



# Weekly Newsletter



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

Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents

Goodness me, where did week three go? Here at Benhall Infant and Pre-school, time certainly flies when you are engaged in your learning! There has been so much going on in and around our school and grounds this week. Our wonderful new reception cohorts are enjoying getting to know their classrooms, outdoor area, teachers and new friends. It has been lovely to see them enjoying their packed lunches in the hall with year 1 this week. Well done to year 1 for being such excellent role models for our newest members of the school. Year 1 have had lots of adventures relating to the book *The Gruffalo*. Unless I am imagining things, I have seen a few woodland creatures in our corridors! The giant mouse was a particularly odd sight glimpsed from the corner of my eye while teaching in year 2. Year 2 have been amazing role models this week, really working hard to challenge themselves. I think it may be down to year 2 that there is a lovely aroma of ginger around school too!

## **Reception**

This week in Reception, the children have met our very mischievous Pesky Squirrel friends. Mrs Norman and Miss Pates had prepared a delicious blackberry crumble to bring to school on Monday only to find that our Pesky Squirrels had gobbled them up. The children put their thinking caps on and worked together to make sure this didn't happen again - they made posters, traps and built safe places to keep yummy food in the future. There were so many fantastic ideas. On Thursday Orange and Yellow Class Pesky Squirrels were both missing when the children arrived at school, but luckily we found them snuggled up together outside in a very cosy den. The children decided they must have built it together after school so they could be together. Then, they all designed and built their own fabulous Friendship Dens where they could spend time with a friend from the other class chatting, reading and having their snacks. It was a delightful and very creative day full of fun and friendship. Our new Reception Team are settling so well into school life! We can't believe it's the end of their first full week already - enjoy a restful weekend everyone!

## **Year 1**

It's hard to believe how quickly this week has whizzed by and what a week it has been! We started our learning with some peculiar clues left by a little brown mouse. These lead us to other woodland creatures and eventually to the *Gruffalo* story! Year 1 have loved exploring woodland habitats and really put great thought into designing and making 3D models in the construction area as well as outside. We even had a go at making our very first maps, complete with keys, to help mouse find his way to the *Gruffalo* cave. After all that fantastic learning, you deserve a break. We were sorry to hear that Mrs Pain is poorly and we will miss her lots next week. Wishing a wonderful weekend to all our fabulous purple learners!

## **Year 2**

Wow! What an amazing week teams Indigo and Violet have had. The week started really positively, with so many of them taking the time to research Beatrix Potter. This has stood them in good stead for their learning this week as they have used their newly acquired knowledge to write fact files information leaflets and create timelines of Beatrix's life. We have been really lucky to borrow some artefacts from the museum to help us appreciate how different life was for Beatrix compared to the modern world we live in. Indigo baked some gingerbread using a Victorian recipe and Violet baked ginger cookies from a recent cookbook. We will be testing them today and deciding how the recipe has changed over time. I wonder which version they liked best. Before we sign off for the week the year 2 staff and children would like to send a message to our wonderful Mrs Spence, we miss you and hope you are feeling better soon xx

## Pre-School

In Pre-School this week we have continued to welcome new children and their families, everyone is settling in well building relationships with their key person and the other members of the team and also starting to make new friendships of which Teddy Benhall seems to be a firm favourite. The children have enjoyed many different activities playing and exploring throughout the whole of Pre-School and also enjoying lots of outdoor play. Starting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September our theme will be "All About Me," for the next two weeks. Have a nice weekend everyone, The Pre-School Team.



## Purple Learning

Miss Bilton thought it would be good to share some of our purple learner responses to this question that she asked some children during lunchtime on Wednesday: What does it mean to be safe?

"Being safe means walking in school all the time."

"Safe means that we always look after our things like pens and the PE balls."

"The adults at Benhall keep us safe by keeping the classrooms neat and tidy."

"When an adult says stop we have to do it straight away."

"When we play at lunchtime we have to make sure we look where we go so that we don't bump into anyone."

As you will now know from those fantastic responses our purple learning focus this week has been to hone in on keeping safe in and outside of school. The children are really beginning to link this to everything that they do which is great to see. Well done Benhall purple learners!

## Super School Council

This week Isaac, Elena, Darcie, Ethan, Oscar, Louisa, Bea and Lyra have been getting used to their new school council roles. They really are super role models, always following the school rules and listening to others. The children are going to be speaking to their classes about the different ideas that each class have and these will then be written into our school council log book. Next week we are going to have our first school council meeting and we will then share our plans with you. Watch this space!

If you have any ideas of how school council could improve the school then please email Miss Bilton on [rebeccabilton@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:rebeccabilton@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk) or come and find me in the playground on a Wednesday morning. If anybody knows of any local businesses that would like to help the school council make the school even more wonderful then please don't hesitate in contacting me. 😊

## Welcome Wednesdays - What does it mean?

Marijana Filipovic-Carter, Family Engagement Officer from Move More, is continuing to host our 'coffee mornings'. Last year they were online, now, we are pleased to say, they will mostly be face-to-face, with one online each term. This is a drop in session - please call in when you have 'dropped-off', for a drink and a chat. Come via Red Room outdoor area from 8.45-9.45. Younger siblings are welcome too. There will be an email with more information from Marijana early next week.

## Ready, Respectful, Safe

Please help us to keep everyone **safe** at school by following these important safety notices.

- Please do not cycle or scoot inside the school grounds.
- Children are not allowed to use the play equipment before and after school as any accidents would not be covered on our insurance.
- Please do not congregate on the playground at drop off and pick-ups. This forms part of our risk assessment to minimise the spread of Covid 19.
- Due to the severity of nut allergies we have amongst our newest members of the Benhall family, please check packaging of any foods brought into school so that we can be confident there are no products containing nuts in the school.

### Collecting from St Marks and Benhall

It has come to our attention that the year 3 and 4 pick-up is only a few minutes after ours. We will do our best to be prompt when releasing the children at the end of the day. We will also open the gate between the reception outdoor area and St Mark's field to make this more accessible. This will be a one way system, please collect at Benhall and then make your way along year 1 outdoor area to the reception area and through the gate. We hope this will ease the pressure a little.

### PTA NEWS:

- **PTA AGM Wednesday 13th October 7.30pm** in School Hall, Everyone welcome, no need to join, just come along and find out what we have planned. Email Caroline on [pta@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk) for more information.
- **Halloween Pumpkin Trail** - looking for houses to have pumpkins for the week of half term. to sign up email Caroline on [pta@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk)
- **Sunday 19th September** - can you spare an hour or two from 10.00am to finish the playground fence painting. Contact [pta@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk)

### Bike to School Week

**27 September to 1 October 2021**

Bike to School Week is a week-long event across the UK to encourage families to cycle and scoot to school. It's a great way to celebrate the huge benefits an active school run brings. Benhall Residents Association are promoting this as part of their Benhall Co2 Free initiative. They have volunteers who will be available on the corners near school to support parents and children in negotiating the roads safely. If you are free, they would appreciate some more volunteers; join them at the main corners near the school as they make the whole thing more visible, provide encouragement to the children and get drivers to be more aware!



**Please note that your children are your responsibility while taking part in the event, the volunteers are just there to support.**

Have a restful weekend all.

Miss Morris and the Benhall Team xx