

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



May 2021

Dates for your diary:



Please note that we are hoping that as National restrictions are lifted that guidance for schools may change regarding visitors to site etc. However, if we still need to maintain current measures, school have planned alternatives so that the children can still experience some of the key events which we would usually host in the Summer term [even if they have to be adapted slightly or that they have to be facilitated virtually/remotely].

We are really pleased that this term we have been able to begin facilitating after school clubs and booster sessions, swimming and school day visits/trips under specific conditions.

Thursday 6th May – Poling Station at Benedict Biscop

Wednesday 12th May— 4pm KS1 Spelling Shed TEAMS meeting—parents will be invited to attend a session to discover how they can better support their child’s spelling at home.

Wednesday 12th May—4:30pm Year 3 and 4 X Tables TEAMS meeting—parents will be invited to attend a session to discover how they can better support their child’s mental maths at home.

Week commencing the 14th June – Spirited Arts Week: pupils across the school take part in the National Spirited Arts competition. This year we are looking at the theme ***‘We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us’***. The children will use the Jo Cox MP quote as stimulus for their art work and learning this week, looking at celebrating our differences whilst thinking about how we can be united.

Monday 21st June – school are planning on hosting Sports Day. We know that potentially we may still not be able to have visitors on site at this time, but we are keeping our fingers crossed. We hope that if we cannot that families will be reassured that the children will still have the opportunity and that we will share the experience virtually via MS TEAMS in the forms of videos and photographs if needed.

Monday 28th June – BB continuity day: pupils will get the opportunity to visit their new classroom and meet their new teacher for the day. This is also the date that has been identified by our local secondary schools for Year 6 transition.

Monday 28th June – school annual reports to go to parents.

Wednesday 30th June – Parents evening. Usually in the Summer term we have an open evening where parents are invited in to view pupil’s books and talk to the class teacher who will be available in the class. We are hoping that this will still be able to happen this year. We will provide parents with more information following the guidance school receives linked to restrictions lifting.

Wednesday 30th June – class photographs.

Friday 9th July – Pupil Party in the Park – celebration afternoon for pupils in class bubbles. More information to follow later.

Wednesday 14th July – Year 6 Leavers ceremony

Thursday 18th July – Y6 Celebration afternoon— More information to follow

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Building update

For family members who are dropping children off or collecting children from school, you will probably have noticed that our building extension work is well under way. Both the Upper key stage 2 and early years extensions have recently been roofed, windows and doors are being fitted and internal works are starting soon. Works are due to be finished before we break up for Summer holidays at the end of the term. For September there will be two new entrances into school.

There will be a new EYFS entrance, just off the main ramped access [at the main entrance to the school and EYFS] creating two EYFS entrances to help reduce traffic into the building. We will also be opening a new back gate, located adjacent to the Year 1 classroom. We hope that this will encourage people who travel by car and choose to park, to park in different areas, helping to reduce traffic in Moorside, particularly if staggered start times change.

We are hoping that our new car park will be finished and that a drop off bay will be open at key times of the day to again help reduce the need to park cars in our neighbouring residence.



Raring2go!

As you are aware, Raring2go! usually drop off copies of magazine's to us once a quarter for pupils to take home. They are doing things a little differently this term and have produced a spring digital edition of Raring2go! Sunderland, which can be accessed via the below link.

The magazine is full of fun spring ideas & activities that I hope families will find useful as well as supporting some of our local businesses at this tricky time.

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/sunderland/spring/>

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Year 5

Since returning to school, Year 5 have been really enjoying their new topic, Crime and Punishment. We have been working tirelessly to solve the case of the robbery at the Three Bears house, taking witness statements, interviewing suspects and writing up our final crime scene report! We've also been looking at



graffiti artists, such as



Banksy, Dlux and Civilian, discussing whether or not graffiti art is a crime and planning how we can create our own versions of their work.



Year 6

Year 6 have started their topic on Electricity. As part of the first lesson they were given a range of components and challenged to make different circuits, some with buzzers and others with more than one bulb.

Everyone very quickly realised that the more parts in it, the poorer they performed so now we will be investigating why this happens and if there is a way to stop it.



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Uniform

Over the past few months, school have supported parents with uniform flexibility due to current lockdown restrictions. We believe that uniform plays an important role in the Academy ethos, helping to promote harmony between different groups within school. However, we understand that it has been difficult for parents to sometimes get new uniform, especially when shops have been closed.

