

Be the best you can be.

'Let your light shine before others; that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.' - Matthew 5:16

School Newsletter

September 2025

We hope you had a pleasant and restful summer break. We're happy to welcome you back to Benhall St Mary's C of E Primary School and are looking forward to the year ahead. The classrooms are filled with smiles and stories of summer adventures. Our new Reception pupils have had a positive start, and I'd like to thank the staff for helping them settle in smoothly. We understand that starting school can be a challenging transition for both children and parents, so please feel free to call or visit us if you have any concerns.

We have a variety of exciting events, learning opportunities and sporting competitions lined up for the year, and we'll share more details with you soon. We also value your feedback on how we can further improve the education and experiences we provide for your children. Please feel free to reach out and speak with one of us whenever you have a moment.

What we've been up to in classes

The Squirrels have settled in well, quickly adapting to school routines and exploring both indoor and outdoor spaces. They have also begun their phonics journey and especially enjoy lunch and playtimes with their friendly, supportive buddies, who are helping them feel happy and confident at school.

Acorn Class have loved exploring *Winter Sleep*, inspiring their own stories about seasonal change and hibernation. In Art, they've been experimenting with spirals, patterns, and shapes in different materials.

In Oaks, pupils have been diving into the Stone Age with a special archaeology workshop, even sieving artefacts! They imagined life in the past and wrote postcards using ideas from their English book.

Woodlands have had a brilliant start to the term, showing great teamwork in football and netball and getting hooked on the unfolding mystery in their guided reading book, *Brightstorm*.



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Kindness



Respect



Forgiveness



Friendship

EYFS Improvement

A big thank you to Miss Nicholas, who gave so much of her time over the summer to refresh and improve our EYFS area. The space is now more inviting and better organised, and it's been great to see the children quickly settling in and making good use of the resources. We really appreciate the effort that went into these changes and look forward to seeing how the children continue to enjoy and learn in their updated environment.



Harvest Festival

Thank you to all the families who attended our event and for your kind donations. We greatly appreciate your continued support in making these gatherings meaningful. A special thanks to the Ethos members for leading the service



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Stone Age Visit

Oaks had an incredible Archaeology and Stone Age Day with Karen from the Archaeology Education Outreach Team! Pupils enjoyed a fantastic day of hands-on learning and discovery- a huge thank you to Karen for bringing history to life for us!



Greenpeace Assembly

A big thank you to Phil from Greenpeace for visiting our school this month. Our pupils really enjoyed learning more about climate change and, most importantly, discussing the small everyday changes we can make to help protect our planet.

We're grateful for the time and knowledge shared, which gave our pupils plenty to think about and practical ideas they can take forward.



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Woodbridge Tide Mill Assembly

We welcomed a special guest from Woodbridge Tide Mill this month. The pupils enjoyed learning about the Mill's history and hearing about the work that continues there today. It was a great opportunity to connect classroom learning with local heritage and we appreciate the time taken to share these insights with us.



Break Time Snacks

All pupils in EYFS and KS1 will continue to be provided with fruit or veg each break time. They can also bring in their own fruit or veg to eat at snack time if they wish. Our focus on healthy eating will mean that children can bring to school **fruit, vegetables or a healthy snack for their morning snack** at break time. If your child does have a diagnosed medical condition that effects their eating, please talk to their class teacher.



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Phonics Information

We were delighted to welcome our EYFS and KS1 families to our phonics information afternoon. Your support plays an important role in helping pupils as they begin their reading journey and it was great to share strategies and ideas together.



Cauliflower Cards

We got into the Christmas spirit early! It was wonderful to have families helping out with Cauliflower Cards. The children really enjoyed choosing designs and creating their own festive cards. It was a lovely opportunity for families and pupils to work together and share in some early seasonal fun.



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Social Media

We want to keep families and the local community more in the know of what we are getting up to in school. We now have active Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky and X accounts. Please ensure that you are following the accounts for regular updates of what we are getting up to.



@benhall_school



benhallprimary



Benhall St. Mary's

C of E Primary School



Bluesky

benhall-school

Football Tournament

A huge well done to our footballers who represented us brilliantly at Hartismere this month. In a challenging tournament, they showed great determination and teamwork, securing a respectable 7th place finish. We're proud of their effort, spirit, and the way they played together throughout the day!



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Rocksteady Assembly

This month we enjoyed a fantastic assembly with Rocksteady. The whole school joined in with singing and music-making and even some of the teachers tried out the instruments! It was a lively, fun experience that brought everyone together through music.



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Key Dates

Autumn Term School Census (The Local Authority collect lots of data from schools to determine future funding) Menu change this day – Jungle Fest	Thursday 2 nd October
Teambuilding Competition- Hartismere High School	Monday 6 th October
Acorns Reading Café	Tuesday 7 th October (2:30 – 3:00)
Squirrels Reading Café	Wednesday 8 th October (2:30-3:00)
Girls Football Tournament- Hartismere High School	Tuesday 14 th October
Individual School Photos	Wednesday 15 th October
Chess Experience	Wednesday 15 th October
Cotswold Archaeology	Thursday 16 th October
Cross Country Finals	Thursday 16 th October
Year 5 and 6 Residential- Norfolk Lakes	Friday 17 th October- Sunday 19 th October
Prometheus Orchestra	Monday 20 th October
Parents/ Carers Evening	Tuesday 21 st October (3:30-6:00)
Squirrels Open Afternoon	Wednesday 22 nd October
Parents/ Carers Evening	Wednesday 22 nd October (3:30-5:00)
Year 6- Crucial Crew- Riverside Centre	Thursday 23 rd October
Half Term	Monday 27 th October- Friday 31 st October
Back to School	Monday 3 rd November
Cross Country- Brandeston	Tuesday 4 th November
Squirrels Open Morning	Thursday 6 th November
Remembrance Day Service- Benhall St. Mary's C of E Primary School	Tuesday 11 th November (10:40-11:10)
Tag Rugby- Thomas Mills High School	Tuesday 18 th November
Snape Maltings- Big Sing	Friday 21 st November
KS1 Nativity Performance (Dress Rehearsal)	Monday 8 th December
KS1 Nativity Performance	Tuesday 9 th December
KS1 Nativity Performance	Wednesday 10 th December
Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 11 th December
PTA Christmas Craft Day	Thursday 11 th December
Christingle- Benhall Church	Friday 12 th December (14:30-15:15)
Benhall PTA Disco	Friday 12 th December
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 17 th December
Christmas Break	Saturday 20 th December- Sunday 4 th January
Back to School	Tuesday 6 th January



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