

# BENWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SEPTEMBER 2016



### WELCOME BACK

I would like to start by welcoming our 22 new Reception children to Benwick Primary School. I hope they will enjoy their time here. We also welcome our 4 new staff Miss Farquhar, Miss Oliver, Miss Dolby and Mrs Spencer.

#### 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.

## Count me in!

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.



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.

#### 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. 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 should be able to come into class and settle to their initial tasks straight away. Parents of children in Robins Class are welcome to take their child to the classroom 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.

#### Building Work

The new mobile looks fantastic and the classrooms are spacious. The teachers and the children are delighted with it. We are also very pleased with the new Reception class outside area, at the front of the school. We hope the building works are now all finished!!



### **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 it is against the law to park on the yellow zig-zag lines. 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, earrings may be taped. Parents are asked to provide tape for their children. This is a short term allowance.

### **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 9th 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 Wednesday for a workshop for the children wishing to take part.

If you would like your child / children to take part please encourage them to come along to Choir. Every Monday from 19th 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.

### **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.

### **Miss Turner**

During the holidays Miss Turner, one of our teaching assistants, made the decision not to return to work here. She is planning to set up a Childminding business in March, in the near future. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her every success for the future.

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **September**

w/b 12th Premier Sports Clubs Start

w/b 19th Clubs start

### **October**

5th & 6th Life Education Bus

13th 9.15am Harvest Festival

21st School Closed—Training Day

24th—28th Half Term holiday

(inclusive)

### **November**

8th & 9th November Parent Evening

18th Children in Need

24th NHS Flu Vaccines for Year 1, 2 and 3

w/b 28th No Clubs

29th Bring Dad to school morning

### **December**

6th 1.30pm Reception and Key Stage 1 Performance

7th 6.00pm Reception and Key Stage 1 Performance

19th pm Christmas Parties

20th End of Term

## **2017**

### **January**

4th School closed. Teacher training day

5th Children back to school