

Benhurst Primary School

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Head teacher: Mr D. Denchfield BA (Hons) NPQH

Tuesday 20th October 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

As we draw towards the end of our first half term, I would like to thank you for your co-operation and support since our return in September. It is a shame that trips, visits, clubs, sports events, assemblies and many other traditional events that we offer have not been possible so far this term. The children have adjusted incredibly well to this and something we are very proud of. Moving forward, we are starting to consider how we may be able to offer some of these activities, albeit still working within our guidelines of year group bubbles.

Below are some important updates that you should be aware of; I have highlighted changes in yellow for ease.

School day & class sizes

- Staggered start time for all children from 8:45 to 9:00 (9:00 is registration).
- Split end time. YR, Y1, Y2 is 3:15 and Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 is 3:30.
- Bubble classes are normal class sizes of 30 children.
- Children can mix with children from the other year group bubble.
- We have restricted the opportunity for children in different year groups to mix. This will not always be possible (e.g. siblings, ABACUS) but our plans significantly reduce contact outside of your child's year group during the school day.

Entrance/Exit for the start/end of the school day

- Benhurst Avenue and Warren Drive entrances can be used at the start and end of the day. Please ensure you leave the school premises immediately after dropping off/collecting your child/children and observe social distancing protocols wherever possible. There should not be any congregations of parents and children on school premises.
- To further reduce congestion at the end of the day, YR parents should now wait in the YR outside area. Y1 parents should continue to wait outside the black gates.

Office access to parents/visitors

- Only 1 visitor is permitted into the office at a time. Masks must be worn by parents and visitors when in the school building.
- Parents should only visit the office when absolutely necessary.
- We have a contact tracing QR code in the school office entrance.

Cleaning

- Toilets are cleaned at the start or end of the day and regularly throughout the day.
- Classrooms are cleaned every day.



Classroom

- Desks face forward where possible. Children are able to share a desk.
- Books/resources may be used but not shared outside the year group unless cleaned.
- SMART boards may be used. Screens are regularly cleaned during the school day.
- Lockers/pegs and class trays may be used.
- We have hand sanitisers in every classroom and admin/SLT rooms.
- Children only use their own individual water bottle.
- Children will sanitise/wash their hands regularly (e.g. upon entry, before/after break).

Other information

- Face coverings or face masks in the playground are not required to be worn by adults but you are very welcome to do so.
- School attendance is mandatory. School uniform and PE kits are required as usual.
- ABACUS are operating a breakfast and after school provision.
- Year groups are separated for break and lunchtime.
- School lunches are available. <https://benhurst.havering.sch.uk/school-dinners/>
- No sports clubs, lunchtime clubs, sports or FOB events until further notice.
- Some areas of the school remain out of use until further notice (e.g. KS2 gym).
- Corridors have been taped in the middle to guide children to walk on the left hand side.
- Visitors to the school will be limited until further notice.
- Google classroom home learning will be provided for children not at school because of COVID-19 (i.e. awaiting the results of a test, requiring to isolate). We do understand that children who are unwell may not be able to complete their learning. This is not in place for any other school absence (e.g. non-COVID related illness, unauthorised holiday).
- Christmas arrangements will be modified this year. Some events will not take place (e.g. live performances with an audience) whilst other events should be able to take place (e.g. class parties, Christmas jumper day). Mrs Hart will write to you nearer the time with further information.
- Please ensure your child uses Google Classroom; this is where all homework is posted and will be used for learning during a school closure. <https://classroom.google.com/h> . Please email Mrs McCarthy if you have any difficulties sdmccarthy@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
- We have a dedicated COVID-19 page on the website with links to key information that you may find helpful - <https://benhurst.havering.sch.uk/covid-guidance/>

NHS Non-uniform day - Friday 23rd October 2020

Don't forget that on Friday, we will be celebrating the fantastic work of the NHS and also taking the opportunity to learn more about the service they provide.

For this day, we would like the children to come to school in superhero costumes or bright colours. We politely request that a contribution of £1 (or greater should you wish) is given; all monies raised will be used to buy gifts of thanks to staff in a ward at Queens Hospital (this is being arranged through one of our parents who works at Queens Hospital).

Thank you for your support with this worthwhile cause.



Key Dates

These are also on the school calendar - <https://benhurst.havering.sch.uk/calendar/calendar>

Friday 23 rd October	-	NHS Day (see above)
Friday 23 rd October	-	Final day of half term (My last day!)
Monday 2 nd November	-	Return from half term (8:45 start)
Friday 18 th December	-	Final day of term (3:30 finish as usual)

As this is likely to be my last letter as your Head teacher, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support since I joined the school in September 2013. It has been a privilege to serve the school community and I have immensely enjoyed working with the children, staff, parents and governors.

Over my 7 years at Benhurst, the children have achieved so many things which I am hugely proud of; improved academic excellence, genuine pupil voice, countless sports awards, several prestigious technology awards and accolades, international awards, dozens of new clubs and numerous other awards. This is all underpinned by our Core Values and Learner Behaviours which mean so much to our school community. I know the children will continue to flourish over the coming years and will leave Benhurst ready for the opportunities and challenges that secondary school will offer.

As parents, you have seen many changes over the years and I am grateful that you have always been very understanding and supportive. You, like us, want the best for your child/ren and you have encouraged us to reflect on our work and make improvements wherever possible. Your support at home is invaluable and greatly appreciated; and never more so over the last few months which I know have been incredibly challenging for many of you. You are doing a great job, but rarely get told it!

Lastly, I would like to thank the staff who work tirelessly to provide every child with the opportunity to be the best they can be. Their energy, enthusiasm, knowledge, support and care for the children and our school is exceptional. The Benhurst staff really is a family and I have many fond memories that I will take with me. Under Mrs Hart's leadership this year, I know the school will continue to go from strength to strength and I know you will give her your full support and backing as she leads Benhurst into the next stage of its journey to excellence.

Take care, stay safe and thank you for everything.



Mr D Denchfield
Head teacher