

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



December 2022



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

With the cost of living crisis, this Christmas will be even harder than normal for so many families— sadly, this includes families in our own community. We would like to make sure that nobody in our community

wakes up without any toys to open on Christmas Day, or without a lovely dinner to look forward to.

We would love you to help us by donating new, unwrapped toys to our toy drive or some every day essentials like pasta, beans, soup or even some lovely yummy treats like chocolates and selection boxes for our food drive. Everything we collect will be distributed to our local community to make sure we ALL have the best Christmas possible. If any families need support with gifts or food, please contact us to speak to Miss Worth confidentially.

The hall doors will be open every morning from 21st November - 2nd December between 8.40-8.55am for any donations. There will also be drop off boxes in the school office and EYFS main entrance.

THANK YOU for helping us help others this Christmas.

Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

We are really proud that our Early Years has been recognised as one of the two Stronger Practice Hubs in the North East—there will be 18 hubs in total across England.

We are looking forward to working with our partners to provide advice, share good practice, and offer evidence-based professional development for early years practitioners.

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Parent Governor Election

We are excited to announce that we have a vacancy within our Local Governing Body for a Parent Governor. The role of a Governor is voluntary - Governors give their time for the benefit of our children. It is a rewarding role, keeping children at the forefront of every decision.



Local Governing Body members play a vital role in securing the success of the school and act as a key link between the school and the Board of Directors of the Trust. They play a vital part in transforming the lives of the wonderful young people within our academy. We are looking for a Parent Governor to help ensure compliance and school self evaluation, as well as show qualities of strategic leadership.

Meetings of the Local Governing body take place at least once a term and sometimes once every half term. Meetings are usually held in the evenings or at other times as agreed locally by all members. Governors are expected to come to meetings prepared; having read and familiarised themselves with the agenda and accompanying papers, accessed only via a secure website, as well as being prepared to ask relevant questions. Governors are expected to uphold upmost confidentiality at all times.

Please contact the School Office to apply or if you would like to nominate a parent. Should there be numerous candidates, we may have to hold a Parent Governor Election.



Year 6 Athletics Tournament

Well done to the year 6 pupils, who represented Benedict Biscop at the Sunderland School's Indoor Athletics Tournament.

Our team did absolutely amazing and won lots of individual events!



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Karate Competition

Well done to all of the pupils who represented Benedict Biscop in the Kauso Karate inter-club competition.

Our squad performed brilliantly and we came away with a final medal tally of 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 7 Bronze.

Isaac from Year 2 was also awarded the trophy for most outstanding fighting performance.



Pizza Making

In Early Years, the children have enjoyed using the oven to bake pizzas! The idea stemmed from creating different foods with playdough and the children were amazed to discover we could create real life pizzas!

We talked about the importance of washing our hands before touching food. They were supported to search for a suitable recipe using an iPad before collecting the correct ingredients and utensils.



The children listened well and followed instructions and both the children and staff enjoyed tasting their creations.



Active Sunderland Gold award

Benedict Biscop has been awarded a Great Active Sunderland School Gold Award for the fifth year running. This award celebrates our continuous commitment to PE across school and the wider community.

ATTENDANCE



BLUE	98-100%	You have missed 0 – 4 days of learning	Excellent. Keep it up!
GREEN	96 - 97%	You have missed 5 - 7 days of learning	Having good attendance will help your child progress in all areas of school life and fulfil their potential and ability.
YELLOW	91-95%	You have missed 9 – 17 days of learning	Weak attendance – learning will be impacted We will work in partnership to support the improvement needed. How can we help?
AMBER	Below 90%	You have missed 19+ days of learning	Persistent Absence You must improve We will work directly with you to improve attendance alongside our attendance procedures
RED	Below 80%	You have missed 38+ days of learning	Severe Persistent Absence Absence is a serious, significant concern and is disrupting your child's learning and long-term education outcomes. Direct work will take place with you to improve attendance.

Number of days/weeks are based on the percentage across the year.

Your child's attendance at school is very important and where children's attendance falls below 95% over the course of the school year, research has shown that

this amount of absence will have a negative effect on your child's academic achievement and they may not be able to achieve their full potential.

We actively discourage holiday absence during term time as we know that absence can also be effected by illness and unfortunately the school are not able to authorise leave of absences unless for exceptional circumstances.

We would like to thank families who have already started to engage in our new attendance procedures including using our new online forms, however we would like to remind parents that we ask that they share with us any plans to take their child out of school at least two weeks in advance where possible. We would also ask that parents are open and honest with school regarding the purpose of absences.

We aim to keep you updated with your child's current attendance on a half termly basis using our new attendance letters. If you have any queries regarding the accuracy of recorded absences then please notify the main school office immediately.

