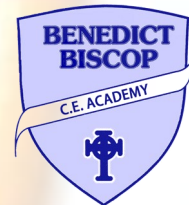


Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



JANUARY 2019

Welcome back everyone. We hope that you have had a fantastic holiday and family time. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas events and thank you from all the staff for all the generous gifts and cards we received. The pupils particularly enjoyed their parties and thank you for everyone who helped. We celebrated many amazing achievements last term and we are predicted that 2019 will be no different!

Dates for your diary this term

Monday 7th January 2018— School re-opens for Spring term

Wednesday 9th January—final deadline for payments on School Gateway

Monday 14th January—New payment system open (parents will receive an electronic notification with login details).

Wednesday 16th January—Y5 Derwent Hill meeting 4:30pm in school hall. Parents and pupils invited to attend to find out about the upcoming Derwent hill visit.

Thursday 5th February—Chinese New Year—celebrating our 10 year partnership with Harbin, China.

Week commencing Monday 11th February—Spirited Arts week in school. Pupils will create art work linked to this years Spirited Arts competition theme.

Wednesday 13th February—Spring Disco

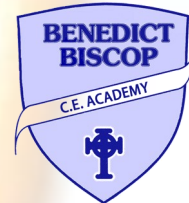
Week commencing 25th February—Y5 Derwent Hill visit

Week commencing 25th March—EYFS open week—appointments to be given nearer time.

Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March—Y1 to Y6 opening evenings. Appointments available online.

Week commencing 1st April—Easter celebrations and farewell events to mark Mrs Thompson's retirement.

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Welcome to our new staff!

We would like to say a huge welcome to Mrs Logan our new Office Administrator, Miss Tarn our new teaching assistant and Mr Langley our new Assistant Caretaker, who start with us today!

Reception places—application reminder!

If your child's date of birth falls between 01/09/2014 and 31/08/2015, you will need to apply for a primary school for September 2019.

The application period opened on 24th September 2018, we would like to remind parents that the closing date for applications is **15th January 2019.**

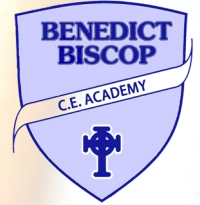
Parents can apply online at:

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/schools-admissions-infant-junior-primary>

You will receive an email confirmation, once your application has been received

National Offer Day is 16th April 2019. If you apply online, you will receive an email confirmation about your child's school place.

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Please can we ask parents to always ensure after school clubs and breakfast clubs are booked so that we know who will be coming to these sessions. If you are having trouble booking please contact the school office.

Sessions should also be booked and paid for in advance via our new online system available from Monday 14th January 2019.

WORSHIP DATES:



YEAR 1— 1.2.19
YEAR 2— 8.2.19
YEAR 3— 25.1.19
YEAR 4— 1.3.19
YEAR 5— 18.1.19
YEAR 6— 15.2.19

Please be aware that the doors to worship close promptly at 9am. We apologise for any inconvenience caused but this is to allow minimal distraction for the children, thank you for your understanding.

The Community bank is now taking place on a Tuesday!

The bank opens at 8:30am via the hall doors until 8:55am. If you would like to register your child and open an account, this can be done at any session, with any amount. We would particularly welcome EYFS and new starters to open an account.



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A huge thank you!

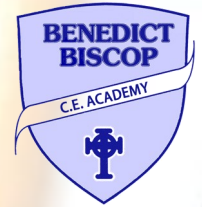
On behalf of everyone here at Benedict Biscop, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas events. The PTFA were able to raise a significant amount of money for School events including last month's pantomime and future events coming up.



The pupils would like to say a particularly MASSIVE thank you to the PTFA for their fundraising which has culminated in ANOTHER wonderful afternoon.

Year 1 - 6 visited The Customs House 11th December to see Beauty and the Beast and EYFS visited The Washington Arts Centre to see Snow Play. A fantastic time was had by all - we laughed and laughed all afternoon and even enjoyed some delicious ice cream.

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Early Years Basic Skills

A huge well done to our Early Years team, Governors and parents who have successfully led the school through another revalidation of the Early Years Basic Skills award. This marks the 3rd time, that the school have received this recognition. The report highlighted many strengths and we would like to share a few quotes with you that we are particularly proud of:

‘The Early Years Foundation Stage team have set high and limitless opportunities for children to learn within their setting and the children are flourishing applying all of their basic skills though, and during, their play experiences.’

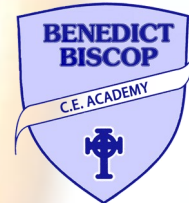
‘High quality first teaching is evident and children’s vocabulary, early Mathematical and Literacy skills are stretched during appropriately structured adult led sessions. Teaching staff all know their family group members and can offer challenge and differentiation through clever questioning and assessment processes. Children were observed applying their knowledge and understanding during their play experiences.’

