

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



December 2021



Dates for your diary:

W/C 29th November 2021—Book Fayre

Carols and Cocoa 2021— Please refer to your emails for your child's class allocated date and time.

Friday 10th December 2021 – Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 15th December 2021 – Christmas Celebration Day

Thursday 16th December 2021— School closes for Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 4th January 2022—INSET DAY

Wednesday 5th January 2022—Pupils return to School

Remembrance Day



We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated and bought poppies and merchandise in aid of Remembrance Day.

In total, we raised an amazing £332.62 which will be donated to The Royal British Legion.

We hope you enjoyed our Remembrance presentations created by the children, shared on our Facebook Page—Thank you to everyone who liked the posts.

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CHRISTMAS EVENTS

PTFA Raffle

Our PTFA are holding a raffle once again this year. Tickets will be on sale from Thursday 25th November and can be purchased through School Money. Tickets are £1 each so please overwrite the amount on School Money to reflect the amount of tickets you require (e.g. 3 tickets would be £3.00). Your tickets will then be sent home w/c 6th December, with children in an envelope before the draw. The draw will then take place on the 8th December. The lucky winners will be contacted with information on how to collect their prize.

Carols and Cocoa

We would still like to invite parents and carers to school to be involved in our Christmas celebrations but we will have to do this in as safe a way as possible, I'm sure you all appreciate that we do not want to increase the risk of spreading Covid so near to Christmas with the risk of families potentially having to isolate over the festive period. We would therefore like to invite 2 adults per child to attend an outdoor 'Carols and Cocoa' event where we can celebrate together in our classes, please refer to your child's letter to see their classes allocated date and time.

Friday 10th December 2021 – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Children who usually have a packed lunch are invited to have a school meal and join with the festivities within their class. The cost of the meal will be £2.10. If your child wishes to stay for lunch, please complete the Christmas Lunch Booking Form previously sent to you via email by Friday 3rd December, so we can ensure our kitchen staff are aware of numbers well in advance. This should then be paid online by Thursday 9th December via School Money.

Parents of nursery school children: Nursery children who don't usually stay for lunch are welcome to stay for a Christmas lunch and the afternoon session for the charge of a meal at £2.00 and the lunchtime care charge of £3.00. There will be no additional charge to stay for the afternoon.

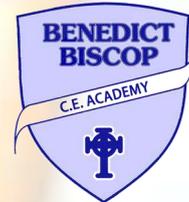
Wednesday 15th December 2021 – Christmas Celebration Day

Instead of our usual Christmas Discos we are asking children to come to school in party/festive clothes (please don't feel the need to buy something new) and within classes, children will take part in various celebration activities including a Christmas Movie afternoon accompanied by hot chocolate and sweet treats.

Instead of the usual £1 donation we are asking for you to donate a tin of food to the food bank to support the local community. There will be "drop off" stations in each classroom - please donate if you are able to do so.

Santa may also pay us a visit at some point during the last week – if, of course, he isn't too busy with his Christmas Eve plans!

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The Bowes Museum

This term, Year 3 visited the Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle to have a full day learning more about the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. The day was packed with incredible activities such as making clay beakers, exploring historic artefacts and sketching what the artefacts looked like.



The children used a range of tools to mould and create their clay beakers. This helped the children to understand how pre-historic people made beakers and explored how the beakers were used to store food.

They explored and held artefacts from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. The children were incredibly knowledgeable of what the artefacts were and how they were used, which really impressed the experts at the Bowes Museum. As well as exploring the artefacts, the children then used their drawing skills to create detailed observational drawings of the artefacts. The children demonstrated a range of drawing skills using different tones and shades.

We had such an amazing day at a fantastic place. It was lovely to see how thankful our children were to have the opportunity to visit such an interesting place. The staff at the Bowes Museum were blown away by Year 3 and they were great ambassadors for our school.



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Attendance

A good education is every child's right and provides the best possible start in life. Good attendance and punctuality are crucial if children are to keep up with their work. Good habits are formed in primary school, and work opportunities later in life will be difficult if children have not attended school regularly and on time. The minimum expected level of attendance set by the Government is 95%. Our research has shown that when attendance is below 95%, pupil achievement/attainment is negatively affected, which is why our attendance is reviewed daily to ensure children are in school.

Before booking a holiday please consider the effect that this might have on your child's education following so much interruption already to their learning. Any requests for leave should be made in writing/email, giving plenty of notice for the Headteacher to review and if necessary arrange an appointment to discuss your request.

We have also included information provided by Public Health as to when your child should remain off school due to illness.

Do I need to keep my child off school?



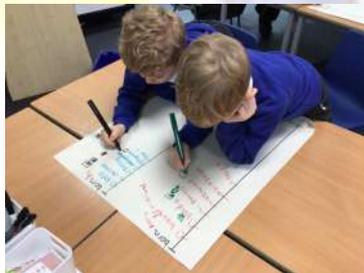
Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		

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Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic time this last month! We have been learning about toys from the past, including Victorian toys and toys that our grandparents played with! We even played with some of Mrs Springett's old toys. We used a timeline to show the



order of the toys we learned about, and then we created a timeline of our own lives.

Trojan Horses

In DT, the year 4 children are designing and creating their own Trojan Horses.

As a class, we have made one giant

Trojan Horse.

The children had to research different moving toys before designing and sketching their own. Once we decided on



a design, the children have been able to create their horse.

Children In Need

Thank you for all of your donations for Children In Need.

Together we raised an AMAZING
£278.25



Polite Request

Please can parents / family members entering the school wear a face mask maintain a social distance with visitors where possible.

