



Benton Dene School Newsletter



7th May 2021

Benton Dene School
has a new phone number 0191 466 1818



Four seasons in one day.....

Today, I had a text from Ms Banks: following her retirement last weekend she and Paul have spent this week in North Yorkshire walking and cycling. Her text reads 'four seasons in one day is not good for long walks and bike rides!' It's not - but I know they took plenty of waterproofs and wellies and will have enjoyed being outdoors.

Opportunities to be outdoors and marvel at the natural world have become incredibly important over the last year as we have endured lockdowns and periods of self-isolation, so much so that next week's Mental Health Awareness campaign focuses on re-connecting with nature. Whichever 'seasons' we experience next week, we will be doing our bit in school to encourage our children to experience, share and talk about nature....and this weekend, despite the lousy forecast, I will be donning my wellies and waterproofs and enjoying some time outdoors.

Have a lovely weekend and take care.
Alison McAllister



Next week we will be celebrating **Mental Health Awareness Week in school. It is not just about children's mental health, but the mental wellbeing of everyone**

In school we will be providing the children with some exciting opportunities to get outside and connect with nature which is this year's theme. Connecting with nature is not just about the amount of time we spend outdoors: it is about building a relationship with nature by noticing what is around us. We can use our senses to do this—such as noticing shapes in the clouds, smelling flowers or by walking around and listening to the birds chirping. Research has shown that there are many benefits to improving our mental health through nature and being outside.

Here are some useful websites:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/get-involved/mental-health-awareness-week/>

<https://mentalhealth-uk.org/get-involved/mental-health-awareness-days/mental-health-awareness-week/>

Please ensure you ring the school office 0191 466 1818 if your child is going to be off school. Please leave your child's name, class and the reason that they will not be attending. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea please ensure they stay at home for 48 hours from the last episode. Thank you





Red 4 really enjoyed creating an orienteering challenge for our friends in Blue 9. We hid some special treasure in the sand pit for them to find.



Nature Activities: Visiting the pond!



If there is a lake or pond in your local park...

You could feed grain to the ducks and geese.

Mallards and Canada geese are often hungry!

Mute swans and gulls also like to be fed.

Look out for for moorhens, but they are shy.

Tufted ducks prefer to feed underwater.



Blue 9 visited the pond on Wednesday and were very surprised when they found a duck in the pond!

Meal survey

We recently emailed home a link with regard to a survey about school meals. We would be very grateful if you can complete and return to school asap. It is a very short survey and will only take a couple of minutes. Thank You.

<https://forms.gle/T8aARz5HjC1j3Mt28>

Northumberland Country zoo is a lovely place to visit and one person gets in free with a child with special needs.

2, Eshottheugh Farm, Felton, Morpeth NE65 9QH (pre booking is required)



Class News

Yellow 3: This week the children have enjoyed tasting lots of exotic fruit from the story 'Handa's Surprise'.

Yellow 4: have been learning about the seasons and have enjoyed finding signs of Spring in our environment.

Green 5: We all worked as a team to create a storyboard for our new book for this term 'Gigantosaurus'

Green 6: chose to learn about sharks and dolphins as part of information text work in English. They have been particularly interested in their habitats and their behaviours.

Green 7: have been in the role of characters from our story and answering questions.



Red 2: have been using iPads to research sea creatures We have found out lots of information to use when we write our non-fiction text next week.

Blue 5: have been learning about life cycles in Science.

Blue 6: This week blue 6 have been learning about 'coding' in ICT. We have been using the programme 'Kodu', and the children have all enjoyed it.

Blue 7: have been creating their own Ancient Greek mosaics

Blue 8: are enjoying exploring the school grounds on Friday afternoons as part of their Geocaching activities in Challenge and Development.

Blue 9: have been comparing life as a child in Tudor and Victorian times to current day. We all decided it's better to be a child today!

Stars of the week

Yellow 3: Max, **Yellow 4:** Archie, **Green 5:** Tommy,
Green 6: George, **Green 7:** Karam, **Red 2:** Jade, **Red 4:** Steven,
Blue 5: Kian, **Blue 6:** Chris, **Blue 7:** Owen, **Blue 8:** Daniel, **Blue 9:** Sonny.

Achievements of the week

Yellow 3: Euan, **Yellow 4:** Jake, **Green 5:** Olivia, **Green 6:** Sonny,
Green 7: Everley, **Red 2:** Jayden, **Red 4:** Charlie, **Blue 5:** Christian,
Blue 6: Tyler, **Blue 7:** Alana, **Blue 8:** Kai, **Blue 9:** Harrison.



P.E. at Benton Dene School

Don't forget to upload your pictures to seesaw or tapestry.



Can you walk/ run/ hop a mile on Saturday and Sunday. - Send us your pictures and let us know where you have been.

Also John Spence High School has a Sports Club on every Tuesday evening for all abilities.

For more information please contact Gail Robson:

gymclub@blueyonder.co.uk or 07984481823

Resources for our 'Forest School'

We are looking for some resources for our Forest School. Do you have any old metal pans, tins, containers of any kind you no longer need?

Also looking for small baskets and wooden containers.

Thank You



Please ensure you keep us up to date with any changes to contact details, ie—mobile numbers, emergency contact member details, email addresses, house moves.

It is important we have this information in case we need to contact you in a case of emergency.

You can do this by seesaw or contacting the office.

Holiday Dates

June Half Term Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Teacher Training Day Friday 25th June

Summer Holiday Monday 19th July to Tuesday 31st August