

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



March 2021

We are delighted to share that our school opened on the 8th of March for ALL our pupils. It represents a huge step back towards normality, where our pupils can be reunited with their friends, be with their teachers and be able to learn on site again. It has been a challenging start to 2021 for us all and we would like to thank all families for the support they have given us during this lockdown, without your help this would not have been possible.

We have been exceptionally pleased and proud with how well the children have adapted and responded to remote learning, attending live lessons, working independently and sharing their learning on Showbie. This is much more challenging than learning in the classroom environment, where they can collaborate with their peers and teachers can respond immediately to any questions and difficulties that the children may have. Despite this, we hope that you feel school have supported your child's education and welfare as best as we could, adapting and responding to individual circumstances. The positive comments and feedback we have received have helped to motivate staff who often go beyond their normal school role, providing exceptionally high-quality remote lessons which continued to follow our usual school curriculum.

In the coming weeks, we will be doing everything we can to support your children in returning to face-to-face learning, with their mental health and wellbeing at the heart of what we do. Our Personal Development curriculum will be a focus for all year groups, where children will be given time to share their experiences, talk to their friends and staff and play and learn together. Children will revisit lessons on hygiene and safe practices to ensure they are as safe as possible. We recognise that the children will take time to readjust to our usual routines and expectations, therefore please be reassured that we will support your child with this and we recognise that every child is unique and will respond differently.

The children will be pleased to hear that we have recently updated our OPAL resources and we are sure that they will be looking forward to more time outside with their friends and peers. We've even ordered a few more swing ball sets Year 6....let's hope they are delivered soon! EYFS are hosting an 'Outdoor Week' to welcome our returning pupils and we are certain that they will have an amazing time learning outside all week, whether this will be around the fire pit, learning within the sand and water or investigating in our woodland areas. In Years 1 to 6, we are excited to have a huge focus on practical learning when all the children return. The children will be learning about art techniques and working to create amazing art pieces which we are hoping to share with you all in our virtual art gallery before the end of the term. As it is National Science week, the children will also be participating in practical science investigations....we wonder what amazing things they will discover!

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Dates for your diary:

Parents Meetings— Wednesday 10th March & Thursday 11th March

Easter Holidays— March 26th 2021

Return to School— April 12th 2021



Office Opening & Closing Times

Please be aware that week commencing 15th March and 22nd March, our office opening & closing hours will be different. Our School office will open at 8am and close at 4pm Monday to Thursday, and open at 8am until 3:30pm on a

Friday. Normal opening and closing times will return after the Easter holidays.



Breakfast & Afterschool Club

Our Breakfast Club and After School Club wrap around provision will be resuming as normal from Monday the 8th March. If you require a place, please pre-book using the usual booking systems. After School Club will be open until 6pm.



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Guidance for the return to School

Throughout the pandemic we have followed the guidance from Government and will continue to do so. We are reviewing our risk assessments in light of the new guidance and will continue to adhere to the systems of control for prevention of transmission and response in the event of symptoms or positive cases in school. Recent changes have included the wearing of face masks by adults on site in all communal areas and asymptomatic testing of staff with lateral flow tests. These measures will continue as we continue to transition to a wider National reopening of services. We would remind all parents that we ask that they now wear a face mask when they are waiting with their child in the socially distanced lines outside the school gates.

In order to ensure that pupils in bubbles do not mix, we will be going back to the same staggered start times and multiple gate use that we had in place prior to lockdown. We know that this is more challenging for families with siblings in different year groups, but we hope that this will not have to continue into next year. The times for each year group are as follows:

NURSERY: 8:45am start, 11:45am/3:30pm collection – EYFS entrance

RECEPTION: 8:30am start, 3pm collection – EYFS entrance

YEAR 1: 8:30am start, 2:55pm collection – front gate

YEAR 2: 8:45am start, 3:05pm collection – front gate

YEAR 3: 9am start, 3:15pm collection – front gate

YEAR 4: 8:40am start, 3:10pm collection – back gate

YEAR 5: 8:55am start, 3:20pm collection – back gate

YEAR 6: 9:10am start, 3:30pm collection – back gate

Pupils will be expected to attend school in their school uniform and we would ask that our policy is respected regarding jewellery, hair colouring and footwear etc. We also ask that pupils bring any opal kits in draw string bags not rucksacks, to ensure that they can hang safely on pegs and fit within our cloakrooms. When they have been used, these will be returned home for washing. Your child should have their school water bottle at home. We ask that children bring a bottle of water with them to school each day. They will be returned daily for cleaning.

On the days that your child has PE, please send them in their outdoor PE kit of tracksuit and t-shirt. This helps reduce the time it takes for the children to be ready for the PE session and reduces the risk of bringing additional items into school.

