

# Weekly



# Letter

[www.benhallinfantschool.co.uk](http://www.benhallinfantschool.co.uk)

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents



I am so pleased to have everyone back at school this week. As always, the teachers have been working really hard over the summer to prepare the classrooms for the children. As I took a moment to walk around an empty school last week, I realised just how effective they were because I wanted to stay and play! We are all excited to have the children back in school today and are hoping for a much less interrupted year ahead. The school was buzzing yesterday during our inset day as we discussed what we have achieved and where we would like to take the school next. We will share our school development plan with you in the coming weeks so that we can all travel this journey together - your involvement and feedback is always valued.

### Welcome

I would like to welcome all of the new members of our Benhall Family. Over the next two weeks our new starters at Pre-School and in Reception will be visited their new classes for stay and play sessions and by the end of the month will be attending full time. We are really looking forward to getting to know you and we hope that you will be really happy with us. For all our new parents, we know how overwhelming it can be when your child starts school so please know that we are here for you, no question or worry is too small.

We are thrilled to have Miss Bilton back at Benhall as our deputy head and Green Class teacher. She will be in school from Wednesday through to Friday every week. She is back in the swing of things already and will be out on the playground each day to say hello to you all.

This term we are welcoming three new members of staff. **Mr Wintle** has joined our pre-school team, **Miss Ralph** has joined our reception team as a teaching partner based in yellow class and **Mrs Taylor** has joined our year one team as a teaching partner in Green Class. Miss Ralph and Mrs Taylor will also be taking on Lunchtime Pupil Supervisor Roles for continuity for the children. All three members of staff wowed us at interview and we are delighted that accepted a position at our school.

### Thank you

Miss Everett has been an amazing acting deputy while Miss Bilton was on maternity leave. Mrs Richmond and I really appreciated her support. She is looking forward to dedicating her time to her other role as Inclusion Co-ordinator at Benhall Infant and Pre-School. She will be in school on Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays.

The amazing PTA have been working really hard over the holidays to improve the look of our outdoor areas. All of this work has been done in their own time and has built up over a larger number of days than anticipated. The children and staff are thrilled to have clean and safe areas to play and learn this year and the newly painted fences make the school look so much more inviting. There are not enough words to say just how much you all continue to do for us.



### Ready, Respectful Safe

Thank you to everybody who has supported a **Safe** return to school this morning. The soft start with a staggered start worked extremely well in preventing congestion on the playgrounds, thank you to everybody for using the one way systems which will be a regular feature of our school rules. Within the school building, we are continuing to invest in increased cleaning routines including extra hours for staff to ensure that high touch points are cleaned regularly throughout the day. We are mixing as a whole school and that feels wonderful, but we continue to take precautions to minimise the risk of spread of the virus through ventilating shared spaces and maintaining distance when we can. As we work together to keep school operating in this way, can we ask parents to **be vigilant for the symptoms of Covid (however mild they may seem) and seek early PCR testing** to prevent the virus coming into school and spreading amongst the school and wider community.

To ensure that the children are safe before and after school, can I remind parents that the climbing frame and fitness trail are **out of bounds at drop off and collection**, as they cannot be appropriately supervised.

### PTA News

Thank you to Azaria in Blue Class who did an amazing job of decorating the school's fairy for the PTA Fairy Trail. She (the Fairy not Azaria!) has been a bit cheeky over the holiday and kept fluttering off, but she and the other fairies are still in position for one more week if you would like to find them.

Hot of the press news - the trail has already raised £300

### Pupil Premium

During the last 18 months, your family's circumstances may have changed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. There has been and will continue to be some uncertainty around job retention. We are asking that ALL parents spend 10 minutes filling in the form on the below link. You may not currently qualify for a Pupil Premium Grant which will go to support you and your child(ren) while they are at Benhall Infant School but If you apply and your circumstances change in the future, this should automatically be granted without you having to reapply.

Follow the link to the website for more information.

<https://www.benhallinfantschool.co.uk/page/?title=Pupil+Premium&pid=38>

It really does only take 10 minutes and all you need is your **National Insurance Number**.

## Baby News

We are pleased to let you know about the safe arrival of Miss Hopkins baby, who arrived safely at the beginning of the holidays. His name is Theo and you may see Miss Hopkins with him as she takes her son to St Marks.

Miss Mason had to wait a little bit longer for the arrival of her little girl, who kept us waiting for news until the end of the holiday. Her name is Harriet (Harri for short) and Miss Mason is hoping to bring her in to school to meet us later this term.



Adan (Blue Class) and Eshaal (Indigo Class) became big sisters over the holiday. They have a beautiful baby brother and we are confident that they will be amazing big sisters and he has some great story tellers to tell him a bedtime story.

## Uniform

We have received an email from Monkhouse Schoolwear to let us know that they are continuing to experience supply shortages due to a number of external factors. They are working hard to remedy this as soon as possible. If you need uniform the PTA have a number of second hand items available.

## Run Winchcombe 2021 by Joshua D

In the summer holidays I went to race in the 6 and under 1 K race. There were about 50 children in the race and I came 5<sup>th</sup>. I got a medal for taking part. Next time, I will be racing against 10 year olds, it will be pretty hard because they are big like St Marks children.



We can't wait to see you all again next week!  
Have a lovely weekend everyone.



Miss Morris and the Benhall Team xx