

Growing responsible global citizens

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End of Summer Term 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

After yet another amazing but challenging year at Benchill Primary, we have very nearly arrived at the summer holidays.

We want to thank you for all your commitment and support over this last academic year, we are very proud of all the achievements your children have accomplished and how everyone has managed bubbles closing and lockdowns.

It is also that time of year where we have to say 'goodbye' to some staff and say 'hello' to some new faces.

We have to say goodbye to: - Miss Riley (Year 2 Teacher)

Miss Ditcher (Year 3 Teacher)

Miss Joshi (Year 4 Teacher)

We know you will want to join us in wishing them well for the future!

We give a warm Benchill welcome to: - Miss White (Year 1 Teacher)

Miss Taylor (Year 3 Teacher)

Miss Evans (Year 5 Teacher)

We are delighted to be welcoming back Mrs Potts, Miss Wheeler and Mrs Fox following their maternity leave, however maternity leave means we will be losing Mrs Grange and Miss Moss in Autumn Term – as you know, we have already put teachers in place to cover their absence for the year.

School will close at between 12.40 and 1.00 pm on Wednesday 21st July 2021 and re-open between 8.40 and 9.00 on Wednesday 8th September 2021. While the government announced changes to arrangements within schools from 19th July 2021, which you will have seen in the news, we have been advised by Public Health Manchester to continue to take a cautious approach and will be making no changes until the end of the first week back in September at the earliest.

The vast majority of the children are making very good progress with their learning and have excellent standards of behaviour, punctuality and attendance. We want everyone to have a great

summer but we also don't want our children to stop making progress, to support them over the break, here are some top tips we would like to draw your attention to, in preparation for the new academic year.

Literacy

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is a love of books. The role of the home, from an early age until adulthood and beyond, is absolutely crucial. Please take every opportunity during the summer break to support your child/ren's reading, writing and vocabulary by encouraging quality reading.

7 top tips:

1. Reading and academic attainment, and progress, go hand in hand and must be actively encouraged at home as well as school.
2. Make reading part of daily life.
3. Integrate reading with interests e.g. sport, history, science or similar.
4. Create a quiet, distraction-free, reading space.
5. Consider the number, and quality, of books your child/ren has access to – all children have been issued with a library card as part of the Manchester Reading Challenge
6. Talk about the books that you have read with friends and family.
7. Visit book shops, second-hand book shops and choose books as gifts.

Social Media

The inappropriate use of social media continues to cause problems in all schools and an inordinate amount of time is wasted managing issues linked to social media and excessive use is impacting upon the well-being of many children. No child under the age of 13 should be using social media. Create social media free periods of time and days within the family.

7 Top Tips:

1. Keep phones out of sight so that they are out of mind.
2. Use apps/settings to help you limit time on social media.
3. Spend 30 minutes a day with one screen-free hobby.
4. Enjoy screen-free meal-times.
5. Avoid phones/screens in bedrooms to discourage late night use by children, which then impacts upon their sleep and well-being.
6. Swap your phone/screen for a book for the day.



Headteacher: Mrs H Eken
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7. Set an example to the children in the house with regard to phone/screen use. Issues which arise as a result of the inappropriate use of social media by our pupils/students outside of school are the responsibility of parents, who should report extremely serious concerns to the police.

Attendance/Punctuality.

The school attendance target is 96% (one week of absence equates to 3%). Holidays will not be authorised during term time unless there are very extenuating circumstances. Children are required to arrive in school between 8.40 – 9.00. Any child arriving after that time will be marked as late. We are required by law to refer Persistent absence or lateness to the Local Authority Attendance Team, who may take further action.

We do hope that our children, staff and parents manage to get some “down time” before we all start preparing for the start of a happy, and hopefully healthy, new term. Term starts on Wednesday 8th September 2021. We will be sending a reminder of the current start and end of day routines which will still apply for the first week back at least, closer to that date. We will make decisions about relaxing our systems (slowly) once we all know what the situation is in September.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Eken

Headteacher



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