Having an agreed uniform, helps the children to be suitably dressed for the working day and a smart appearance helps to maintain high esteem and a sense of pride in the school community.

The current uniform our parents have opted for and agreed by the school Governing Body is:
Dark grey skirt/tunic (no more than 5cm above or below the knee)

- Dark grey or black tailored trousers
- Academy sweatshirt or sweat cardigan
- White school polo shirt
- Plain black, sensible, flat heeled shoes for school
- In summer, a blue gingham dress may be worn with white socks

Our uniform policy also asks that hair styles do not include shaved patterns or coloured hair. The full policy is available on our school website for parents to access.

As our cloak areas are small, we ask that pupils bring drawstring bags with kits and not rucksacks. We have found that rucksacks are often too large and fall onto the floor, which can then become a trip hazard.

To reduce the time required to change for PE this term, we have asked that pupils come into school in their outdoor PE kits on the days that they have PE. Our outdoor kit is:

- A blue Benedict Biscop t-shirt
- Blue shorts
- With dark tracksuit bottoms for outdoor in cold weather.

Recently, we have noticed that pupils are coming to school in sports leggings and clothing that is sometimes not appropriate. We therefore ask that as National restrictions lift, that parents are considerate of the uniform policy and make sure that pupils are wearing appropriate and agreed uniform when they attend school. If parents are experiencing any difficulties with uniform, we would encourage them to contact the school to discuss matters individually.

Thank you for your support.



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CHICKS

This week Year 2 welcomed some special visitors.... 8 eggs ready to hatch in to fluffy chicks! It has been a very exciting few days watching the eggs and waiting patiently for them to hatch.

We have been doing lots of research about the life cycle of a chick. When the eggs arrived at Benedict Biscop they had to go in to an incubator, this was to keep warm and safe while they were hatching. Once they had hatched and dried out we then moved them to the brooding area where they sit under the special brooding hood which acts like their mother, keeping them warm so they can rest after their tiring journey out of the egg. Every day we have observed the chicks closely and watched their different behaviour as they grew. We have also completed some



observational drawings and paintings of our chicks which we will share once we have displayed them. We have been lucky to welcome 8 fluffy chicks in to Year 2, their names are; Boris, Quacamole, Mr Chuckles, Yolky, Benedict, Philip, Fuzzy and Nugget. We look forward to sharing more photos with you as the week goes on!

Learning and Growing in our Christian Faith



"Royalty have treasures and gold."

Although we do not have our community worship at the moment, exploring faith and the impact of this on our daily lives is still at the heart of life at BB. The pupils take part in daily worship and reflection where they are given the opportunity to grow in their personal faith. Combined with our Personal Development and RE sessions, these give our pupils the time to explore faith—asking and answering questions, participating in discussions and debates or simply having some quiet time to reflect, think and pray. Have you watched our weekly worship videos on Facebook? It's a great way to stay updated with what we've been up to in school!

Time to think...



God gives us friends when we need them, and we should treat them like a gift from God.

In the story, Naomi could've insisted the women come with her, but she was unselfish and wanted them to be free to go home to be with their families.

Ruth had a good attitude and wanted to help, she moved away from everyone she knew and went to work to help Naomi.

She didn't tell everyone what a good friend she was, she knew that she should be a friend like God wanted her to be.

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Parent Questionnaire Feedback

Many thanks for all your responses to our parent questionnaire, we received a fantastic number of responses. Unfortunately, due to lockdown last year we didn't ask parents to complete a full annual survey, but focused on a specific Remote Learning survey instead. As a result of this, it was really important for us to find out your views and experiences across the whole school experience this academic year, particularly due to the nature and circumstances which the pandemic has placed upon us as a school and as a community.

We received 154 responses this year. We are delighted that you continue to consider we are continuing to provide excellent service to all children, with the overwhelming majority of parents having a high regard for our school and all we continue to do. 99% of parents considered that their child/children are happy in school, 99% of parents consider that children learn well in school and 97% feel that children are making good progress, which is very pleasing despite the impact of National Lockdowns and the challenges that remote learning and isolations have provided pupils. As a school we aim to provide a full curriculum and we are really pleased that 100% of parents agreed that their child receives a broad and balanced curriculum, especially as we have reviewed our curriculum over the last two years.

