

Benfieldside Primary Newsletter January/February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a superb Christmas and enjoyed your New Year celebrations. The children have been keen to tell us about their family time and the gifts they had for Christmas! That said, they have settled back to their learning very swiftly, which is great.

Best wishes, Mrs Addison Headteacher.

In memory of Mr Wright:

As you will know, our much loved and well respected Assistant Headteacher Mr Wright passed away just before Christmas. This was a huge and tragic shock for his family, his friends and our Benfieldside community. The attendance at his funeral on 3rd January was huge and therefore very fitting for a man with such a huge heart. Not only did he think the world of his family, his friends, his neighbours and his colleagues, he thought the world of all of the Benfieldside pupils and only ever wished the very best for them all. What better way to honour his memory, than to make that wish come true, for this and future generations of pupils at our school.

Although our grief is still in it's very early stages, we are beginning to consider ways in which we can mark, honour and remember his contribution and commitment to our school. There is no escaping the sadness that we all feel, but finding ways to celebrate him, his life and what he valued, will I am sure, help us to heal and move forward together. Our older pupils have already contributed ideas to a canvas to celebrate and record how they felt about him, his lessons (and his dancing!).

We have identified an area in school which we would like to develop into a memorial garden – a place of calm and reflection but also a vibrant and attractive oasis. As much as possible, we would like this to be a school community project. When the weather warms up we will be seeking volunteers to help us design and develop the garden – this is something that we can do with your children, but if any parents/carers would like to be involved, you would be very welcome. Likewise if you are able to contribute materials, plants or money rather than time and elbow grease, those offers would also be very welcome.

Mr Wright was passionate about mathematics and children's learning. We will be purchasing a shield which will be presented annually to recognise significant learning in maths – engraved with a pupil's name each year. "The David Wright Mathematical Achievement Award".

In the coming weeks we will be listening to the children's ideas about how they would like to remember Mr Wright and we would of course welcome suggestions from you all too.

Thank you again for the kindness and support that you have shown our staff team and I, during this most difficult and heartbreaking time.



Please support us to encourage reading, 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 Miss Looney - 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 Murray.



Diary Dates

8th February- Phototronics School Photographs

12th February - Y3/4 Wetlands Trip

16th February - Early Years Fairy Tale Ball

16th February - Break up for half term

26th February - return to school

26th February - SEN support plans sent out

28th February - Spring Term Parents' Evening

7th March - World Book Day

28th March - close for Easter holidays



Miss Looney has stepped up to take on the responsibilities of Key Stage 2 Leadership and whole school Leadership of Mathematics. I hope she will have your support in this new role and that you will join me in wishing her good luck. I am sure that she will be brilliant!

School Photographs:

Mrs Leighton will soon be sending out information about School Photographs, due to be taken on Thursday 8th February 2024.



Polite reminder: could all dinner money be sent in or paid at the office on Mondays please? Thank you.