

BENCHILL PRIMARY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been a busy half term with lots going on in school and trips out. The children, as always, are an absolute credit to you - it is lovely when teachers from other schools comment on how impressed they are with them. We hope you enjoy reading (and seeing) some of the things that have happened in the last six weeks, and putting dates in your diary for things that are coming up next half-term!

THIS HALF TERM

As always, children and staff have been busy since the return to school after Christmas. Children in Y5, Y6, Y2 and Reception have enjoyed taking part in and watching class assemblies on lots of subjects including British Values, Democracy, Mutual Respect, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Children's Mental Health Week and Chinese New Year. We really hope parents who have come to watch these assemblies found them interesting.

The school has also welcomed lots of visitors this half term. Year 4 took part in a Roman workshop, Year 6 in a World War 2 workshop and Reception, Y2, Y4 and Y6 experienced a Chinese New Year workshop. Last week, Key Stage 1 marked Safer Internet Week with a workshop in school too.



Reception children really enjoyed a visit from the fire brigade in their fire engine. They loved seeing how the fire engine worked.



Year 3 children had the amazing experience of taking part in Young Voices at the AO arena in Manchester.



Thankyou to everyone who contributed to celebrating Dress to Express Day last week, in aid of Children's Mental Health Week and Place2Be. Children and staff looked amazing!

DO NOT FORGET: School closes for half term on Friday 16th February and reopens again at 8:40am on Monday 26th February.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parent Workshops - Wednesdays throughout the next half term and into the Summer term. These sessions will run in both the morning and the afternoon and are designed to help parents support their children at home. More details will follow on specific year group workshop dates and times.

World Book Day - 7th March 2024. Children can come to school in their pyjamas and bring their favourite story with them.

Year 4 Camping at School - Friday 8th March.

Comic Relief - 15th March. More details to follow on this.

Easter Egg Decorating Competition - Thursday 28th March. More details to follow on this.

Year 5 Residential - 15th - 17th April.

REMINDERS

Please ensure the contact details we have for you are up to date. If your phone number or email changes, please let the school office know ASAP.

The school has accumulated a lot of lost property in recent weeks. Please ensure that your child's name is in their uniform/coats/bags so that if it is mislaid, it can be returned.

The use of mobile phones on school property is strictly prohibited.

Dates for your diary as well as term dates for this year and next are all on the school website www.benchill.manchester.sch.uk.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance has certainly been a challenge this half term. The last couple of months have seen more illness and this has had a huge impact on our attendance. We do not want children to attend while they are poorly, but as soon as your child

starts to improve, please do send them back into school. We will phone parents to collect children if we think they are still too unwell to be in. Children can still attend school while taking antibiotics. Please feel free to contact our Inclusion Lead, Miss Icely, if you need any advice on this. Her email is attendance@benchill.manchester.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It has been a fabulous year so far, and I have been so pleased to see so many of you back in school (and other places) enjoying watching your children perform. It is so lovely to see the children's eyes light up when they spot someone they know coming in! The assemblies and the Young Voices trip have all been amazing - big shout out to all the children involved and all the adults who make it happen (that includes you - I know you will have practised lines and listened to songs in the run up to the performances).

We are all looking forward to the start of another busy half term, hopefully the days getting lighter and continuing to work together with you to make sure your children enjoy school and make good progress. Please check the website calendar for details of events next half term (and more).

As always, please listen to your children read and practice number bonds and times tables with them during the break - it really helps if they do 15 minutes on this every day. There are some great suggestions for how to support your child on the school website. Encourage good social skills and help them to make good choices and to be kind. This will help your child have greater success when they come back after half term.

Finally, I hope you all have a restful and safe half term holiday, and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 26th February at 8.40am.



Mrs Eken
Headteacher