**Wash hands.
Cover face.
Make space.**

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Walkwise

Over the past 4 weeks Year 2 have been taking part in Walkwise and learning about the Green Cross Code. We have learnt all about the different road signs, different crossings and how to keep ourselves safe. They have learnt to STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK before crossing a zebra crossing and have practiced outside with their groups.

The children were fantastic! Even though we were only in the school car park we were still lucky enough to come up against some traffic. One group of children were faced with a van coming towards the crossing but they knew to use their Green Cross Code and got across safely.



It has been a fantastic programme and all of the children have learnt so much.

Help us to keep everyone safe!

Please can we ask all parents, grandparents and carers to be considerate to our neighbours 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 roads are accessible.

We would also ask that once children have been dropped off at school, that families move parked cars as soon as possible to help avoid traffic congestion in our neighbouring streets.

Remember that families are now able to drive into the school car park and use the drop of layby. We do ask however that children are of an appropriate age to walk around unsupervised to their entrance door and that families respect the 5mph speed limit.

Can we also remind parents to check that roads are clear before crossing, as cars are now driving in and out of the car park.

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Nursery Spaces

Please note that you can register interest for your child to attend our Nursery when they are 3, anytime from birth. Please contact the School Office who will provide you with a Nursery Initial Interest Form.



Is your child eligible for funding?

Are you eligible for free school meals [different to the meals provided throughout Reception and Key Stage 1]?

Did you know that if you are, the school attracts pupil premium funding which is used to support them to access additional music tuition sessions and to provide access to some after school clubs and residential visits free of charge.

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

Please register using the link below to find out if your child is entitled to receive extra funding in school to support their education. Applying online is easy, but feel free to contact the school office for more information:

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

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Year 5

Year 5 have started investigating textile products and their uses. We have been learning about the Bayeux Tapestry and its significance as a source of historical evidence; it depicts the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England in 1066. The class conducted their own research on the Bayeux Tapestry and produced some fantastic work to present



their findings. The children will be using their knowledge of textile products in the upcoming weeks to design their own Viking pouch.

WW2 Air Raid

Year 6 had a fantastic day experiencing what it would have been like in a WW2 air raid. They also had a workshop with a gentleman who was their age



when the war began and he shared his experiences. After this, we carried out



geography fieldwork along the River Tyne mapping out the land use ready to bring back to the classroom.



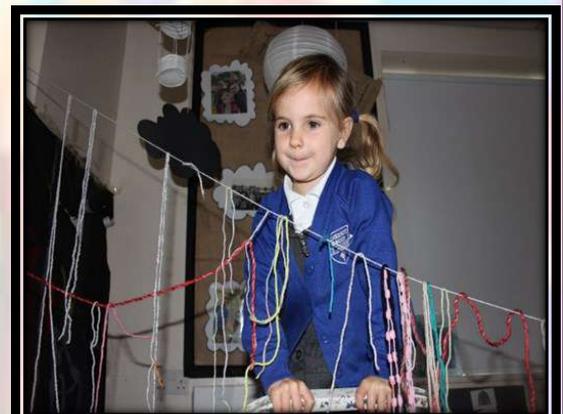
Fireworks

Bonfire Night provided lots of creative opportunities for the children in EYFS this month. This topic led to the exploration of light and shade, colour, shape and sound – sometimes all at once!

In the studio, the children enjoyed representing fireworks using a variety of materials and mediums. We watched some famous firework displays from around the world, which instigated conversations about famous landmarks and structures.

Some of the children created 'woolly fireworks'. The children climbed a step ladder to wrap wool around a set of lights pinned across our Studio space.

Black paper was laid out on the floor and wall space for the children to create large-scale pastel fireworks.



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Outdoor Clothing

As the wet weather approaches, please can parents ensure children have old / waterproof clothes and wellies to change into for break and lunch times, as children have outdoor playtimes whatever the weather.



OPAL

Children and staff have been working hard to create and enhance the areas available for the children to access over lunchtimes. These areas give the children the opportunity to explore and try new things.

To continue to develop these further we would be grateful of any of the following items:

**Old bikes/scooters,
Prams/dolls,
Gardening tools,
Dressing up clothes**

Kitchen equipment e.g pots, pans, baking trays



We would also love to extend our 'wheel' area and introduce our Wheel Project. In order to do this we would be grateful for any donations of wheeled items including **old bikes, scooters, trolleys, suitcases, skateboards, wheelbarrows and old wheels or tyres.**

Please give all donations to Mrs Brown via the KS1 entrance door (opposite middle gate).



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PTFA ANNOUNCEMENT

Do you work for one of these companies? Know of anyone who does? Does your employer offer a match funding scheme?

Please get in touch with us!

The PTFA are hoping to kick

start their fund raising efforts once again. Match funding is a way of doubling the amount raised.



Herrington Country Park

Year 1 and 2 went on their first trip of the year to Herrington Park and Penshaw Monument, to explore the area and develop our geography fieldwork skills.

When we arrived, we began our treasure hunt around Herrington Park, identifying all of the starred locations on our map. When we got to the

'Viewpoint' we found out a little bit of information about Herrington Park and its history. It was once a colliery and when it closed down only coal left the site and other materials such as red ash, sandstone and clay were used to develop the new park. After lunch we made the journey up to the top of Penshaw Monument. Once up there, we looked all around and picked out some key human and physical features. We also got the chance to use a compass and find which way was North. It was a fantastic day, the children brought so much back to the classroom and we are already excited for our next adventure!



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Term Dates 2021-2022

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy 2021 - 2022



September 2021						
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October 2021						
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31						

November 2021						
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December 2021						
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January 2022						
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February 2022						
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March 2022						
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April 2022						
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May 2022						
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June 2022						
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July 2022						
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31						

August 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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

The Inset days may be subject to change.