

# Benfieldside Primary Newsletter October 2018



## Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that our October newsletter finds you fit and well. September was a really enjoyable month which flew by in school. I was impressed and delighted with how quickly our children settled into their new classes and have staff and parents to thank for that. Clearly the pupils are all very well supported at home and at school and that is brilliant. May I also take this opportunity to thank all of those parents who showed us their support through Parent View during our Ofsted Inspection on 27<sup>th</sup> September. It is a real boost for the staff to know that you rate their hard work, dedication and care for your children so highly. It is confidential at present, but we will let you know the outcome of the inspection when we are able.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, pupils took Parents' Evening letters home with them. We warmly encourage you to make an appointment to come into school to speak with your child's teacher, discuss their progress and look at work (you would also be welcome to look at the decorative improvements made to the KS2 building, outdoor area in Early years, the Sensory garden and KS1 and KS2 libraries). I will be based in the main office on Parents' Evening (17<sup>th</sup> October) if any parent or carer wishes to speak with me. Hopefully we will see you then. **Best wishes, Mrs Addison Headteacher.**

P.S please view our new website [www.benfieldside.sch.uk](http://www.benfieldside.sch.uk) and/or follow us on Twitter@BenfieldsidePr1

## 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 will be working 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.

## Attendance Trophy Winners:

Week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Class 2 and Class 9

Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> September: Class 5

Week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> September: Class 4

Week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> September: Class 4

**Harvest Collection:** This year we will be collecting tins and dry goods for the **Consett Food Bank**. We think that this is an excellent opportunity to support the community that the school serves and would be grateful for any contributions from parents, carers, staff and pupils. Please could these arrive by 17<sup>th</sup> October - Margaret Nealis (representing the Food Bank and a new Governor at our school) will be collecting our contributions from the children in assembly on the 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### Absence & Contacts:

If your child is absent from school for any reason we ask that you contact the school immediately, to let us know. If we don't hear from you, we will contact you via text. If there is no reply to the text then we will attempt to ring you before the end of the morning session. According to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2018, it is now a **requirement that the school holds more than one contact on record for each pupil**. Mrs Clark or Mrs Yule from our school office will be in touch if we need another contact's details from you.

Please contact Mrs Coombe if your child now uses an inhaler, as we need you to complete the emergency consent form.

**Thank you.**

### Upcoming Events:

- **School Nurse Drop-in** session: 9am in the Discovery Den 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Please call in to discuss any health concerns you may have about your child or to seek advice.
- 17<sup>th</sup> October 3.45pm- 6pm **Parents' Evening**. Please make an appointment with your child's class teacher.
- 16<sup>th</sup> October 2.45pm & 5pm Mrs Rowell leading **Phonics Workshops for Y1 & Y2 parents**. Please enter by the main office when attending.
- 9<sup>th</sup> October **Adam Bushnell (Children's Author)** will be spending the day at Benfieldside Primary, delivering Whole School Assembly and a selection of workshops for pupils. [www.adambushnell.co.uk](http://www.adambushnell.co.uk) if you want to find out more before his visit.
- 29<sup>th</sup> October INSET day - school is closed to pupils. Pupils return to school on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

### Parent Governor Vacancy:

We extend our gratitude and thanks to Mr Stuart Smith, who served as a valued member of our Governing Body until the end of the summer term. His departure means that we have a parent governor vacancy. Anyone interested in the role should contact the school office, who will be able to put you in touch with an experienced governor with whom you can discuss the role, should you wish.

Written expressions of interest should be passed to the headteacher Mrs Addison by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

In the event of more than one expression of interest, a parent governor election will be held.

### 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.

**School will close on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October for half term and re-open on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018.**

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

**Harvest Lunch:** *Polite Reminder: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.*

Children have agreed the following menu with our cook:  
Burger in a bun, mince and dumplings, jacket potato with a choice of fillings or a sandwich selection. This will be followed by a choice of arctic roll or chocolate sponge. If your child does not usually stay for school dinners the cost for them to join us for lunch that day is £2.05 payable by 4<sup>th</sup> October please. For KS1 dinners there is no charge.