



BENGEO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Issue 2: 9th October 2020

Welcome Back!

We are now just completing our fifth full week back at school.

The weeks have gone well for us, your children are working hard to close gaps and have settled back into routines well. We have all been impressed with their attitudes to learning and perseverance with tasks.

Thanks to all of you who have provided tissues for your child. This has helped us considerably to manage the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach. In addition, I am sure that you can appreciate that the costs relating to Covid have increased for us as we have to find more money for items such as cleaning materials, anti-bacterial gel, soap and paper towels; so buying tissues is one less expense –thank you.



News on the Ninth!



Attendance

Congratulations to **Holly** class for the best attendance in September. The top three class's attendance in September, together with their percentages, were:

Class	%
Holly	99.8
Oak	99.1
Monkey Puzzle	98.7

Hot meals

These are going well, following some initial teething problems. Thank you for your patience with this.



Food is served up on plates and then carried to the children in their classrooms. We are having to use every available member of staff to take trays of food back and forth, so unfortunately we are unable to deviate from the set menu and change accompaniments.

The new menu for after half term has just been released. Please could you fill this in as quickly as possible and return to the office. It is huge job putting in all of the dinners for so many children, and unfortunately, there is no copy and paste facility on the system, so each child has to have their dinners put in for every single day by the office staff.



Staggered starts and ends to the day

Having monitored the situation, we are keen to extend the school day a little more, and are as confident as we can be that we can do this successfully.

From Monday 11th October we will be altering the times slightly. They are:

Start of day- all children:

For children currently arriving at 9.00am, please could you arrive by 8.55am **at the latest.**

End of day:

Nursery, reception and KS1 - children

For those that usually pick up at 3.00pm – please pick up at 3.05pm

KS2

For those that usually pick up at 3.00pm – please pick up at 3.10pm.

For those that usually pick up at 3.15 – please pick up at 3.20pm.

The end of the day is particularly important to get right, to avoid large groups of parents gathering in one place at the same time.

Thank you again for your cooperation with this.



SPOTLIGHT ON Mr Barker



Mr Barker joined us in September as an NQT, teaching Monkey Puzzle class, following a career change from the

police force. I asked Mr Barker What has been your proudest moment?

'Studying part-time for 4 years to achieve a degree aged 39. Watching my daughter skip off to school on her first day in Reception. Surviving a 200m bungee jump in South Africa.

What are your hobbies?

Pre-teaching - frisbee, scuba diving, running, keeping an allotment, suffering Spurs, cooking, social psychology, the occasional glass of Ribera del Duero

As a teacher - no time for hobbies yet!

Do you have a pet?

6 goldfish. Oh no, sorry, 5....

Any other interesting facts you would like to share with us?

I have previously lived and worked in Ireland, Turkey and Kenya.

I have met The Queen.

I once arrested George Michael!

Covid-19

In Hertfordshire, but not Bengeo school, there have sadly been some incidents reported where people have not followed Government guidance on self-isolation and knowingly attended school whilst symptomatic or have been living with someone who is symptomatic or that has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

Hertfordshire County Council have acknowledged that, although incidents such as this are rare, the impact this has on our bubble systems and the safety of other students and staff is wide reaching. HCC have asked us to remind parents and carers that, to knowingly ignore the self-isolation guidance is breaking the law, and you could be fined £1000. You can find the latest Government information at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legal-duty-to-self-isolate-comes-into-force-today>



Google Classroom

Many thanks to those of you in KS2 who have logged on to Google classroom and turned in some work. This has helped us to identify which children have been able to access the system. For those children who have not yet turned in any work, your class

teacher will contact you to check that there are no problems and that you can access to the system.

For children in KS1 and reception, please look out for an activity which will be set today, this needs to be turned in as soon as possible so that we can monitor who is accessing the system.

Please could we ask you to continue to check weekly to see if there are any messages from your child's teacher as, in the event of local lockdown, this will be the way in which we continue to teach your child/ren.

For children who are absent, teachers will endeavour to set some work, but there will be a delay in getting this to you, as they will be working with the rest of the class during the day. Ordinarily work will only be set for children who are off for long periods of time, due to absence related to Covid-19.

Please note **teachers are unable to respond to any messages from parents sent in through google classroom.** This system is used as a teaching tool only, and teachers are not notified of messages when they are posted. If you have any concerns, please email in to the school office who will forward your message to the relevant teacher.



Parent/teacher consultations

Parent consultations will be held via 'virtual' meetings, at the end of November. You will be contacted soon with information on how to access this



Applying for School

The deadline for applications for the academic year beginning September 2021 for secondary schools is **Saturday 31st October 2020**, and for primary school it is **15th January 2021**.

Prospective New Reception Parent Tours (2020/21)

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer 'in person' parent tours to the school this term, however we will be producing a 'virtual' tour, information on this to follow.

Internet Safety

E-Safety on Tablets

Tablets are really popular with younger children, and the market has several which are geared specifically towards delivering child friendly content.

When it comes to using them, start slowly: only download games and apps you have checked out carefully and steer them towards age targeted content such as **BBC iPlayer Kids** or **YouTube Kids**.

Sites like **www.net-aware.org.uk** and or **www.commonsensemedia.org** also provide useful advice.

Covid symptoms

If your child is unwell, please ring 01992 582765 (from 8am), message on schoolcomms or email **absence@bengeo.herts.sch.uk** by 9.15 in the morning, and every subsequent morning for the duration of illness.

If we have not heard from you by 9:15am, you will receive a message/call from our Attendance Coordinator, Mrs Ogier, to enquire as to why your child is absent.

With regards to holiday absences, we will again be following the local council guidelines which can be found on the Hertsdirect website. Requests for holidays during term times cannot be authorised. Unauthorised absences over 15 sessions, which equates to 7 full days and one half day, per academic year, may result in a penalty notice.

We look forward to working with you on securing excellent attendance for your child.

Dates for your Diary

21st Oct – Individual Photos

26th Oct – 30th Oct - HALF TERM

2nd Nov – Back to School

25th – 26th November – Remote

Parents' consultations

16th Dec – Xmas Lunch

18th Dec – School finishes at 1.30pm



'Here at Bengo we believe that the most successful school is a place where everyone is valued. We work together and aspire to be the best we can.'

'You are getting this email because you are a parent/carer of a child at this school. Please e-mail us if you would like to stop receiving them.'