‘The open door policy of the school has led to strong relationships with parents who can attend for a number of celebrations, workshops and projects and communicate that they understand their own child’s learning and development and can support this in the home.’

The school have worked hard to move to an ‘innovative learning and teaching approach’ and it was recognised that ‘the quality of the children’s basic skills has improved’. We were pleased that our identified area of development was that ‘the school should work towards disseminating this outstanding Early Years practice to schools and settings in the region and beyond.’

Thank you again to everyone who has worked hard to help us achieve this new vision!

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Online Safety

Article 17: you have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

Staff and children have recently worked with Alan Earle, a former police officer and specialist in online safety, working with the UK Safer Internet Centre. As part of the schools dedication to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child and ongoing commitment to ensuring that children are becoming digital leaders of the future we have developed series of information and guides to help support parents further and provided them with the most up to date information for social media, apps and platforms that our children are using. The online world is fast becoming a complicated environment with so much innovation creating incredible opportunities for us all, but specifically for our children. It's so important we empower children to embrace these opportunities. The real world and the virtual world are both full of risks; we need to understand these risks so that we can teach our children how to recognise them and navigate around them.

This month we are focusing on Fortnite: Battle Royale & ROBLOX.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/roblox-parents-guide/>

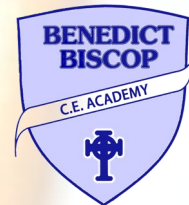
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide/>

The website also offers free online courses which many of you may find useful. If you would like to know more then please visit: nationalonlinesafety.com

Christmas Jumper Day

On 12th December 2018 we hosted our Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children. We had our annual Christmas lunch, sang songs and had a fantastic time celebrating together. We managed to raise £202.27 for Save the Children and would like to say a huge thank you to all who were able to donate. A massive thanks to our kitchen staff for another successful Christmas lunch and for all their hard work throughout the year to ensure that no pupil leaves school hungry!

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We are delighted to inform you that we have recently signed up to the online payment system **SchoolMoney**. This is similar to the School Gateway system you have been using but we are hoping this new system will be easier for you to use as well as enabling us to experience a more streamlined, cost effective and efficient payment system in a secure and safe environment.

We are planning to go live with the new system on Friday 11th January 2019, therefore, we kindly ask with those with outstanding balances to clear these by Wednesday 9th January 4pm. Anyone who has credit on their account or pre bookings for clubs, will not need to do anything as this will transfer over to the new system.

Please do not use School Gateway for any payments or bookings from Wednesday 9th January 2019 4pm.

You won't need to sign up to this system as this is done automatically through the school and we will send you a password on Friday 11th January 2019. This password will give you access to your **SchoolMoney** account where you can pay for any items we have requested from you.

To log into **SchoolMoney**, you will need your mobile number, email address and the password we have sent to you, therefore, please let us know immediately if either your mobile number or email address has changed recently.

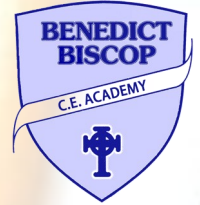
We appreciate your cooperation in the early stages of rolling this system out to you.



Mobile Phones

We are aware that several children have received mobile phones as gifts this Christmas. However, we would like to remind parents that mobile phones are not permitted in school. Children should not bring mobile phones into school under any circumstance.

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Food Bank Collection

Again, we would like to thank everyone, who has helped us support many families who are in need, particularly at this time of year. Thank you to everyone who donated items. Year 5 have enjoyed taking your donations this time. We will continue to support the food bank, if you would like to donate, you can do so, by leaving items in our main entrance collection box.

Absences

Please ensure you phone the school or leave a message on our absence line when your child is absent. Thank you.



REMINDER: Can we please ask parents to regularly check pupils school bags for important **letters**. Also, to remind pupils to hand in letters from their school bags. Thank you.

Breakfast and After School Clubs



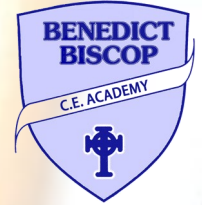
Can we remind parents to give the office 24 hours notice to cancel breakfast and after school clubs. Please note that if we do not receive 24 hours notice you will be charged for this.

Parking

Please can parents be considerate that they are not blocking residents' driveways or garages when parking outside of the school gates.



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School calendar 2018-2019

September 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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30						

October 2018						
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November 2018						
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December 2018						
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January 2019						
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February 2019						
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March 2019						
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April 2019						
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28	29	30				

May 2019						
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June 2019						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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July 2019						
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August 2019						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

	School Closed/Holidays
	Bank Holidays
	Inset Days - pupils not in school