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Parents Evening

We will be hosting short parent's meetings on the evenings of Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th March via your child's MS TEAMS account. This will be a short 5 minute meeting to discuss how your child has returned to school and the areas we will be looking to support your child in within the upcoming weeks. Please book a time using our usual parents evening system. As these are short appointment times, to ensure that we speak to all families and to allow the change-over on MS TEAMS, we ask that everyone respects the time they have been given and if anyone would like to discuss anything further, please contact your child's class teacher via the school office and they will contact you to make further arrangements.

Instrument Lessons

Instrument Lessons are recommencing after Easter. Parents whose children have previously taken lessons will be contacted shortly.

Money previously paid for this term was refunded just after lockdown. Please contact the

School office if you require any further information.



*Class of
2021*

School will shortly be contacting all Year 6 parents to obtain further information with regards to leavers hoodies.

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Year 1

In Year 1, we have been exploring Victorian toys. First, we did some research and asked our parents and grandparents about their favourite toys to make timelines. What were your favourite toys when you were little?

Then we learned all about poor and rich children in Victorian toys. Some of their toys looked like so much fun! We can't wait to have a go at some Victorian playground games next.

We also learned about Lunar New Year and made dragon masks, dances, puppet shows and beautiful lanterns.



YEAR 4

In Year 4, we have been focusing on living things and their habitats. We explored our local habitats to identify dangers in the local environment, as well as using these to suggest positive changes that we could make to help the environment. We recorded our observations on a map as well as in a table to see our research and findings.



Environmental Dangers:

Rubbish in woods, tyres, plastic and cans - the animals can get injured or poisoned if they eat them.

Trees cut down, no oxygen in the air, berries for birds to eat or place for them to build a nest.

Fires in the woods, animals could be killed and the smoke will pollute the air.

Motorbikes, destroying tree roots so they cannot grow and air pollution.

Building sites, digging up trees where animals live, feed and make nests.

Dirty water from building site - animals may drink it and die.

Task 1: Explore a local habitat. This could be your garden or on a walk with your family. Make detailed observations. Draw a sketch map of the habitat. Draw and label any environmental dangers you see.

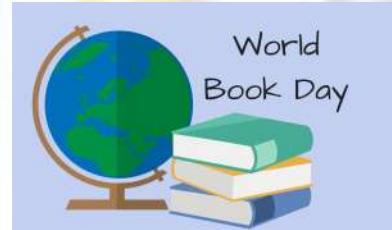


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World Book Day

This year, World Book Day fell on Thursday 4th March when school was still closed to most of our children. However, we still celebrated and we encouraged all families to participate in the fun and excitement of the day by engaging with the related Home Learning via Showbie and Teams.



This year we focused on sharing stories we love and the joy and memories these stories bring. See our Facebook page for stories shared by some of our staff throughout the week; we would also love for you to share your favourite stories and the different ways you have celebrated World Book Day via our home learning platforms.

£1 book tokens have previously been sent to parents via email and are valid from Thursday 18th February to Sunday 28th March. The token can be put towards any book of your choice, or it can be used to purchase, free of charge, any of the 12 books pictured, which have been especially produced in celebration of this year's World Book Day.

Free School Meals

Even though children are returning to school, school can continue to provide school meal support for children who are eligible and are registered for free school meals. This can be a valuable support for families and is also available during the half term school holiday.

To be eligible you must be in receipt of one of the benefits listed below:

- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue that does not exceed £16,190 or Guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit



By registering, the school will receive extra funding to support your child's education should you be entitled.

Please apply if you think you are eligible. Applying online is easy, please follow the link below or contact the school office for more information:

https://emsonline.sunderland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

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YEAR 2

Year 2 have been exploring how to make soup for the Food Bank. The children have explored different recipes and the best way to make a balanced, nutritious meal. They also created their own shopping list of ingredients where they worked out how much it would cost to make their soup. Some children compared prices with different supermarkets. The children in school helped chop, peel, grate and weigh the ingredients before enjoying a delicious vegetable soup with homemade bread. The boys and girls at home made their own soup too and completed an



evaluation where they thought about what went really well and what they could better next time.



Car Parking

Please can we ask all parents, grandparents and carers to be considerate when parking outside of school and the surrounding streets. Please make sure that you are not blocking any residents driveways and that you do not double park at any time. It is important for emergency vehicles that Marcross Drive is accessible.

Once children have been dropped off at school it would be appreciated if you could leave immediately to facilitate our staggered drop off times and to assist the school with our social distancing measures.

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Early Years Foundation Stage

The children have loved learning all about Chinese New Year. They have watched videos to help gain a better understanding of what happens during Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated around the world. The children have also enjoyed tasting Chinese food, creating Chinese lanterns, and listening to traditional Chinese festival music.



