

Benfieldside Primary Newsletter June 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that our June newsletter finds you fit and well and that you all enjoyed a rest and some family time over the half term holiday!

Best wishes, Mrs Addison Headteacher.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR NEWS AND IMPORTANT UPDATES WILL USUALLY BE SENT ON DOJO- PLEASE CHECK REGULARLY FOR MESSAGES AND ITEMS ON SCHOOL AND CLASS STORY. Please phone us or speak to a member of staff if you have mislaid your login details - we will be happy to help.



Two members of our highly valued staff team will be leaving us at the end of the summer term. Much as we will be sorry to see them go, they have our very best wishes and gratitude for everything that they have done for the Benfieldside School Community.

Mrs Lisle, will be taking a well earned rest after working here for 26 years!!! We wish her a long and happy retirement - she will be hugely missed by all.

Mrs Harbinson, after dedicating 18 years of her teaching career to us, has decided to take a complete change of direction and will be completing further training and study to become a Counsellor. I am sure you will agree that she will be excellent in her new role, but we will miss her terribly!!

Both ladies have our sincerest best wishes for their respective futures and we wish them well.

Virtual Parents' Evening:

Due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions, we are not yet able to invite parents and carers into school for Parents' Evening. Obviously, we really value the opportunity to discuss the Annual Reports to parents, children's achievements, progress and their next steps. In order to facilitate this, we are going to try using 'School Cloud'- this is an online appointment system through which you can have a video call with your child's teacher. Parents' Evening by School Cloud will take place on Wednesday 14th July. Information detailing how to access School Cloud and book appointments will be sent out nearer the time.



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.



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 Kerry - 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.

Y6 Leavers' Assembly

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 restrictions, we are unable to invite parents and carers to a traditional Y6 Leavers' Assembly this year.

After consulting with his class, Mr Wright has decided to put a performance together so that the children do not miss their opportunity to shine. This will also include those Y6 pupils in Miss Looney's class. Please look out for a letter with details- we are proposing that the performance is recorded and sent home on DVD, but we do need to know from Y6 parents, whether they are happy for a recording of their child to be shared. Don't worry if your child cannot be on the shared DVD- they can still take part but we would edit them out or ask them to step out of their role whilst recording took place. I am extremely grateful to the staff for arranging this for the children and ensuring that they do not miss out.

Key Dates:

Wednesday 7th July -Annual Reports go out to parents

Monday 12th July - "move up morning" - pupils meet new teacher

Wednesday 14th July Online Parents' Evening

Friday 16th July - school closes to pupils for the summer

Monday 19th July and Tuesday 20th July are training days

Wednesday 1st September - teacher training day

Thursday 2nd September - pupils begin autumn term

Attendance update:

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.

Please also be aware/reminded, that leave of absence (holiday) requests cannot be granted during term time and that any such absences are therefore unauthorised.

School Office updates:



Can parents and carers please ensure that children arrive punctually at school so that they do not miss the start of the day with their class- thank you. If your child is going to be absent can you phone or send a message as soon as possible, or reply to our text straight away please.