

Benfieldside Primary Newsletter March 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that our March newsletter finds you fit and well. February was a really enjoyable month which flew by in school and our hardworking pupils and staff were definitely ready for half term, when it came. It was fantastic to be able to welcome so many of you to our Spring Term Parents' Evening- the children love being able to show their work to you and for you to hear how well they are progressing. If you were unable to make it but are keen to know how well your child is working, please contact the classteacher for an appointment. Enjoy the unseasonably warm and sunny weather while it lasts!

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)

WORLD BOOK DAY

We will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Children may come into school dressed as their favourite character for a donation of 50p. They will have the opportunity to buy cakes and refreshments and will be able to take part in a variety of activities and win prizes for a small cost, so please let them bring in some change! If you have any unwanted books in good condition for our book stall, they would be greatly appreciated.



The book fair will be arriving in school week beginning the 4th of March. Parents can view books in the KS2 library on Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th of March, after school until 4:15. Alternatively, please send your order and payment into school in a sealed envelope.

Internet Safety:

This week all County Durham schools received several communications from the Local Authority about unpleasant APPs and programmes which children may be able to access through their PCs and devices out of school. We have been asked not to name specific APPs or programmes as this gives them publicity, however we wanted to raise the issue of safe internet use with you again. Whilst we know that you as parents and carers control what your children look at when they are at home and we fully respect that, we would urge you to regularly check the content that your child is accessing and that you are happy for them to see it. If you have not already done so, please check the parental controls so that your child is only accessing the material that you permit them to, and only talking to people that you are happy they communicate with. If in any doubt, block the content or contact until you are satisfied that it is safe.

It would be a great shame if children were no longer able to access the internet and all the creativity and enjoyment it can offer. With the right controls and checks in place, hopefully they will be able to continue to play, learn and communicate happily and safely online. This week, KS2 classes have been visited by our PCSO. They have been talking to the pupils (at an age appropriate level) about what is and isn't safe to do online, what is and isn't ok to share and who children can safely communicate with through their games, APPs etc. We value the work that our PCSOs team do with us to help keep our children safe and educated about how to use the internet and all that it offers, safely.



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.

February 2019 Reading Averages:

Class 1 79%	Class 6 93%
Class 2 81%	Class 7 87%
Class 3 73%	Class 8 81%
Class 4 98%	Class 9 59%
Class 5 97%	Whole school average 83%

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.

Upcoming Events:

Monday 4th March class 2 at Sport Festival

5th- 7th March Scholastic Book Fair KS2 library

Tuesday 12th March School Nurse drop-in at the Discovery Den

Friday 15th March - School Photograph Day

18th March- Early Years visit to Hall Hill Farm

7th March World Book Day

Friday 5th April- break up for the Easter holidays

Tuesday 23rd April - return to school to begin summer term

KS2 SATs week 13th May (official test period ends 24th May)

16th May Nursery Theatre Trip

Attendance and punctuality update:

We continue to award the weekly trophy for the best attending class and individual pupils can collect a House Point each time they arrive at school on time. Termly 100% attendance rewards will also continue.

As registers are a legal document, the Local Authority has advised that our Headteacher must be satisfied with reasons given for absence in cases where a pupil's overall attendance is low. In such instances, some parents may be asked to provide medical evidence (e.g. appointment card) to account for their child's absence from school. This does not apply to children who are usually very good attenders at school but experience a short period of illness. If satisfactory medical evidence cannot be provided, the record of unauthorised absence will be referred to the Council's Enforcement team.

Thank you for your continued support.