

Benfieldside Primary Newsletter January 2019



Happy New Year- Welcome to 2019 at Benfieldside Primary School!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable yet restful break over Christmas and the New Year period. We are all thrilled to be welcoming the pupils back to school and to the exciting learning opportunities we have planned for the spring term. If any parents/carers were lucky enough to receive new mobile phones as gifts, can they ensure that we still have the correct contact number at the School Office please.

Best wishes, Mrs Addison Headteacher.

Please view our website www.benfieldside.durham.sch.uk and/or follow us on [Twitter@BenfieldsidePr1](https://twitter.com/BenfieldsidePr1)

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Fagan on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Olivia in December. We hope that you will join us in wishing them health and happiness together!



Attendance & Punctuality:

We are delighted so far, with the positive impact that our new Attendance Trophy has had. The Government set a target for every child of 96% attendance. If a child's attendance falls to 90% or below, it is classed as persistent absence and must be followed up swiftly and rigorously by the school. Each month, Mrs Coombe works with families to ensure that any persistently absent pupils, or those at risk of dropping to 90% or below are able to meet targets set for them to improve attendance. Our teachers plan amazing, lively and interesting learning opportunities for pupils of all needs and abilities and it is important that we work in partnership to ensure that all children access their full curriculum entitlement. Please support us in helping your child progress and achieve by ensuring that they attend and are punctual. Thank you.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday 15th January 9am School Nurse drop-in at the Discovery Den
Tuesday 12th February 9am School Nurse drop-in at the Discovery Den
13th February Parents' Evening (letter to follow)
Friday 15th February - school finishes for half term
Monday 25th February - pupils return to school after half term
Tuesday 12th March School Nurse drop-in at the Discovery Den
Friday 15th March - School Photograph Day
Friday 5th April- break up for the Easter holidays
Tuesday 23rd April - return to school to begin summer term



As you'll be aware, the school worked in partnership with Santa Claus this year to ensure that every child from Y1 to Y6 received the gift of a book. Please support us with our reading initiative, by enjoying books and other reading materials with your child/children as often as possible. We will continue to present our weekly Reading Trophy in Friday assembly. Thank you for your support.



Social Media: At Benfieldside School we aim for the best for all of our children, but we recognise that on some occasions you may feel that we could have done better. We would like to encourage you to come in and discuss any concerns with the school by calling or making an appointment to see us. We would be grateful if you did not raise complaints about the school on social media but come into school so we can understand your concerns and help solve the problem. Complaints on social media can be damaging for the school, its staff and most importantly the pupils. If you still feel that the issue has not been dealt with appropriately then we will provide you with a copy of the formal complaints procedure.

Polite reminder: Please do not send any products containing nuts in your child's packed lunch. Thank you.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding and Child Protection concerns can be shared with our Senior Designated Person (DSP) and the four Deputy DSPs, who will listen, advise, or report as appropriate.

Mrs Addison- DSP

Mrs Rowell -Deputy DSP Miss Clarkson -Deputy DSP

Mrs Coombe- Deputy DSP Mr Wright - Deputy DSP

Please be aware that any parents or carers who are worried about a risk of significant harm to a child can share their concerns by contacting First Contact on 03000267979

All Benfieldside staff are L1 safeguarding trained.

Our Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Knapp.

E Safety at home- some tips you may like to consider:

As a parent you'll know how important the internet is to children - they use it to learn, play, socialise and express themselves. It's a highly creative place of amazing opportunities. But the technology children use every day can seem a bit daunting and you might worry about the risks your child can face online - such as contact from strangers or the possibility of them seeing illegal or inappropriate content. Here are some conversation starters from www.childnet.com that you may find helpful:

- Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
- Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
- Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block the services they use.
- Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?