We know as a school that we can always improve and would like to thank you for recognising the challenging situation we have had to work through and that this hasn't affected your views of school. The school are immensely proud of the children and the progress they are continuing to make. Our achievement this year is attributable to our fantastic home/school partnership and the hard work of families at home and staff and children both in and outside of school have achieved. Many thanks for your support every day! As always, we continue to seek the views of parents and try to act on your concerns immediately. I would hope that as a school every concern is taken seriously by all staff and if you feel this is not the case, please let me know.

We know that this year communication has been more challenging. We would usually welcome families into school, staff would have daily contact with families on the yards on a morning and we would see families at weekly worship. However, due to the pandemic restrictions, these things have not been able to take place.

This daily communication plays a vital part in how parents are kept informed about their child and we understand that this may have influenced the increased number of 'don't know' responses we have received this year, particularly with younger year groups who have not had the sustained experience of school prior to lockdowns.

As always, we would welcome any practical suggestions about how we might move forward to help keep parents better informed in a manageable way. We currently provide parents with monthly newsletters; our Facebook page and school website are updated regularly with school news and events and learning; we are hosting MS TEAMS meetings for families as we currently are unable to meet onsite; we host a virtual community worship every week – posted on Facebook; and we send daily communication through email and text messaging. We are looking to run parental workshops and information sessions within the next term via MS TEAMS to raise further awareness of school systems. If you are able to provide a different suggestion for how we might improve our communication to parents or would like to know about a specific area of our curriculum or policies, please email your suggestions to BBinfo@nllt.co.uk.

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Parent Questionnaire Feedback

One area in particular that several parents identified as 'don't know' was the area of understanding how school deal with anti-social behaviour such as bullying, harassment and racism. School currently hold the Platinum Anti-bullying Award, where we have been externally assessed to see what our provision is to help prevent and deal with such issues. We know that every school may face these issues, which is why we have a dedicated section of our Personal Development Curriculum which educates our children to help prevent incidents from occurring. We also take part in National campaigns on an annual basis to raise awareness e.g. Online Safety Week. This year school have reviewed our systems and procedures for responding to incidents and allegations of bullying with the help of our pupils. The school council/Rights Knights have worked with pupils across the school to review our Anti-bullying policy and to identify ways that we can prevent bullying and also how we might respond to incidents of bullying to support pupils to move forward in a positive way.

These new and updated policies are available on our website for families to access.

The Rights Knights are now looking at our Packed Lunch policy and are hoping to seek parents views shortly to help them identify how we might further encourage a healthy diet through our packed lunches.

Once again, we would also like to thank parents for taking the time to complete the questionnaire and for adding comments, we value your honesty as this helps us to improve the outcomes for our children.

The overall summary results are below, with a comparison from the last three surveys. Results will be discussed at our next Local Governing Body meeting.

	Combined strongly agree and agree	2018%	2018 including don't knows	2019	2019 including don't knows	2021	2021 including don't knows
1	My child is happy in our school.	99	99	99	99	99%	99%
2	My child is making good progress in our school.	100	100	99	99	97%	99%
3	Children behave well in our school.	96	98	99	99	96%	97%
4	My child is not bullied in our school.	97	97	93	94	94%	97%
5	My child feels safe coming into our school.	100	100	99	99	98%	99%
6	My child learns well in our school.	100	100	99	99	99%	100%
7	My child is offered a broad and balanced curriculum in our school.	98	99	99	99	100%	100%
8	My child is motivated to learn in our school and is expected to work hard and do their best.	99	99	99	100	99%	99%
9	I am kept informed about how my child is getting on in our school.	97	98	97	97	92%	94%
10	I feel comfortable about approaching our school with questions or a problem.	97	97	96	97	96%	96%

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Parent Questionnaire Feedback

