

BENWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL



OCTOBER 2015

We would like to welcome Mia (Yr1), Noah (Yr2), Olivia (Yr2), Teyla (Yr2), Matthew (Yr4), Stanley (Yr4), Quenton (Yr5) and Weston (Yr6) alongside with our reception children to Benwick Primary School and hope they enjoy their time here.

A note for Yr 6 Parents

The Local Authority team would like to remind you that the deadline to apply for a Year 7 secondary school place is 31st October 2015. Applications received after this date will be considered late and will not receive an offer letter until 20th April 2016.

Voice In A Million Workshop

On Tuesday 15th September KS2 took part in a VIAM workshop with one of the organisers of the event. Jo Garafolo has been creating, producing and directing the Voice In A Million event for the last six years. At the workshop, Jo shared the set list for the 2016 event with the children and we sang many of the new songs and learnt a few of the dance moves that may go alongside the lyrics when we visit Wembley. Everyone had the opportunity to sing into one of Jo's microphones. Since the workshop, we have had a very positive uptake for VIAM 2016, so it seems that the children enjoyed the session as much as the staff!



HARVEST FESTIVAL - On Thursday 8th October a wonderful display of fresh and tinned produce set the scene for our annual Harvest Festival - to celebrate the harvest and gathering in of the crops. Class 4 started our festival with Harvest Celebrations from around the world using the Isley Brothers song 'Harvest for the World' to link it altogether. Then came Class 2 who produced a wonderful rendition of the Little Red Hen story and a poem about 'Conkers'. Class 3 entertained us with a Harvest acrostic poem followed by their own song, written by Miss Tataryn, to the tune of 'I Think I Want to Marry You', by Bruno Mars. And finally Class 1 delighted the audience with a charming performance of 'If You Go Down to the Farm Today....' Clearly our teachers are all budding song-writers! Well done to everyone involved - a fabulous celebration of the Harvest.

The tinned produce was taken to local foodbanks. The fresh produce was either sold after school to parents or used by the children to make vegetable soup and apple crumble after Newmarket Open Door declined to collect it this year. Thank you to everyone who sent in food for our display.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS

Did you know?.....

From 1st October 2015 the ban on smoking in cars with children in England and Wales has come into effect. It is now illegal to smoke in a vehicle with anyone under the age of 18 and both the smoker and the driver could be fined £50.

The current law states:

All children travelling in a car must use the correct car seat appropriate to their weight or height, until they are either

- 135 cm in height or
- 12 years in age - whichever they reach first

After this point they must use an adult seatbelt

It might seem like a convenient place to drop off the children but new figures show the number of tickets issued for stopping on the zig-zags outside schools have almost doubled in 2 years.

But it seems only 17% of people know stopping on zig-zags is banned at school run times, AXA car insurance research says. While it may be well known that you can't park on yellow zig-zag lines, you also can't wait or even stop momentarily to drop off or pick up passengers, according to the UK Highway Code.

The Local Government Association explains that this is because parking on yellow zig-zags outside schools puts children at risk as outside school gates there are lots of children running around, buggy congestion and little ones on scooters and bikes.

We would also like to remind you all that there is also a **20mph** speed limit outside the school between 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Coffee Mornings

This term I have been running a coffee and cake session on alternate Monday mornings. The sessions are open to any parent (or grandparent) and are very informal. We tend to have a loose focus for each session and so far we have discussed Phonics, Numeracy and touched on homework.



The next session will be on Monday 9th November and the parents who attended this week have requested that we talk about grammar. The session starts around 9a.m. once the children are in school and usually lasts for approximately an hour. Everyone is welcome.

Mrs Wood

World Heart Day

On Tuesday September 29th Mrs Strong and Mrs Godly took 15 year 6 children to Cromwell for a day full of activities relating to the heart.

The first activity was a lesson on the history of medicine from Georgian and Victorian times. The children learned about the kinds of treatments that were available, including putting potatoes next to the neck to cure a cold and cutting off a leg or arm to prevent infection - usually when the patient was still conscious and being held down.



After break, the children went to the art room where they designed and produced a clay heart which was fired in the kiln for them to paint at a later date.

The third activity was a lesson about the heart and how blood travels around the body to provide oxygen. The children were then given a lambs' heart and worked in small groups to cut into the heart to see the chambers and tubes around the heart. Most children enjoyed this activity, but those who chose not to participate were able to measure their heart rates after completing various exercises in the corridor!



After lunch the children moved onto their last lesson which was in the sports hall and definitely got their hearts racing with continuous circuit training activities for half an hour, which included shuttle runs, press ups, stomach crunches and step ups.

It was a really enjoyable day in which the children gained a lot of useful information, not to mention sore muscles!

Teddy Bear's Picnic

On Monday the 26th September Class 1 enjoyed a 'Teddy Bears Picnic' in the afternoon. Grandparents were invited to join in the fun and games. We all brought in our teddies from home and shared stories about them with the class. The children spent the morning making jam sandwiches and biscuits.

We started off the afternoon with a whole class game of hide and seek, which the children loved. Then we enjoyed our picnic in the sunshine, where it was lovely to see the children sharing out the food and fetching drinks for the grandparents. They were great hosts! We also had a few games of 'duck-duck goose' and had a teddy bear sweetie hunt.



Thank you to all of the grandparents that came; it was lovely to see so many of you there.



CALLING ALL DADS, GRANDADS, UNCLES

After the amazing success of our 'Dad's Morning' for the last few years, we have decided to make it an annual event. This year our Bring Dad to School morning will be held on Monday 16th November.

Lessons start at 9:00 a.m. and finish at 12:00 noon

So if you fancy a bit of Literacy or Maths with 30 children or just want to see what really happens in a classroom come along and join us. Our aim is to encourage the boys in our school to do well by showing them male role models that they can relate to. You know you've always wanted to be a model!! So here's your chance!

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

N. B. - We would remind you that there is a no smoking ban on school premises which also includes the car-parking area outside the school and to the side entrance to the playground by the village hall.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 23rd October - school closed - teacher training day.

November

2nd - 1st Parents Evening.

3rd - School individual photographs. You are welcome to bring along younger children for family photographs. If you would like to come along please come to the village hall at 1:20 p.m.

4th - 2nd Parents Evening.

16th - Bring Dad to School Morning. See above.

23rd - 25th - Book Fair.

December

8th - KS1 Performance - 1:30 p.m. in the village hall. Pre-school children will not be permitted to the performance.

9th - KS1 Performance - 6:00 p.m. in the village hall. Pre-school children will not be permitted to the performance.

11th - Wear a Christmas jumper to school day.

16th - Carol Concert. 1:30 p.m. in the village hall. All welcome.

17th - Class parties in the afternoon. Children to wear uniform and to bring clothes to change into for the afternoon.

18th - Last day of Term.