



# Weekly Newsletter



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

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents

## **Reception**

The Reception children have been fantastic at school for their first full time week all together. They have made so many more friends, not only in their own classes but across the whole school at lunchtimes too. Our Year 2 Friendship Buddies have been so kind and caring, helping the children to get their coats on and show them where to go after eating their lunch. The children have started learning sounds, taken their first books home and shown us so many Purple Learning skills like persevering when things aren't easy, celebrating their friends' successes, challenging themselves in so many ways and have shown us time and time again that teamwork really does make the dream work. We are so proud of you all! Please remember to look in the front of your child's reading diary for login details to access the Oxford Owl reading site where you will find your first e-book to enjoy over the weekend.

## **Year 1**

WOW! What a harvest-filled week we have had! Year 1 have been completely absorbed with their learning this week and have loved finding out many fantastic facts about harvest. We have been chatting about all the varied fruits and vegetables that we can be thankful for and have displayed these in our harvest wreaths. We even extended our harvest learning into the construction area, where some brilliant combine harvesters were intricately drawn and labelled. Our favourite piece of learning this week though, has to be getting a special video from an expert on combine harvesters to share some knowledge on all the ins and out about this fascinating machine. Thank you Miss Morris for arranging an interview with Rhys to help answer all our combine harvester questions! After such a brilliant week, we all deserve a wonderful weekend. Happy Friday everyone!

## **Change to Year 1 Parent Event Date**

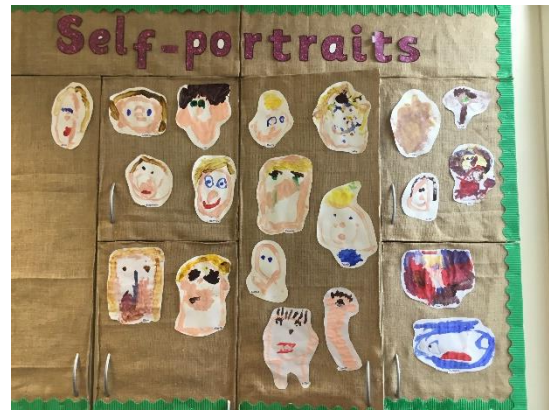
We have had to change our summer parent event date. The 'Super Sports' event now be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2-3pm. Thank you 😊

## **Year 2**

In Year 2 this week, we have been learning all about British garden birds. On Monday morning, we found out more about Mrs Spence's and Mrs Jackson's visit to Beatrix Potter's home in the Lake District - Hilltop Farm. The birds at Hilltop Farm were naughtily nibbling on the newly planted seeds, but the National Trust volunteers explained that Beatrix Potter never would have shooed them away; instead she added bird feeders and bird homes to her garden to make sure their tummies were full. This led perfectly on to our learning about birds and bird feeders. On Wednesday, we had our first Year 2 'experience day' and were all engrossed in designing and constructing the most incredible bird feeders. We were blown away by the children's creativity and making skills. Within provision, the children had the opportunity to study a range of different bird eggs, make their own garden bird posters and paint their own robins, blue tits and starlings. It really has been a lovely week. Can we just take this chance to thank you all for all the fabulous support you are giving your children to complete their home learning. The quality of home learning this year has been exceptional, and it is helping the children so much with their classroom learning. Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

## Pre-School

In Pre-School this week we have finished off our theme of "All About Me." The children have created individual portraits for their gold and silver family galleries, We have talked about our emotions and what makes us happy, sad etc, and shared stories relating to this. We have also discussed what type of house we live in and looked at different types of houses if they know what number or any details about it, and what we see on our way to Pre-School. In Gold family we had a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Harry and Ezra and in Silver family our very own Mrs Muirhead celebrated a special birthday. Next week we start with a theme of Benhall Behaviour Super Heroes and the first one we will look at is "Lieutenant Listener." Have a lovely weekend. The Pre-School Team.



## Purple Learning

Thank you to those of you that emailed me and told me about how your child has persevered outside of school. It was heartwarming to read how purple learning skills continue outside of the school grounds. Our children this week have focused on 'Persisting in the face of challenge'. We have discussed in our classes the things that we find tricky and realised that we all find different things easier and harder than others. Please chat with your child about the things that they feel they find tricky and come up with solutions of how they can overcome this or strategies to help them succeed. Well done Benhall on another fabulous week of purple learning!

## Ready, Respectful, Safe

On Monday I popped into Yellow Class to share a story. While I was there Mrs Norman was talking to the class about the importance of 'compromising' when playing and learning with a friend. The children were then set the challenge to play with a new friend from the class - sticking together for the session even when they wanted to do something different. Later that day Mrs Norman came to tell me how brilliantly **Florence** and **Layla** had risen to the challenge. They both wanted to play in different areas of the classroom but knew they had to stay together! With some useful suggestions from **Thea** they were able to listen to each other's ideas **respectfully** and successfully negotiate a compromise. Well done girls - I am so proud of you.

