

BENCHILL PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to another exciting year at Benchill Primary School. I hope you all had a good summer and are feeling rested and ready for the term ahead. I should like to take this opportunity to welcome our new families and look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks.

School Lunches and How to pay for them

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive Universal Free-School Meals and so school dinners are free. For children in Nursery, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are not entitled to free-school meals there is a charge of £2.25 per meal. We highly recommend you pay for the number of meals your child requires at the start of the week to avoid going into debt. If your child's dinner money account is in debt for £13 or more, you will be sent a letter asking you to provide a home packed lunch for your child until the debt is cleared. You may not realise that those debts which parents/carers fail to pay get charged to the school and this is money that is directly taken away from your children and resources for their learning. Thank you to those parents/carers who always pay on time – we do appreciate it. Payment can be made using Parent Pay or at the office - please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any issues or require a Parent Pay login.

Packed lunches!

Please can we aim for healthy packed lunches please as school dinners are now very healthy too! Some children's lunches are becoming unhealthy and children will be asked to not eat certain items if they have too many unhealthy options. You will see them returned in their lunch boxes. Some of our younger children are trying to eat their 'goodies' first over their sandwiches and fruit!

Attendance and Punctuality

Please can you make sure you observe the following points to ensure all our children get off to a great start with their attendance.

School attendance target for all children is 98% - this is 4 full days off school in the year.

You can report your child absent in the following ways:

E-mail: attendance@benchill.manchester.sch.uk

Via the free Studybugs apps: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Text: **07912 203 521**.

Telephone: 0161 998 3075 where a message can be left on the answer machine.

Please note all children need to be outside their classroom doors for then they open at 8:45 am.

If help or support is needed with attendance or punctuality then please do not hesitate to contact Miss Icely.

Staffing

We are very happy to welcome Mr Nelson, who will be in Year 1, and to welcome back Mrs Potts, returning from maternity leave, who will be based in UKS2. Miss Magda is now Mrs Ainsworth, and Miss Oakley is now Mrs Ross - congratulations both!

Please introduce yourself to your child's new class teacher, I know letters will be going home from each teacher over the next few days, explaining about class expectations, homework, when they have planning time and who will be covering their lessons.

Dates for your Diary:

- Harvest Festival Assembly - Class 1B - Tuesday 24th September at 9.05am
- Yom Kippur Assembly - Class 4D - Tuesday 8th October at 12.10pm
- Parents' Evening - Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 - Tuesday 15th October 3.30pm - 6.30pm
- Parents' Evening - Reception, Years 3 - 6 - Wednesday 16th October 3.30pm - 6.30pm
- Diwali Assembly - Class RR - Tuesday 22nd October at 9.05am

Finish for half term on Friday 25th October at normal time and return to school on Monday 4th November at 8.45am.

School Opening Times

SuperStars: **8.45am – 11.45am** (Morning Session) **12.15pm – 3.15pm** (Afternoon Session)
Nursery: **8.45am – 3.00pm** Reception: **8.45am – 3.10pm** KS1 (Y1 and 2): **8:45am - 3:10pm**
KS2: **8:45 am – 3:15 pm** Breakfast Club: **8:00am – 8:40pm**

Safeguarding

Please can you make sure you observe the following points to ensure all our children (and visitors) are kept safe.

Scooters and bicycles must be pushed and not ridden in the school grounds;

Climbing and playing on the school equipment is not allowed before or after school;

Dogs are not allowed on school grounds;

The school must be informed if your child is to be picked up by someone other than a parent/carer;

Children's mobile phones should not be brought into school unless permission is given by Miss Holt or Mrs Davies, they will then be kept in the school office.

Parents must not use mobile phones on the school grounds.

Uniform

The children look so smart at the start of the new school year. We are off to a great start. Many thanks for ensuring our children are wearing the correct school uniform. This is very important. Uniform: Navy blue, black or charcoal trousers/skirts/dresses or shorts in the hotter weather (Not denim, canvas, cord, chinos, tracksuit or leggings) • Plain black, grey or navy blue tights. Socks also need to be plain black, grey or white • Green school polo shirt. Blue/green gingham dress in summer • Suitable shoes – black shoes or black trainers (no heels, no open toe sandals) P.E. Kit in named P.E. bags • Dark Shorts/Tracksuits bottoms in colder weather • White T shirt • Pumps / Trainers • School jumpers can be worn in cold weather
If you are unsure of what is required, check on the school website, or you can ask at the school office.

Please write your child's name on EVERY item of clothing, shoes and bags that they bring to school, including lunch boxes.

Contact Details:

These are ours: Benchill Primary School, Benchill Road, Wythenshawe, M22 8EJ.
Tel: 0161 998 3075 email: admin@benchill.manchesters.sch.uk

Please make sure the office has your up-to-date contact details.