

Benfieldside Primary Newsletter September 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that our first newsletter of the academic year finds you fit and well. We are delighted to be welcoming back your children (plus our new starters) and trust that you had opportunity over the summer to relax and enjoy some family time together, during the glorious weather. I'm looking forward to catching up with you on the playground soon!

Our team have been working hard over the summer- our KS2 decorative upgrades near completion, both KS1 and KS2 libraries have been upgraded and improved (including new books and cushions), we now have a sensory garden and our Early Year's outdoor environment has been improved. Our new website will launch this week and you can now follow us on Twitter @BenfieldsidePr1.

We will be launching our House System across school this week- pupils will be able to earn points for their House Team, through activities such as sports and arts, in addition to exemplary, respectful behaviour. Our Houses are named Cor, Con and Ben - our three mythical local giants. We think the House System will enhance pupils' sense of belonging and teamwork skills. I'm sure you'll all have seen the giant's metal boot sculpture near our Main Entrance- we have now managed to have it represented on our new school website and newsletter header- unique!

Headteacher's Awards each Friday will relate to our three school values- Happiness, Perseverance and Respect. We will also be awarding our new Attendance Cup and Reading Cup each week.

Best wishes, Mrs Addison Headteacher.

Teachers and Classes for 2018-19

Nursery: Miss Clarkson

Class 1 (R): Miss Raffell

Class 2 (Y1) Miss Williams

Class 3 (Y1/2): Miss Campbell

Class 4 (Y2): Mrs Baker

Class 5 (Y3): Mrs Lee

Class 6 (Y3/4): Mrs Bovill

Class 7 (Y4): Mrs Fagan

Class 8 (Y5/6): Miss Looney

Class 9 (Y6): Mr Wright

Mrs Rowell will be taking some of the Y5 and 6 children for Numeracy and Literacy on a morning. Mrs Harbinson and Mrs Coombe will be covering PPA time.

Leadership Update

The Leadership Structure at Benfieldside Primary School changed on 1st September 2018. This increased both the leadership capacity of the school and our future development, through the addition of an Assistant Headteacher post.

Headteacher (Mrs Addison)

Deputy Headteacher (Mrs Rowell) **KS1 Leader**

Assistant Headteacher (Mr Wright) **KS2 Leader**

Inclusion Manager (Mrs Coombe)

Early Years Leader (Miss Clarkson)

We hope that you will all join us in supporting Mr Wright in his new leadership position of Assistant Headteacher.

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. This is to ensure that we are safeguarding our families as well as our children.

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.

New Books

In the coming weeks, pupils in KS1 will be using some exciting new books within their lessons, together with similar ones which they will be able to borrow to read at home. The new books are linked to the specific phonic phases the pupils are currently working on and will provide them with the valuable opportunity to apply their new reading skills whilst reading for pleasure and enjoyment. We hope that you will support your child with their books at home.



New website:

www.benfieldside.durham.sch.uk

School will close on Friday 19th October for half term and re-open on Tuesday 30th October 2018.

Upcoming Events:

- School Nurse Drop-in session: 9am in the Discovery Den 11th September 2018. Please call in to discuss any health concerns you may have about your child or to seek advice.
- 18th & 19th September - Trips to Durham Cathedral- *details to follow*
- Week beginning 24th September- Book Fair in school- *details to follow*



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.

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 21st September 2018. In the event of more than one expression of interest, a parent governor election will be held.



@BenfieldsidePr1