Our full attendance policy can be found on our school website under the key info tab and 'Policies'.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 th	6 th Pantomime Years 1-6 (PM) Gala Theatre Durham. Children will be late returning to school	7 th	8 th Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch – Whole School	9 th Y5 Shared Worship Nativity tickets will be sent home
12 th St Matthew's Service (6pm) Years 3-6	13 th EYFS Nativity Performance 1- Reception Families Year 1 & 2 Nativity Performance Year 2 Families **PERFORMANCES WILL NOT BE RECORDED**	14 th EYFS Nativity Performance 2 – Nursery Families Year 1 & 2 Nativity Performance – Year 1 Families Venerable Bede Christmas Performance (Y6 & Choir Club performing)	15 th Eucharist (led by year 6) All welcome Carols & Cocoa 5pm All welcome	16 th
19 th Christmas Parties EYFS (AM) Years 1-6 (PM)	20 th Break up for Christmas Merry Christmas			

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Our PTFA are holding a raffle once again this year. Tickets have been sent home to all families to purchase if they wish—the money and any unbought tickets should be

returned to school to be sold on. The draw will then take place during our Carols and Cocoa event.

If anyone is able to donate any prizes to the raffle, it would be most appreciated and can be dropped off to the office.

Thanks to the amazing fundraising from the PTFA throughout the year, years 1-6 are visiting Gala Theatre Durham to watch a performance of 'Sleeping Beauty.' The PTFA are also providing all children with a pick and mix to enjoy during the performance. The visit will take place on Tuesday 6th December. We will be leaving school at approximately 12.30pm and hope to return at 4.30pm.

Upon return, children will be taken back into school and the dismissed from their usual gate. This is to ensure the safety of all children.

We politely ask that you avoid parking on Marcross Drive, as the coaches will be using this as a drop off point. Parents are reminded that children cannot walk home alone in the dark and therefore will need to be collected from school at their normal gate. We also request that book bags and reading books are not brought into school on this day.



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Albert the Tortoise

Year 1 have had a wonderful time in their English lessons, learning all about Albert the tortoise!

They were even lucky enough to spend the morning with the author of the Albert series, Ian Brown. He taught them

lots about writing and stories, as well as lots of amazing facts about tortoises!

They have created their own version of Albert Upside Down and loved creating their own characters, using exciting adjectives to describe them.



Anglo-Saxon Flags

Year 5 have loved creating their own Anglo-Saxon flags - thinking about colours, patterns and animals and what they represent.

They have developed their skills working with acrylic paint, to layer colours and create realistic effects. The outcome is fantastic!



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day Thursday 8th December 2022

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 £2.20. If your child wishes to stay for lunch, please use the following link and complete the [Christmas Lunch Booking Form](#) by Friday 2nd December, so we can ensure our kitchen staff are aware of numbers well in advance. This should then be paid online by Thursday 8th 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 £2.10 and the lunchtime care charge of £3.00. There will be no additional charge to stay for the afternoon. Please book this online via School Money 'Educare' for 8th December and select the £3 option as well as topping up £2.10 for their lunch. They would then need to be collected at 3.30pm from the EYFS door. Please book by Friday 2nd December so we can confirm numbers to the kitchen.

****Parents of children who already stay for a school lunch do not need to do anything****



To make things extra festive, children will be able to wear their Christmas Jumpers to school this day—all other usual uniform should be worn.

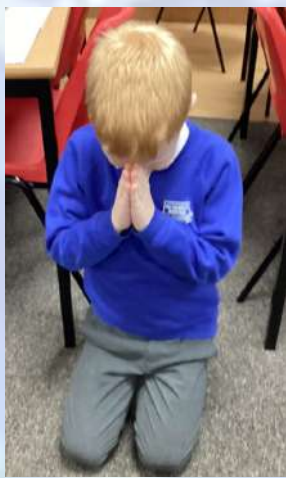
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Year 4



In year 4 as part of our RE curriculum, children have been extremely creative when retelling the story of Noah's Ark.



They have spent time exploring different nouns, adjectives, synonyms, verbs and prepositions to build and expand descriptive sentences. Children then worked in groups to produce freeze frames, retelling each section of Noah's Ark.

After this, children used their descriptive sentences and freeze frames to write up the retell of the story.

RSPB Saltholme



Year 2 had a fantastic day at RSPB Saltholme. Our morning consisted of going on a sensory walk thinking about signs of Autumn. The children had to use their sight to find different signs such as cobwebs, red leaves and berries.

Following this, the children then had to use their sense of smell to find out what was in different jars without peeking!



