



Message from Ms Drew

The festive period is finally upon us and it was lovely to see so many parents/ carers and children joining us for the first Big Benthal Christmas lights switch on, last week. Thank you to Friends of Benthal for organising the hot chocolate and mince pies. We also had a great turnout for the Winter Fair, see overleaf for further details. I have been busy working with the Governing Board this term in order to strengthen governance and leadership for Benthal. I will share with you in more detail the new structure and organisation of the Governing Board early in the Spring Term. In between time please start thinking about if you would like to be a parent governor as we will have one vacancy coming up in the Spring Term. If you have any skills and experience in Special Educational Needs, Human Resources/Personnel, Building & Premises or Strategy Funding, let me know or contact Jo Carter the Chair of Governors at governors@benthal.hackney.sch.uk. I am also looking for community governors if you know of anyone in the community interested in becoming a school governor then again let myself or Jo Carter know. Alongside this I want to develop a Parent Council, again more details of the structure and organisation of the parent council will be shared in the new year. Finally, on Wednesday 13th Dec Christmas Lunch will be served. Children are very welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper instead of their purple jumper, still school uniform on the bottom half please!

Dates to Remember

IEP Reviews

28th Nov - 8th Dec

Last Day of Term

Thurs 21st Dec

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

Wed 13th Dec

Assemblies

KS2 Carol Concert

Tues 12th Dec

2:30 pm

EYFS Christmas Performance

Wed 13th Dec

9:20 am

KS1 Christmas Show

Fri 15th Dec

2:30 pm

School Trips

Thurs 14th Dec

Panto for Year 3,4,5
Hoxton Hall

Mon 18th Dec

Panto for EYFS
School Hall

Tues 19th Dec

Panto for Year 1 & 2
The Shaw Theatre

Tues 19th Dec

Panto for Year 6
Hackney Empire

Safeguarding

We have noticed an increase in violent aggressive play in the playground. Teachers have also noticed an increase in the level of violence being written about during Literacy lessons. Many of our children have revealed to us that they play computer and console games that are rated '18'. It is important as a parent/carer that you are clear and know what your child is doing online and seeing when playing games. We would urge you to look carefully at what your child has access to as it is having an effect on learning, social skills and friendships. We are planning a whole school approach to safeguarding our children when online and playing games. This will also include some parent workshops, please look out for these dates next term.

Curriculum

A big thank you to all those parents/carers that attended Parents Evening this week and those parents meeting with Ms Joseph. It is really vital that teachers are able to share with you your child's progress. The teachers enjoyed it and there were lots of smiley faces. Also, thank you to those parents/carers that completed the parent survey, if you didn't see the survey they are still available in the office. It is important to me that parents have the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas.

Office Notices



If you would like your child to have a Christmas Lunch please pay **£2.25** at the office on or before 13th December.



Last day for After School Clubs is

Friday 15th December.

Playcentre & Breakfast Club continue as usual until the end of term.

Please return your completed SENCO parent survey back to Jill Joseph.

Benthal Values Certificate Winners

ASH - ARBUTUS - Aarti **WILLOW** - Salih & Mohammad **BIRCH** - Eleanor **BEECH** - Ibrahim
HAZEL - Flora & Greta **HORNBEAM** - Keyaan & Lydia **SERRULA** - Vanessa & Frankie **ELDER** - Mahi & Zilan
ROWAN - Aliyah & Ammaar **JUNIPER** - Shanayah & Amari **MAGNOLIA** - Cormac & Halima

Reminder to contact the office regarding change of contact details



The Christmas Forest

A huge thank you to The Christmas Forest for donating our lovely Christmas tree. They have opened a pop-up shop at St Paul's Church on Stoke Newington High Street. They will be selling a fabulous selection of sustainable grown, freshly cut Christmas trees. For every tree sold, they donate to plant a tree in the African drylands through Tree Aid.

www.christmasforest.co.uk/stores/stoke-Newington/



Winter Fair

A huge thank you to Friends of Benthal for organising a fantastic Winter Fair. We had lots of parents/carers, pupils and teachers and even some old teachers supporting the fundraising event. At the last count £ 2,360 was raised.

So a big well done to you all.

The school will be purchasing new books to update the library.



Nursery



We have been singing lots of winter songs & seasons greetings.

Reception



Our Christmas show is next Wednesday at 9:20 am.
Hope to see you there !

Year 1



Our Christmas show is next Friday at 2:30 pm.
Hope to see you there !

Year 2



Our Christmas show is next Friday at 2:30 pm.
Hope to see you there !

Year 3



Our Carol Concert is next Tuesday at 2:30 pm.
Hope to see you there !

Year 4



Our Carol Concert is next Tuesday at 2:30 pm.
Hope to see you there !

Year 5



Our Carol Concert is next Tuesday at 2:30 pm.
Hope to see you there !

Year 6



Our Carol Concert is next Tuesday at 2:30 pm.
Hope to see you there !

Attendance

Well done Juniper class last weeks winners with 99.7% attendance

Well done Elder class this weeks winners with 97.3% attendance