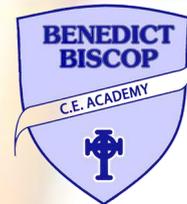


# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## MAY 2019

### Dates for your diary this term

**1st May - 24th May** - Year 2 SATs

**13th May - 17th May** - Year 6 SATs

**Friday 10th May** - Quiz Night at St Matthews (see further in newsletter for more info)

**Tuesday 21st May 3:45pm** - Thurston Parents Meeting

**Tuesday 21st May 4:30pm** - OPAL Parents Meeting

**Monday 24th June** - Class Photos

**Wednesday 26th June** - PTFA Summer Disco

**Tuesday 2nd July** - KS1 (AM) and KS2 (PM) Sports Day

**Wednesday 3rd July** - EYFS Sports Day

**Friday 5th July** - BB Fest

**Wednesday 10th July** - Open evening (parents welcome into school - no appointments necessary. This is a drop in session and an opportunity to look at your children's work).



**We kindly ask that parents support us during the SATs period by ensuring children are in school.**



**No mobile  
phones**

### Mobile Phone Usage

Please can we ask that parents do not use mobile phones within the Early Years foyer. This is to safeguard our children.

We appreciate your co-operation on this matter.

## **Check out our brand new website!**

at [www.benedictbiscopacademy.co.uk](http://www.benedictbiscopacademy.co.uk) - ideas and feedback welcome!

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## Thank you from Mrs Thompson

Thank you so much for the lovely EARLY retirement send off. I loved the celebration afternoon when all of the children sang some of my favourite songs. The samba bands were amazing, as were the guitarists who played as everyone arrived. Everyone made me so proud. The books the children made were quite spectacular and I will treasure their pictures and memories, all beautifully drawn and written. The last Worship was poignant as I left the school to join the choir at the back! Thank you to everyone who joined me for that special service and to those of you who were able to stay for coffee and cake. I cannot thank you enough for your cards, gifts and good wishes. You have been incredibly

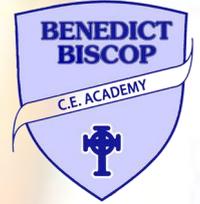
generous and I am touched by your kindness. The memories of Benedict Biscop will remain with

me forever and the children will always have a special place in my heart!

Kind regards,  
Paula Thompson



# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## School Safety

We have identified a potential safety risk to those children who arrive early and unaccompanied to the school grounds.

Parents are reminded that the school day begins at 8:55am, we operate a drop in policy and the school doors open at 8:45am until 8:55am, therefore reducing congestion around Moorside and allowing information to be shared between home and the school at the beginning of each day and to ensure children's welfare is given high priority. For our full arrivals and departures policy please visit our website [www.benedictbiscopacademy.co.uk](http://www.benedictbiscopacademy.co.uk).

There have been some instances where children have been left unattended for up to 20 minutes before school doors open, often in inclement weather. We are asking that parents support us in keeping our children safe by aiming to arrive at school between the allocated drop off time.

We will be monitoring this situation and should the need arise we may review our policy and the time that the school gates are opened.



## Shared Worship

**Please see below when class worship will be held. We would love for you to join us.**

Friday 24th May	Year 1
Friday 7th June	Year 3
Friday 14th June	Year 2
Friday 28th June	Year 5
Friday 12th July	Year 4



# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## OPAL

An exciting new journey lies ahead as we are beginning to develop our new OPAL curriculum across school.

The OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning Programme is the result of 17 years testing and development in over 250 schools and is now used in Canada and New Zealand as well as across the UK. Work has started to adapt the programme for schools in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Austria. In 2018 OPAL won first prize in an EU funded award for the best active school's programme in Europe.

It is based on the idea that as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play, and as 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

One reason the school is carrying out this programme is that childhood has changed and many children's play needs are no longer reaching the recommended requirement.

- Average screen time per day 5 hours
- Average outdoor play time per week 5 hours
- Percentage of UK children who only play outdoor with other children at school 56%

There are many proven benefits for school which carry out the OPAL Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, less accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

This half term, we will be holding a talk from an OPAL leader who is coming into school to explain the benefits of OPAL and discuss the equipment children will need to have in school to be able to access the full range of OPAL activities available at playtimes/lunchtimes. This is also an opportunity to ask questions relating to the development of OPAL within the school and how it will impact the children. Therefore, we are inviting parents to attend this event (All parents are welcome). Please find details of the event below:

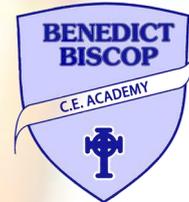
**Date: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**Time: 4:30-5.00pm**

**Location: School Hall (accessible through the main entrance)**



# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## Thank You!

The school would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Nell for donating the artificial grass for use in the EYFS poly tunnel, we really do appreciate your kind donation and all those received from our parents and their families.



## HOT OFF THE PRESS

### WE ARE RIGHTS RESPECTING!

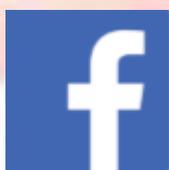
Congratulations to the Rights Knights and everyone in school. We are **OFFICIALLY** a **GOLD Rights Respecting School**. We have just received confirmation and our report which details all of the hard work both staff and children have completed on our journey towards this fantastic achievement. It was noted that

"Particular strengths of the school are:

- Pupil understanding of a core set of rights and their enthusiasm to engage and be part of the 'Rights Knights' movement.
- A personal development curriculum based on children's needs that is responsive and flexible.
- Children have a strong sense of being listened to and valued by adults in school and the systems in place are strengthening.
- A range of opportunities for pupils to influence change and support others such as their suggestion for 'Room to Talk' being acted upon and their current paper recycling campaign."

