

BENWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2015 - REMINDERS



Welcome Back - I would like to start by welcoming our 17 new Reception children to Benwick Primary School. I hope they will enjoy their time here. We also welcome Miss Tataryn, our new teacher in Class 3.

We are happy to announce that Miss Turner, gave birth to a daughter, Paige, in the holidays.

Bicycles and Scooters

Although I encourage children to cycle / scoot to school I would like to remind you that they should get off of them before coming down the path next to the village hall or on the school playground. This includes pre-school children. We have lockers for children's cycle helmets.

Mornings / Absence

I would like to remind you that the school gates open at 8:45 a.m. We are not responsible for children outside gates before that time. Registers are not taken until 8:55 a.m. so there are 10 minutes in which your child / children may enter school safely. Children have been seen outside the village hall as early as 8:10 a.m. Can I also ask that you remind your children that they should not be playing football outside the school as it is so close to the road and car-park.

We would encourage you to say goodbye to your child / children outside in the mornings and only come into school if you need to see a teacher. It becomes very congested and the children in Classes 2, 3 and 4 should be able to come into class and settle to their initial tasks straight away. Parents of children in Class 1 are welcome to take their child to the mobile until they have settled into school.

For health and safety reasons buggies and prams are not allowed into the school or the mobile.

Arrival after 9:00 a.m. will be marked as late. If your child / children arrive after 9:30 a.m. they will be marked as unauthorised. If lateness is persistent the Education Welfare Officer will become involved.

If your child is unable to attend school please contact the school office or the absence will be marked as unauthorised. Messages from siblings or other children are not acceptable

Count me in!

Please apply even if your child has Universal Free Meals.

If you apply for free school meals for your child, and tell us that you are on a low income, you should secure significant additional funding for their school, called **Pupil Premium**.

Schools spend this money on anything that can help these children do well at school, including trips, activities and extra support.

Check the eligibility criteria and apply online
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
or call 01223 703 200

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Forms also available from the school office

Dinner Money - Dinner money went up to £2.25 per meal as of the 1st September. CCS have told us that we are not required to provide meals for children without payment, so if you do not send in payment for a meal the school office will ring you to ask you to bring in a packed lunch, If we are unable to contact you your child will be given a piece of fruit. This is without exception.

All children in KS1 (Reception, Yr 1 & Yr 2) are entitled to free school meals.

Drinks and Chocolate in School

We encourage the children to bring water bottles to school, especially when it is warm. Please only put water in the bottles for the classroom as sticky squash is not easy to clean up! Children may have squash in lunchboxes. Please do not include any fizzy drinks or glass bottles.

Children are allowed a chocolate biscuit in their lunch box but not a chocolate bar. If you can buy it in the biscuit aisle you can have it !

Play Equipment

The play equipment in the school grounds are designed for primary age children. Please note, if you allow your younger children to use the equipment while dropping off or waiting for your child / children to leave school, it is your responsibility and NOT the schools.

Birthdays - With an increase in children not being allowed to eat a range of foods for a variety of reasons, we respectfully ask that you do not send in sweets or cakes on your child's birthday. We celebrate their birthdays in our Friday morning achievement assembly where the children will have their birthday acknowledged with a song and a birthday certificate from all of us here at Benwick Primary School.

Car-Park - Zig-Zag Lines

The Governors wish to bring to your attention that, due to health and safety regulations, parking on the yellow zig-zag lines is forbidden. One parent in particular keeps on doing this and if it continues they will be sent a warning letter. We would also remind you not to drop off children or to park cars in the car-park (staff parking only) or to use the entrance to turn around. Please also make sure that children (including pre-school children) DO NOT use the car-park as a play area before or after school. It is not advisable to stand across the entrance of the car-park when waiting at 3:10 p.m. for your child

PE - Children should have a change of clothes for PE. A white or yellow t-shirt, black shorts and trainers should be worn for PE with tracksuit bottoms available for colder weather. All items should be labelled and in a small bag. Tracksuits will only be worn outside.

Earrings should be removed for PE lessons. If ears are recently pierced or your child's piercing close rapidly, earrings may be taped. Parents are asked to provide tape for their children.

Voice In A Million (VIAM)

Once again we will be taking a group of KS2 children to the VIAM concert at Wembley Arena on Thursday 3rd March. Rehearsals for this event begin next week. It is very exciting as a member of the VIAM team will be coming into school next Tuesday for a workshop for the children wishing to take part.

If you would like your child / children to take part please encourage your them to come along to the workshop. Every Monday from 21st September Mrs Wood will be taking choir practice especially for this concert. There will be a charge for your child if they participate. Details to follow.

Burwell Residential Trip - Monday 18th January to Thursday 20th January 2016

I would just like to make it clear that this trip is for children in Year 5 and 6 only. If you are in receipt of free school meals you will be expected to pay at least half of the cost and we will still need the £20 deposit by Friday of next week. The actual cost cannot be finalised until we have definite numbers.

Dates for your Diary

September

- 14th - Clubs start
- 15th - VIAM workshop

October

- 8th - Harvest Festival - 9:15 a.m. in the village hall. All welcome
- W/B 12th - No clubs except Premier Sports
- W/B 19th - No clubs except Premier Sports
- 23rd - School closed. Teacher training day
- 26th - 30th (inclusive) - Half Term holiday

November

- W/B 2nd - No clubs except Premier Sports
- 2nd and 4th - Parent Evenings - 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- 3rd - School Photographs, 1:30 p.m. You are welcome to bring along younger siblings for family photos.
- 16th - Annual 'Bring Dad to School' morning - or Grandad, Uncle Brother
- 23rd - 30th - Travelling Book Fair

December

- 8th - Key Stage 1 Nativity, 1:30 p.m. in the village hall (no tickets required. Pre-school children will not be permitted to attend)
- 9th - Key Stage 1 Nativity, 6:00 p.m. in the village hall (2 tickets per family will be issued for this performance nearer to the date. Pre-school children will not be permitted to attend).
- 11th - Wear your Christmas Jumper to school day - raising money for Save the Children
- 16th - Carol Concert - 2:00 p.m. in the village hall.
- 18th - Last day of Autumn Term

2016

January

- 4th - School closed. Teacher training day
- 5th - Children back to school