



St. Benedict's Primary School

27.03.26



*We are enjoying our rights and fulfilling our dreams.
Ambition, Resilience, Respect*

Next Week

	Events
Monday 13th April	Poetry by Heart Competition
Tuesday 14th April	
Wednesday 15th April	Y4 Swimming
Thursday 16th April	
Friday 17th April	Ambition Assembly

Upcoming Diary Dates

16th April – Parents meeting – music and art.

21st April - Year 5 trip to Gurdwara

23rd April - Parent meeting – Behaviour and the importance of sleep

23rd April – Redhill school visit for Poetry by Heart competition

29th April – Loudmouth theatre group in school

30th April – Parents meeting - Science

5th May – Year 4 trip to Malvern Hills

7th May – Election Day – School closed to all pupils

8th May – Year 4 Eco Park

11th May Year 6 SATs

18th / 19th May – Kenesih Dance with Y6

19th May – Reception to Cannon Hill Park

21st May – Parents Meeting - Online safety

22nd May – Summer Mela – Parents to collect at 1pm

25th May – Half term holiday (one week)

Changes to the School Week – Parent Questions

Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 3:30pm

Friday 8:30am – 1:00pm

Benny's Breakfast Club will be open from 7:50am daily.

Resource Base Breakfast Club open at **8am**.

After-school clubs will run on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays until 4:15pm

1. Why is the school making changes to the school week?

- To improve consistency of teaching, reducing reliance on cover teachers.
- To improve attendance on Fridays
- Longer lunchtimes will allow for greater physical activity and focused social skills, which our children need.
- Other local schools have successfully adopted a similar model.
- Improve both staff and pupil wellbeing
- To provide better value for money and ensure excellent curriculum provision.

2. Will my child still receive the same amount of learning time?

Yes. The school will still operate for 32.5 hours each week, which meets requirements and matches our current provision. The curriculum will be reviewed to ensure it fits well within the revised structure.

3. How will longer days Monday–Thursday affect children?

Many of our younger children enjoy a longer day now and arrive at school for the 8am Breakfast Club.

The timetable will ensure adequate breaks for younger children.

There will be a longer lunchtime supporting rest, social development, and physical activity. Outdoor play and learning will be a key priority next year.

4. What if I cannot collect my child at 1pm on Fridays?

Parents have been given six months' notice to enable changes to working patterns.

The school will run a free Friday Club (1-3pm) to support working parents.

Application forms are available at the office. Parents need to return application forms to the office **by 30th April 2026**.

5. What if the new timings clash with collecting children from other schools?

The current timings are an issue for some parents already and these parents are very happy with the changes as this will make it easier for them. Unfortunately, we cannot make timings work for everybody, especially for families with children at different schools. We recognise that this can be an issue, which is why we offer our free breakfast club support.

Changes to the School Week – Parent Questions

6. What if my child uses SEND transport?

The school has liaised with the local authority transport team regarding new timings: children will be collected at 1pm on Fridays.

7. Will this impact attendance? Will Fridays become optional?

- Friday attendance is currently lower than other days.
- With a shorter Friday, alongside a wider attendance strategy, we plan to improve attendance at the end of the week. We will look carefully at the curriculum to ensure children want to come to school; there will be added incentives for coming to school on Fridays.
- In the consultation, parents felt that a shorter day on Fridays would make it easier to get children to school.
- The school governors will continue to monitor attendance closely. Fridays will not be optional.

8. What will teachers be doing on Friday afternoons?

Teachers will use Friday afternoons for planning, preparation and curriculum development, which will enhance quality of education and reduce the reliance on cover teachers currently used.

9. Is there a demand for paid childcare after school?

At the moment, there is not a high enough demand for us to provide this. We will continue to ask you about this and review this option. We will continue to run our clubs after school, and Breakfast Club for free.

10. Will the change save money? Why does the school need to save money? How will the money be used?

Yes, this model will save a considerable amount of money. These savings are needed to continue running the school effectively. Our school budget has been cut significantly over the past 10 years and will see further cuts over the next 3 years. We need to make substantial savings to be able to provide the same high-quality education as we are now. We are committed to providing the best resources, curriculum, and teaching team for our children.

Changes to the School Week – Parent Questions

11. How will you improve the curriculum?

Over the past 3 years, we have been making considerable improvements to our curriculum. Our school is exceptionally well resourced with a brand-new Library, MAC (Music and Art Centre), Art Studio and specialist Resource Base and Inclusion Hub.

We are immensely proud of what we have achieved in the past 3 years:

- New and improved writing and reading curriculum.
- The oracy (speaking and listening) curriculum has developed in the past 3 years.
- Improvements to our maths curriculum, with increased focus on basic skills.
- Trailblazing music curriculum (other schools come to learn from us)
- Arts curriculum is exemplary, and our children work alongside professional artists, theatre companies, and musicians.
- Gold Rights Respecting award for our commitment to our Rights curriculum
- Science Quality Mark award for our excellent science curriculum
- RE Silver Quality Mark award for our amazing RE curriculum.
- Gold School Games award for our commitment to physical activity, which goes beyond PE lessons.
- The Health for Life programme has just been launched to improve healthy choices.
- The Local Authority Resource Base audit complimented our commitment to inclusion throughout our whole school and were most impressed!
- Free Breakfast Club – we run a nationally recognised Champion Breakfast Club, praised by 10 Downing Street.
- Swimming for all pupils, and a wide range of trips and experiences in school.

Next year, we are going to focus on:

- Continued improvement in reading, writing, and maths basic skills.
- Embedding the oracy curriculum in history, geography, and maths
- Working in partnership with Birmingham City Football Club
- Outdoor and play-based learning for all pupils
- Makaton (signs) to support language development.

Our review of the curriculum will also consider Home Learning opportunities.