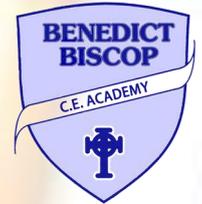
The report will soon be published on the school website for you to read. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. *Mrs Clark & The Rights Knights.*

## FACEBOOK



**Coming Soon** - please check book bags for details about our new Facebook page which will be launched this term. You should receive photograph consent letters and Code of Conduct agreements. Please complete these as soon as possible and return to school. If you would like more information please contact Mrs Clark at school.

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## Easter Bonnet Winners

Thank you to all of the children who took part in our Easter Bonnet Competition, they all looked fantastic.

The winners were:

**Nursery - Arielle and Samuel**

**Reception - Ella and Fred**

**Year 1 - Isla and Reuben**

**Year 2 - Pippa and Oliver**

**Year 3 - Lily and Matthew**

**Year 4 - Tiffany and Harry**

**Year 5 - Kian and Ella Rose**

**Year 6 - Ella and Jack**

## Reminder

If you change address or contact details please ensure you update the school office as soon as possible. It is very important that we hold up to date and current numbers at all times.



# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## School Reports

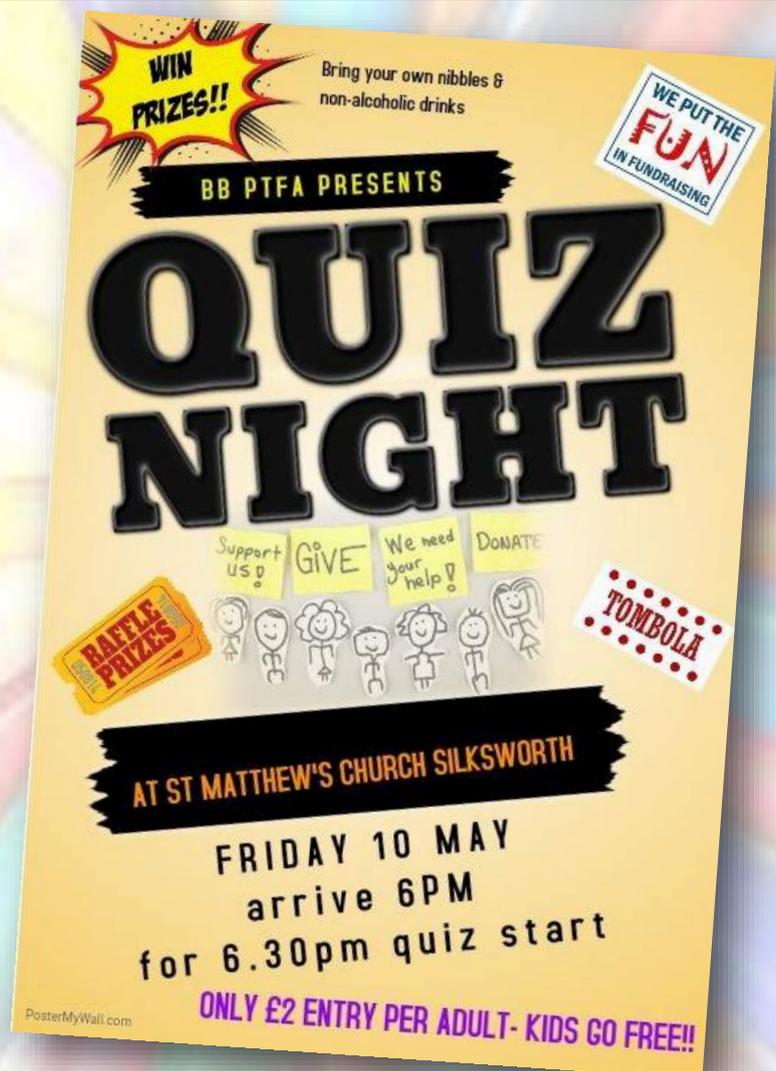
Under new guidance, to reduce teacher work load, schools are being challenged to review their reporting systems to parents. We are working in collaboration with our two partner schools within the trust to develop a consistent annual report for parents, to ensure that parents are informed of their children's achievements and all statutory obligations are met.

This may also include a different form of access to view reports, hopefully alleviating the issues we have had historically.

We hope parents will support us with our changes.

Our PTFA have organised a family fun quiz night to be held at St Matthew's Church on Friday 10th May.

Please do come along and support our PTFA for what will be a great night.



# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## Benedict Biscop CE Academy 2018-19



September 2018						
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November 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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May 2019						
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July 2019						
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August 2019						
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	School Closed/Holidays
	Bank Holidays
	Inset Days - pupils not in school

The Inset days may be subject to change.

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Benedict Biscop CE Academy 2019-20



September 2019						
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October 2019						
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November 2019						
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December 2019						
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January 2020						
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February 2020						
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March 2020						
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April 2020						
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May 2020						
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June 2020						
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July 2020						
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August 2020						
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	School Closed/Holidays
	Bank Holidays
	Inset Days - pupils not in school

**School re-opens after Summer on Thursday 5th September. Children are required to be in school in that week therefore no absences will be authorised.**

The Inset days may be subject to change.