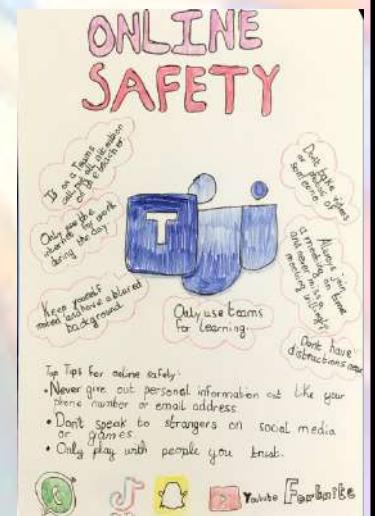
YEAR 6

As part of Internet Safety Day Year 6 focused on fake news and how to appropriate use of the internet including ages for use. They had a fantastic day researching

what fake news is,
what it might appear
like and what to do if
they suspect
information is
incorrect.



I thought of this slogan because it makes you stop and think whether you're old enough for that app or not. Did you know that kids aren't supposed to use WhatsApp until they turn 16? All social media platforms, streaming services and even some marketplace sites, have age limits! This should make sure that everyone is safe while using the Internet.



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YEAR 5

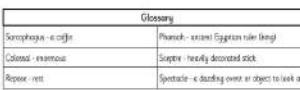
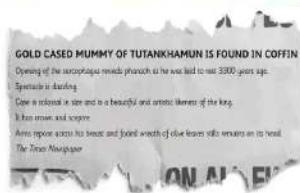
Year 5 have been studying the Tudors, and we have been looking at the dissolution of the monasteries and whether Henry VIII was a good king! We thought about some of the problems the Tudor monarchs faced and discussed what Henry did to solve his own problems, giving him a rating out of 10 for problem solving. We have also been writing playscripts, incorporating different the points of view of different people from the Tudor era, such as a farmer, a monk and a rich nobleman.

As part of this, Year 5 have been doing some wonderful persuasive writing, trying to persuade King Henry to listen to different opinions.

Henry's problem	What did he do about it?	Score out of 10
I need a son. I have been married for 20 years and my wife, Catherine of Aragon is too old to have any more children. Who will inherit my throne when I die?	He divorced Catherine and married someone else, Anne Boleyn. To be able to divorce Catherine, he had to create the Church of England, and leave the Roman Catholic faith.	7/10
The Church is very rich. It would be great if I could get some of that money for myself – for my wars (and big meals).	He closed the catholic monasteries and took the gold and land.	6/10
Some people in England are too loyal to the Pope in Rome, what can I do about that?!	He made himself head of the Church of England and he passed a law banning the Pope.	8/10
I need England to be a powerful country – that means I need allies! How am I going to build relationships with other countries?	He married women from other countries, to build a relationship and strong allies with other countries.	7/10

YEAR 3

The children have been exploring and investigating the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. The children have become historians by exploring historical sources to gain a better understanding of the past. The children are then going to use everything they have learned to become newspaper reporters and write a report about the discovery of Tutankhamun.



What do you learn about the discovery of Tutankhamun?

I learned that a pharaoh called Tutankhamun was laid in a sarcophagus with a crown and a sceptre. I also learned that the sarcophagus that he was placed in was gold and had a colossal size.

What is the historical source? This historical source is a newspaper.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
What key information can you retrieve from the historical source? Pharaoh found in a sarcophagus. Sarcophagus was colossal. Pharaoh had crown and sceptre. Faded wreath of olive leaves remains on the pharaoh's head.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glossary Sarcophagus - a coffin Pharaoh - ancient Egyptian ruler (king) Colossal - enormous Sceptre - heavily decorated stick Repose - rest Spectacle - a dazzling event or object to look at	

At first I could see nothing, the hot air escaping from the chamber causing the candle flame to flicker, but presently, as my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues, and gold - everywhere the glint of gold. For the moment - an eternity it must have seemed to the others standing by - I was struck dumb with amazement, and when Lord Carnarvon, unable to stand the suspense any longer, inquired anxiously,

'Can you see anything?'

It was all I could do to get out the words,

'Yes, wonderful things.'

Howard Carter, 1923.

What do you learn about the discovery of Tutankhamun?

I learnt that the chamber was lit by candle light and it took the excavators a while to realise what they had found and when their eyes finally became accustomed to the light they saw lots of strange animals, statues and lots of gold.

What is the historical source?
Explanation from Howard Carter of what they seen when they discovered the chamber.

What key information can you retrieve from the historical source?

The discovery was made in 1923 by Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter and the first thing they saw was gold everywhere after their eyes became accustomed to the light.

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Term Dates 2020-2021

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy 2020-2021



September 2020						
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November 2020						
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March 2021						
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April 2021						
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July 2021						
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August 2021						
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 	School Closed/Holidays
 	Bank Holidays
 	Inset Days - pupils not in school

The Inset days may be subject to change.

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Term Dates 2021-2022

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy 2021 - 2022



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

The Inset days are yet to be determined – an updated calendar will be published once agreed.