11	Staff expect my child to work hard to the best of his or her ability.	100	100	99	99	99%	100%
12	I know how to support my child and move their learning forward at home.	98	98	100	100	97%	99%
13	The school is a welcoming place for parents/carers.	98	98	99	99	96%	97%
14	Staff treat my child fairly.	99	99	99	99	98%	98%
15	The school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns.	90	92	97	97	94%	97%
16	Staff encourage my child to become more independent.	99	100	100	100	99%	100%
17	My child is encouraged to grow within the Christian Faith.	100	100	99	99	92%	99%
18	My child feels valued at Benedict Biscop CE Academy.	98	98	99	99	97%	97%
19	I think the school is well led and managed.	98	98	96	98	99%	99%
20	Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent.	99	100	100	100	99%	100%
21	I think this is a good school and I am proud my child/ children attend[s] it.	100	100	100	100	99%	99%
22	The school encourages and enables my child/children to take regular exercise.	95	96	98	99	99%	100%
23	The school encourages my child/ children to eat and drink healthily.	98	100	96	99	95%	98%
24	The school deals with anti-social behaviour such as bullying, harassment, and racism.	92	97	88	100	76%	97%
25	Where appropriate the school consistently provides home learning.	100	100	94	100	94%	99%
26	There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable.	100	100	99	100	99%	100%

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Virtual Art Gallery

For the first few weeks following the National Lockdown, classes prioritised our art curriculum. We recognised that art can at times be more challenging to teach effectively remotely and that pupils may not have access to the range of resources at home that we have in school, but also Art is a fantastic subject to allow children to reconnect and express their feelings.

We have shared a video of each classes art work via their Showbie account. If you would like to view your child's artwork – please log into your child's account and select the art folder to view the video in this section.

Also, please watch our Facebook page for a short gallery video which combines a few pieces from each class to see what other year groups have been covering across the art curriculum.

Free School Meals

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 annual 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:

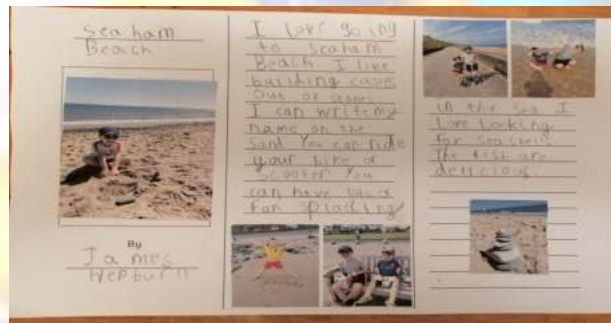
https://emsonline.sunderland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

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YEAR 1

We have had such an exciting start to Summer term! We welcomed chicks and have been watching them hatch! We have been thinking about how to look after animals and what we need to do to take care of them correctly. We have also been planting! This week we planted some beans, we know they need soil, water and sun to grow. Each week we will be checking on them and measuring any stalks that grow. In Geography and history we have been looking at the seaside! We made brochures about our favourite beach locations to persuade people to visit. What is your favourite beach? We also spoke to our grandparents and parents about their beach experiences in the past to compare them with ours. What was your favourite thing to do at the beach when you were little? We would love to know!



YEAR 3



Year 3 have started their new science topic of forces and magnets. We spent our first lesson looking at push and pull forces and how they happen in everyday life. We then received a letter from a toy car company asking us to help them find a material which gives off the least amount of friction. The children set up their own investigations and tested four materials. The children show great enthusiasm to become budding scientists!



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Early Years Foundation Stage



This week the children in EYFS have shown a keen interest in learning in the sand and water. Whilst learning outdoors, the children have demonstrated confidence and independence as they have worked cooperatively with their peers to create their own structures and potions. The children have shown they were able to effectively use the tools and resources available within the area.



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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Staying Safe Online

More of our pupils are taking part in online gaming and interacting with their peers in a socially distanced remote manner. This has many advantages, however we would like to raise awareness in how children can stay safe whilst enjoying time when gaming.

Top tips for staying safe when gaming and balancing your time online

- 1** Don't forget to look after your health and wellbeing, balance gaming with other activities you enjoy. Take regular breaks. 
- 2** Think PEGI. Check out: www.pegi.info for more information. 

- 3** Play Fairly. Treat others the way you would like to be treated and remember if you wouldn't do/say it offline you shouldn't do it online. 
- 4** Stay safe. Don't give away personal details and use strong passwords. When Playing with new friends, check with your parent/carer. 
- 5** Microtransactions and Loot boxes. Ask your parent/carer before you buy. 
- 6** Know your console/device. Make sure you know how to report any worries.

If you're worried: Speak to your parent/carer or teacher, you can also go to: www.childline.org.uk
Info for Parents and Carers: www.parents.ygam.org
Information for families: www.taminggaming.com

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

YGAM For Parents **YGAM**

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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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February 2021						
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March 2021						
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April 2021						
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May 2021						
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June 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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January 2022						
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February 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.