

# Benfieldside Primary Newsletter February 2020



**Dear Parents and Carers,**

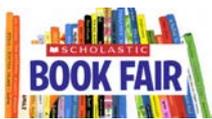
I hope that you have enjoyed January as much as we have in school and this newsletter finds you fit and well. The children and staff have been working hard as usual and have produced some fantastic work, across the curriculum. Thank you for your ongoing support- we hope to see you all at Parents' Evening on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Please contact us ASAP if you have not yet made an appointment to discuss your child's progress with their classteacher.

**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)



We will celebrate World Book Day on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 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 9<sup>th</sup> of March. Parents can view books in the KS2 library on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of March, after school until 4:15. Alternatively, please send your order and payment into school in a sealed envelope.

## Gate News is Great News!

Following parental questionnaire responses, I am delighted to share the following news: After a detailed consultation with the Local Authority and Highways, we have been given permission to alter the school's perimeter fencing in order to add a much needed (and long awaited) additional pedestrian access gate and ramp at the top of the playground. We anticipate the work will take place during the Easter Holidays (rather than during term time) so pupils' safety should not be affected. I never, ever thought I'd be this excited about a new gate!!



*Polite reminder: Please do not send any products containing*

*nuts in your child's packed lunch. Thank you.*





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.



### Parking:

Despite numerous reminders, there are still some parents and carers using the school's car park. Can we respectfully request that everyone parks safely and courteously on the road please, otherwise we will have to start closing our gates again.

Please also be aware that the Police have spoken with several drivers who had chosen to park on the yellow zigzag lines outside school - could those drivers please put the safety of our children first.

### January 2020 Reading Averages:

Carle 82%	Wilson 90%
Donaldson 94%	Lewis 88%
Milne 75%	Morpurgo 85%
Dahl 90%	Rowling 79%
Browne 100%	
Whole school average:87%	

### 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.

### **Pupil Voice update - Spring 2020**

This week pupils have been given a questionnaire to complete in class, giving us their views on what we do well and what we could do better for them. Rowling class will be collating pupils' answers into a spread sheet as part of their Computing work- this will then be presented to the school's leaders, for consideration. Pupils were asked a range of questions about their learning, extra school clubs, health/healthy eating and how they are supported emotionally in school.

School Council members have again met with Mrs Addison- they gave feedback on the new playground equipment that they chose for all pupils to use, as well as the wet playtime games purchased at their request, for days when they have to stay inside due to bad weather. One new idea that the Council will be discussing in classes is whether Benfieldside Primary could hold a talent show for pupils.

The SNAG (school nutrition action group) met again with Mrs Rowell this week and will meet with Cathryn, the Taylor Shaw area manager for school meals, to plan a special themed lunch. More details to follow!

Finally.....Our newly established Eco Committee have now met three times. They have completed the Environmental Audit and helped Mrs Addison and Alice (from Oases) to formulate the school's action plan. We have a new display in school to promote Eco Committee- please look at it on parents' evening next week!