

# Benfieldside Primary Newsletter April 2019



**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope that our April newsletter finds you fit and well. We have enjoyed some exciting learning both inside and out of school in March. Two classes have taken part in Athletics Festivals, Nursery and Reception visited Hall Hill Farm, Class 9 planted trees in our grounds with Oases and I've just been to see the newly hatched chicks in Early Years! I would like to thank our super Y6 pupils (& the staff) for organising and running the World Book Day Activities- we had a wonderfully enjoyable time. I'd also like to thank our School Council for their informative assembly about Energy Saving. April has a hard act to follow, but we are looking forward to classes sharing their work in our Easter Assembly and of course we have our Easter Egg Raffle to look forward to. Having been Headteacher at Benfieldside for a whole year now, after the holidays I will be sending out the parent/carer questionnaires again, so please look out for them. I will be interested to know your views of the improvements made to our school so far, plus any ideas you have for future development. Thank you for making me so welcome this year and for the support that you give to your school.



Have a lovely Easter break,

**Best wishes, Mrs Addison Headteacher.**

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

## Playground Games:

We were able to purchase some new playground games earlier in the year, which pupils have enjoyed. I'm delighted to say that we have now been able to use income gained from our fundraising activities and parental contributions to School Fund, to purchase an even wider variety of games and activities for our pupils. They'll be able to develop their physical skill such as balancing, throwing, catching and coordination alongside their social skills. Thank you everyone who contributed. ☺





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.

**March 2019 Reading Averages:**

Class 1 71%	Class 6 93%
Class 2 95%	Class 7 81%
Class 3 85%	Class 8 83%
Class 4 92%	Class 9 74%
Class 5 95%	<b>Whole school average 85%</b>

**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:**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April- break up for the Easter holidays

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - return to school to begin summer term

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May - Y5 Taster Day at Consett Academy

**KS2 SATs week 13<sup>th</sup> May (official test period ends 24<sup>th</sup> May)**

16<sup>th</sup> May Nursery Theatre Trip

May 2019- KS1 SATs

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May -half term Holidays

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - return to school after half term

10<sup>th</sup> June- Phonic screening fortnight begins

24<sup>th</sup> June Northumbrian Water Pantomime in school for Y1-Y6

2<sup>nd</sup> July Y6 Transition Day at Consett Academy

10<sup>th</sup> July Parents' Evening 3.45pm-6pm

17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July Robinwood residential

19<sup>th</sup> July - end of the academic year

**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.