

Benfieldside Primary Newsletter November 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that our November newsletter finds you fit and well and that you enjoyed the October half term break.

Thank you to all of those parents and carers who were able to join us on Parents' Evening- we hope that you found the meeting useful. Thank you also for your contributions to our 2018 Harvest Appeal for the Consett Foodbank. We are sure that local families will benefit from your generosity and support. Could I please remind you that our school is 'nut -free' when you are considering the items to include in packed lunch boxes - this is to safeguard those pupils with nut allergies.

Below you will find a list of dates/times for our Christmas Events- please take the time to find those which will involve your child/children. Further details will follow in due course but having the dates in advance may help you to plan your attendance at relevant events.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Mrs C Addison, Headteacher

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.

Christmas Dates 2018 (details to follow):



- 3rd December:** Early Years Parent Craft session-
Nursery (am) Reception (PM)
- 11th December** Y5/6 Carol Concert 2.30pm
- 12th December** Y3 Carol Concert 2.30pm
- 13th December** Y4 Carol Concert 2.30pm
- 14th December** Nursery Christmas Concert (AM)
Reception Christmas Concert (PM)
- 17th December** Y3/4 Party (PM)
- 18th December** Y1 & Y2 Performance 10am
- 18th December** Y5/6 Party (PM)
- 19th December** Y1-Y6 Pantomime Trip (AM)
- 19th December** Reception party
- 20th December** Nursery Party (AM)
- 20th December** Y1 & Y2 Party (PM)
- 21st December** Nursery and Reception pantomime for pupils in school.
School closes on **Friday 21st December** and re-opens for pupils on **Tuesday 8th January 2019**

Attendance Trophy Winners:

Week beginning 1st October: Class 9

Week beginning 8th October: Class 9

Week beginning 15th October: Class 6

Reading Award Winners:

1st October Classes 5 & 6

8th October Class 5

15th October Classes 4, 5, 6 and 7



New Parent Governor

We are delighted to inform you that Mr Christopher Neil is joining our Governing Body as a Parent Governor this term- we look forward to working with him.

Our SNOW procedure:

With winter being just around the corner, we'd like to take the opportunity to let you know what our procedures are:

If significant overnight snowfall or other extreme conditions prevent us from opening, we will notify Durham County Council, who post school closures on their website. The message will be added to our own Website and to our Twitter feed. We will attempt to notify parents, carers, staff and governors through our texting system. Please make sure that we have your most up to date contact details.

We will make every effort to open our school when it is possible to do so and when access is safe for pupils, parents and staff.



Reading at home: averages per class in October:

Class 2	71%	Class 6	98%
Class 3	66%	Class 7	93%
Class 4	96%	Class 8	76%
Class 5	100%	Class 9	61%

Please support us by encouraging your child to read at home and by signing and returning their Reading Record. Thank you

Upcoming Events:

- **School Nurse Drop-in** session: 9am in the Discovery Den 13th November 2018. Please call in to discuss any health concerns you may have about your child or to seek advice.
- **A Phonics Session** for parents/carers of Reception pupils will be led by Mrs Rowell on Tuesday 6th November at 2.45pm in the Reception Classroom.

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.

Special Lunch Events:

Our school kitchens will be serving two special lunches during November:

Friday 2nd November Bonfire Lunch

Wednesday 7th November Remembrance Lunch.



For details see separate letters or contact the Office.