

Benfieldside Primary School end of Academic Year July 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you happy, safe and well. It has been an unprecedented time of change, challenge and concern. I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to the staff, parents and Governors who have supported me so well during these difficult times. I am proud to work with such a caring and thoughtful community, who have selflessly rallied around those who are vulnerable and most need our help. For those among our community who have suffered bereavement due to Covid19, we extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathies. Whether already returned to us, or returning in the autumn term, we are offering care, guidance and support around children's well-being and mental health - this will remain a priority as we progress into the new academic year. Back in September, I don't think any of us would have imagined in our worst nightmares, the sheer scale of this global pandemic or the far-reaching, severe changes to our daily lives. Those many of us who have worked in school providing key Worker Childcare since March and throughout the school holidays, look back now at the enormity of it all, but one thing we know for sure is this:

WE WANT OUR SCHOOL BACK!

Without the pupils, without the staff, without the community, our school is nothing but an empty shell.

I sincerely hope that conditions in September are such that we can bring all children and staff back safely and confidently- they need to be learning, they need their friends, and we need their happiness, hard work and enthusiasm. We have missed that so much. Once we have clear guidance from Government and DfE for the autumn term, we will of course be in touch. Our school will fully close for the summer holidays on 17th July 2020 and the planned return date for pupils is Wednesday 2nd September 2020. In the meantime, I wish you all a happy, safe and enjoyable summer.

Best wishes and kindest regards, Mrs Addison Headteacher.

For latest news and updates, please view our website www.benfieldside.durham.sch.uk and/or follow us on [Twitter@BenfieldsidePr1](https://twitter.com/BenfieldsidePr1)

Gate News is Great News!

Although the installation of the new pedestrian gate at the top of the playground should have been completed during the Easter break, understandably DCC postponed contractors' visits to school sites.

Good news though- the work has been rescheduled to take place during the summer holidays, ready for the new term.



Classes next year:

Miss Clarkson - Nursery

Miss Raffell - Carle class (reception)

Miss Williams - Donaldson class (Mixed Y1/reception)

Mrs Fagan - Dahl class (Y2)

Mrs Lee - Browne Class (Y3/4 mixed)

Mrs Bovill - Wilson class (Y3/4 mixed)

Miss Campbell - Lacey class (y3/4 mixed)

Mrs Harbinson - (mornings) & Mrs Coombe (afternoons) Hughes class (Y5)

Miss Looney - Morpurgo class (Y5/6 mixed)

Mr Wright - Rowling class (Y6)

Key Stage Leaders:

Early Years - Miss Clarkson (EY Leader)

KS1- Mrs Rowell (DHT)

KS2 - Mr Wright (AHT)

Mrs Baker and Mrs Rowell will continue to be timetabled to teach across school.

Polite reminder:

DCC have notified us that Dinner Money prices will rise from £2.05 per day to £2.10 per day. This is £10.50 per week rather than the current cost of £10.25

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.



Although Mr Wright and Miss Looney have done their very best in the current circumstances (thank you both so much) to make marking the final year at Primary School as special as possible for our fabulous Y6 pupils, none of us would have wanted this to be the end of year that they had. We are so used to celebrating their achievements with you and saying our goodbyes properly, that this year has been a total shock and a shame. We hope that they treasure their Hoodies, photographs and autograph books alongside their memories of their time at our school. We will of course miss them terribly and do feel disappointed on their behalf that they studied so very hard for exams that they were unable to take. We do wish them all the luck in the world as they transfer to their new schools and embark on the next stage of their Education. Hopefully our values of resilience, happiness and respect are embedded in them and serve them well in the future.

Good luck, Goodbye, Take care and Be Safe Y6! xxxxxx