During the afternoon we used different equipment and techniques to collect mini beasts and check them against a chart. We found lots of different minibeasts including caterpillars, spiders and insects.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



St Matthew's Service Years 3 -6

We are delighted to announce that we are able to hold our annual St Matthews Carol Service as part of our Christmas celebrations this year. Children in **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6** will be taking part in the service at **St. Matthew's Church, Silksworth on Monday 12th December.**

This begins at 6pm and the service is likely to last around 30 minutes—everyone is welcome to attend the service.

Eucharist

We invite you to join us in a Service of Holy Communion on **Thursday 15th December at 10am** in the school hall.

Reverend Dave and Year 6 children will lead the Worship and will be joined by the rest of the Key Stage 2 children. Everyone is welcome and those in attendance will be invited to receive Holy Communion or a blessing—if they choose to.

Carols and Cocoa (including PTFA Christmas Stalls)

Join us for Carols and Cocoa in the school hall, **Thursday 15th December at 5pm.**



Refreshments will be sold, the hall doors will be open and the fire pit will (hopefully) be lit.

The PFTA will have a number of stalls and games as part of their fundraising efforts selling cakes, crafts and other festive goodies—the Christmas raffle will also be drawn.

There will be carols too – so bring your best singing voice!

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Year 3

In Year 3 we have visited Hardwick Park to have a Stone Age experience day. The children learned what it was like to live during the Stone Age and explore how life in the past was different.



We started our day off by creating our own maps by using natural resources that we found in the park. Then, we did some orienteering and had to find a range of historical artefacts hidden around the park. Once we had found all the artefacts, we explored how Stone Age people created cave paintings by using charcoal.

The afternoon session consisted of the children making their own shelters and using tools just like in the Stone Age.

World War 2

As part of the Year 6 theme on WW2, they have been looking at artwork based on the Blitz and investigating the impact it had on the nation. The children used acrylic paints to practise techniques and skills that would allow them to create their own pieces showing the impact of the Blitz on Sunderland and London.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Nativity Performances EYFS and Year 1 & 2

Children have been working very hard on their Christmas Nativity performances and we are looking forward to welcoming parents into school to watch these. Performances will take place as follows:



Year 1 & 2: Year 2 Parents: Tuesday 13th December - doors open 1pm for 1:30pm start

Year 1 & 2: Year 1 Parents: Wednesday 14th December - doors open 1pm for 1:30pm start

EYFS: Reception: Tuesday 13th December - doors open 9am for 9:30am start

EYFS: Nursery: Wednesday 14th December - doors open 9am for 9:30am start

Each child will be allocated 2 tickets, these will be sent home in your child's book bag on Friday 9th December— please ensure that you bring these with you on the day of the performance. Unfortunately, we will not be able to admit anyone without a ticket ****PERFORMANCES WILL NOT BE RECORDED****

Christmas Parties— Monday 19th December

Nursery and Reception parties will be in the morning session which will allow all nursery children to attend.



KS1 and KS2 parties will take place during the afternoon.

Children may come into school in their party clothes or can bring party clothes to school to change into before the party begins.

A contribution of £2.00 is welcomed via SchoolMoney.

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Digital Leaders Club

This term the digital leaders have been preparing for Anti-Bullying Week, creating their own digital leader profile ready to display within school and continuing our Childnet Digital Leaders Programme.

The digital leaders had an exciting opportunity to teach across school during Anti-Bullying Week about what online bullying looks like, how to report it, how to behave appropriately online and how to stay safe online. The children worked in pairs to create their own presentation and resources for their lesson. Staff were very impressed with how confident the digital leaders were and how well they engaged with children across school.



Anti-Bullying Week

In school, we had a break out week for Anti-Bullying week where the children learned about bullying and what they can do to stop bullying.

This year's theme was "Reach Out" and in school we had a focus on how we could "reach out" to help others.

We focused on noticing, supporting, checking in and reporting bullying.

On the Monday we took part in "Odds socks day" to celebrate that we are all different—children produced some brilliant work during the week!



LUNCH MENU GUIDE

Menu is subject to change based on food availability



FAB4
A FORCE FOR FOOD!

WEEK ONE

PRIMARY MENU WEEK 1	GREEN EARTH MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dish 1	Macaroni Cheese	Chicken Chow Mein with Noodles	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes, & Gravy	Chicken Burger in a Bun with Baked Potato Wedges	Fish Fingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
Dish 2	Veggie Curry with Rice	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Jacket Wedges	Quorn Roast with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Veggie Chilli with Rice	Cheese Pastry Roll with Chips & Tomato Sauce
Dish 3		Halal Chicken Chow Mein with Noodles	Spicy Halal Chicken Breast with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Halal Chicken Burger in a Bun with Baked Potato Wedges	
Jacket Potato and Filling	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans, or Tuna Mayo
Sandwiches	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich
Vegetables	Green Beans Sweetcorn	Broccoli Fresh Carrots	Cauliflower Seasonal Greens	Sweetcorn Carrots & Mixed Salad	Baked Beans Garden Peas
Dessert	Vanilla Crunch	Ginger Sponge & Chocolate Sauce or Custard	Ice Cream & Banana	Shortbread Finger & Fruit Wedges	Chocolate Crunch

FAB4
A FORCE FOR FOOD!

