS1 carols around the Xmas tree with families 2.30-3pm
Wednesday 16 th December	School Christmas Lunch followed by Christmas party in the afternoon. Party clothes to be worn to school. Normal finish time
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term – normal finish time