



Benwick Primary School

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Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all well.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

It has been lovely to see how the children have continued to come into school, adhering to the guidelines and behaving positively and upbeat despite the obvious changes that we have put in place. I am pleased that we have been able to accommodate all the Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children who wanted a place, as well as continuing to support our Key Workers with children in other year groups; many schools have not been able to offer to all these year groups. We continue to review our risk assessments to ensure school is a safe place for everyone and at the current time we are not able to extend the provision any further. I am sad that all the usual end of year activities will not be able to take place this year, particularly for Year 6, however we are thinking positively and developing plans for what is possible for Year 6, rather than what is not. Hopefully we will be able to tell you more soon.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you feel you may be eligible to access free school meals for your child, then please follow the link <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>. Even if you have applied before, you can apply again if your circumstances have changed, particularly in light of covid-19. This is your entitlement, so if in doubt, please apply online. We will be ordering £90 of free school meal vouchers for every eligible child, to cover the 6 week holiday, and we need to have applied for these 2 weeks before the end of term, to ensure they have been received before the holiday.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The school will close to **all** pupils for the summer holidays on Tuesday 21st July, as scheduled, and re-open for pupils on Monday 7th September.

SEPTEMBER RE-OPENING TO ALL PUPILS

We do hope that we will open to all pupils once again in September. At the moment we are awaiting further guidance from the government about what this will look like and what we will need to do to prepare. It is likely that systems in school will need to be different from what was normal prior to Covid-19, we hope to be able to inform you of what these are likely to be by the end of term, however with the situation changing regularly I expect to be issuing the most up to date information in late August.

HOME LEARNING

We are continuing to plan a great deal of high quality work for our children learning at home and putting it on our website, as we have all along. However we know not everyone can or wants to do everything, as you all juggle differing schedules at home. Our message all along has been do what you can and what is right for your child and family; a little is better than none at all. As we near the end of term, we will be moving to less formal learning activities, as we would in a normal end of term scenario and we will give you more information about this soon.

REPORTS

The teachers have written annual reports for all children and these will go out at the end of next week. Schools across the country have changed the format of reports in light of the current situation and it is not statutory to report attendance or attainment this year.

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone in our school community for everything they have done during the last 3 months. These have been challenging times for all but it has shown what an incredible, strong and driven team we have at Benwick. The staff have been fantastic, adapting quickly and regularly, spinning many plates at once whilst remaining positive and being here for your children. The children who have come back to school have adapted superbly and the ones who are, unfortunately, still at home have continued to amaze us with their fantastic work and attitude to learning. We have had the support of the Governing Body who continue to support school improvement and the wellbeing of all; and you, the parents, who have had to home school your children, whilst having your own family concerns to contend with too. Thank you. From everyone at school, we wish you and your families continued good health, we will all be stronger because of this when we do eventually return to normal.

For now, have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Clare Talbot
Headteacher