WEEK TWO

PRIMARY MENU WEEK 2	GREEN EARTH MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dish 1	Tomato & Basil Pasta	Turkey Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken with Stuffing Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken & Sweetcorn Meatballs with Arrabbiata Sauce & Mixed Rice	Fish & Chips with Tomato Sauce
Dish 2	Veggie Hot Dog with Onions and Baked Potato Wedges	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Half Jacket Potato	Roast Veggie Balls with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Veggie Burger with Potato Wedges	Vegetable Nuggets & Chips with Tomato Sauce
Dish 3		Halal Lamb Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Spicy Halal Chicken Breast with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Halal Chicken & Sweetcorn Meatballs with Arrabbiata Sauce & Mixed Rice	
Jacket Potato and Filling	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo
Sandwiches	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich
Vegetables	Sweetcorn Garden Peas	Green Beans Cauliflower	Carrots Savoy Cabbage	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Baked Beans Garden Peas
Dessert	Oaty Crunchy Biscuit	Fresh Fruit Salad	Jelly & Mandarins	Jam Sponge & Custard	Chocolate Brownie

FAB4
A FORCE FOR FOOD!

WEEK THREE

PRIMARY MENU WEEK 3	GREEN EARTH MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dish 1	Veggie Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce & Rice	Chicken Pie with Mashed Potato	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy	Sausage & Mash with Gravy	Fish Fingers & Chips with Tomato Sauce
Dish 2	Cheesy Bean Pitta Pocket with Baby Baked Potatoes	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Baked Potato Wedges	Quorn Roast with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy	Veggie Mince Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Cheese Flan & Chips with Tomato Sauce
Dish 3		Halal Chicken & Sweetcorn Pie with Mashed Potato	Spicy Halal Chicken Breast with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy	Halal Lamb Kofte with Mash or Mixed Rice	
Jacket Potato and Filling	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo
Sandwiches	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna Mayo, or Ham Sandwich
Vegetables	Mixed Vegetables Garden Salad	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Winter Greens Cauliflower	Green Beans, Carrots & Baked Beans	Baked Beans Garden Peas
Dessert	Hob Nob Cookie with Apple Smiles	Jelly & Mandarins	Flapjack Finger & Custard	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Frozen Toffee Yoghurt

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[Home](#) > [Parents](#) > [Useful Forms](#)

Useful Forms



Please find below some useful links to forms which you can complete to notify the school office of any changes etc.

- **Change of Details** – Please click on this link to notify the school office of any changes e.g. Address, telephone number, change of circumstances etc.
- **Change of Lunch Preference Form** – Please use this form to advise us if your child would like to change to school dinners or to packed lunches (please read our school policy on packed lunches)
- **Photographic Permission Form** – Please complete this form if you would like to update the permissions that we hold.
- **Gate Preference (for collection of pupils)** – Please use this form to notify us if you would like to change where you collect your child from after school.
- **Breakfast Club & After School Club Contract** – You will need to complete this form if you are wanting to use our Breakfast/After School Club facilities.
- **Initial Interest in Nursery** – If you would like your child to be included in our Nursery Admission process please complete this form so that we can send you an application form nearer the time.
- **Exceptional Circumstances Leave of Absence from School Application form** – Please use this form to advise Benedict Biscop CE Academy of an exceptional leave of absence request for a pupil.
- **Appointment Notification Form** – Please use this form to advise Benedict Biscop CE Academy of any appointments that your child may have which requires them to be out of school. (Please note that wherever possible appointments should be made out of school hours).

USEFUL FORMS

Did you know, we now have some of our most requested forms now available in digital format via our school website.

These can be located under the 'Parents' tab, selecting 'useful forms'.

Once you have submitted the required form, the school office will

be notified via email and will update your records accordingly.



SCHOOL TRIPS

We aim to send children on as many trips as possible throughout the year to enhance their learning experience.

We ask for contributions for each trip which helps towards the cost of the transport and entry into the venue and/or any cost for participating in workshops.

We do rely on contributions for the trips to be able to go ahead and thank you for your support with this.

**Our Term dates can be found selecting the following [link](#)
Please note we have updated this to include the extra bank holiday
for the King's Coronation**