## Super School Council

This week our school council have been busy gathering more ideas to bring to our next meeting which will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October. The children have been helping to take books out for the children to read at lunchtime and once Reception are settled the school council will be introducing the play pod at lunchtime. At our meeting next week we are going to get to know each other and you will be able to find out all about us on the Friday letter. We will also be putting more items onto our 'school council job list.

Don't forget you can still enter the competition to **WIN A FREE PLAYGROUND MARKING!!!** 😊 😊

The link to enter the competition is:

<https://playgroundmarkingsdirect.co.uk/back-to-school-competition/>

Entry conditions are:

**All submissions to be posted to our website. Any individual, class, or school can have as many submissions as they like. All submissions should be submitted by Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 5:00pm to be counted. The winner's marking will be designed and manufactured as close as possible to the design, with the winner being consulted on the proofing process.**

## PTA News

Pumpkin Trail houses needed to host pumpkin trail numbers email [pta@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk)

**Don't forget PTA AGM Wednesday 13th October 7.30 in school.**

## Bike to School Week!

Thank you to all of our families who supported bike to school week. With fuel shortages at the beginning of the week, it couldn't have come at a better time. The children have been telling me how much they enjoyed cycling to school and we have had positive feedback from local residents about how safely the children have been riding. Maybe cycling to school is something you could build into your routine - just 1 day a week makes a huge difference to CO2 emissions.

## Good Luck Mrs Spence and Mrs Wisdom!



Our very own and absolutely fabulous Mrs Spence is running the London Marathon on Sunday. She has juggled her training around her family and school commitments - often running when we are all still in bed! We wish her lots of luck and Team Violet will be very gentle with her on Monday!

Mrs Wisdom has taken on the challenge to run the marathon virtually so will be pounding the streets of Benhall on Sunday to clock up the 26 miles needed. Mrs Wisdom has also been juggling her training around her family and school commitments - running at all hours just to fit everything in. Good luck Mrs Wisdom, we know you will smash it!

## A Message from Mrs Spence

As lots of you may know, on Sunday I will be running the London Marathon. I was due to run the marathon in April 2020 but Covid put a stop to the event. At the time, Violet Class of 2020 decided that they wanted to help with my training and we decided that we would run our own sponsored marathon at school. The children were eager to raise money for charity and as a class we chose Winston's Wish. There was a little boy called Henry in our class who had lost his baby sister. Winston's Wish had supported Henry and his family brilliantly and so we set out to raise £100 to give back to the charity. A few weeks passed, and the children very quickly exceeded their £100 target - the looks on their faces when we reached £500 was something I will treasure forever. Covid sadly interrupted the children's plans to finish their marathon, but our amazing Benhall school community continued to donate. I am running the Marathon on Sunday for Henry and his baby sister, for Winston's Wish and for all the other children in our Benhall family who have lost siblings, parents or family members. Our Just giving link is still live if you feel you would like to donate to this incredible charity. Thank you in advance, Mrs Spence xx P.S Apologies to Violet Class if I am unable to walk on Monday morning!! <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hannah-spence1>

## Parents' Evenings

We are holding our first Parents' Evenings of the year on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 3.30-6.00pm.



We will be continuing to gather harvest gifts from 27<sup>th</sup> September until 6<sup>th</sup> October. Your contributions will go to the Salvation Army again who will make sure that they are distributed to local families who are in greatest need. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please leave your donations in the box outside the office.

### Congratulations Seb and family

Seb, in Indigo Class, shared some really exciting news with us earlier this week. He has welcomed a little brother into his family. Seb is brimming with pride over the new arrival and told us all that his name is Benjamin but they will call him Ben for short. Seb is such a caring member of Indigo Team, so we are confident that he will make an excellent big brother. Congratulations to Seb and his family from everyone at Benhall Infant School.



### A Big Thank You from Mrs Clark



A big thank you to everyone who came to help out on the meadow volunteering day on Saturday 25th September. We sowed wildflower seed, completed the log boundary, cleared leaves and cleaned out the bird boxes ready for next year. I was delighted to have so many people helping, and we got the work done in no time! There will be plenty to do over the coming months, so if you are interested and didn't manage to make it this time, do get in touch with me at [alexrosedeacon@hotmail.com](mailto:alexrosedeacon@hotmail.com) and I will add you the meadow mailing list. Alternatively, just keep an eye out for call outs in the newsletter or on texts.

Mrs Clark



Hopefully there will be a break in the rain and we can all enjoy some autumn sunshine this weekend!

Miss Morris and the Benhall Team xx