

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 2026

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

Squirrels have settled into school brilliantly and we are incredibly proud of them. They have made a fantastic start with phonics, learning their initial sounds and developing their confidence in recognising and using them.

Acorns have enjoyed writing their own stories inspired by *I Want My Hat Back*, developing their place value skills in Maths and learning about plants in Science. They particularly enjoyed planting their own garden plants and learning how to care for them.

Oaks have been busy too! In English, they have been writing biographies inspired by *Little People, Big Dreams*. In Maths, they have been developing their understanding of place value using practical equipment, while in Science they have been learning about bones, muscles and joints. They have also been enjoying *Toto the Ninja Cat* during Guided Reading.

Woodlands have been working hard and have been learning about the early history of Norwich, discovering how the city has developed over time. In Guided Reading, they have been enjoying *The Nowhere Emporium* and exploring its many mysteries.



Resilience



Kindness



Respect



Forgiveness



Friendship

Harvest Festival

What a lovely Harvest Festival we had! Our Ethos Members did a wonderful job leading the service, helping us to celebrate the harvest and reflect on the importance of gratitude, generosity and community. It was a lovely opportunity for our school community to come together and give thanks for all that we have.



Framlingham Castle

A fantastic day out for Oaks and Acorns at Framlingham Castle! The children enjoyed exploring the castle, discovering more about its fascinating history and imagining what life would have been like within its walls. A brilliant day of hands-on learning and discovery!



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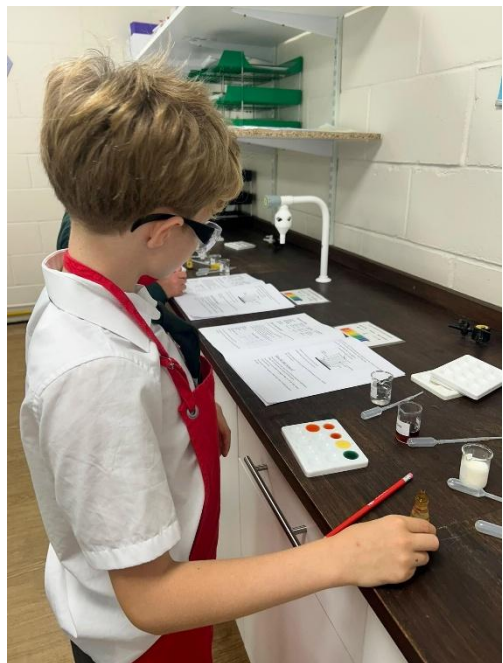
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Crime Scene Investigation Workshop

Woodlands had an amazing time at Woodbridge School taking part in a fascinating Crime Scene Investigation workshop! Pupils put their detective skills to the test, gathering evidence and solving clues.



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.

We're teaching every
child to read with
Little Wandle Letters
and Sounds Revised

A complete SSP validated by
the Department for Education



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 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

Class Dojo

A quick reminder to parents and carers to sign up to ClassDojo if you haven't already. ClassDojo is an important way for us to share class information, updates and reminders, so please make sure you are signed up and checking it regularly to keep up to date with what is happening in your child's class.



Rooted Rhythms Workshop

What an amazing first session of our djembe drumming! Our pupils had a brilliant time learning the basics, exploring different rhythms and getting to grips with the drums.



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Key Dates

Autumn Term School Census	Thursday 1 st October
Girls Football Tournament (selected children)	Thursday 1 st October
Athlete Visit	Friday 2 nd October
Stay and Play Open Event (prospective families)	Tuesday 6 th October
Art Station Workshop- Oaks	Wednesday 7 th October
Crazy Hair Day- PTA	Thursday 8 th October
Teambuilding Event (selected children)	Friday 9 th October
Boys Football Tournament	Tuesday 13 th October
Individual and Sibling Photos	Wednesday 14 th October
Oaks Fundraising Event & PTA Coffee & Cake	Friday 16 th October
Stay and Play Open Event (prospective families)	Tuesday 20 th October
Year 6- Crucial Crew- Riverside Centre	Friday 23 rd October
Oaks & Acorns Reading Cafe	Friday 23 rd October
Half Term	Monday 26 th October- Friday 30 th October
Back to School	Monday 2 nd November
KS2 Cross Country	Tuesday 3 rd November
Parents/ Carers Evening	Wednesday 4 th November
Squirrels Reading Cafe	Thursday 5 th November
Woodlands Reading Cafe	Friday 6 th November
Remembrance Day Service- Benhall St. Mary's C of E Primary School	Wednesday 11 th November
World Kindness Day	Thursday 12 th November
Rugby Tournament	Friday 13 th November
Stay and Play Open Event (prospective families)	Tuesday 17 th November
PTA Universal Children's Day	Friday 20 th November
Cross Country Finals	Tuesday 1 st December
KS1 Nativity Performance at Riverside Centre	Tuesday 8 th December
KS1 Nativity Performance	Wednesday 9 th December
Christingle- Benhall Church	Friday 11 th December
Benhall PTA Disco	Friday 11 th December
PTA Christmas Crafts	Monday 14 th December
Ipswich Pantomime	Tuesday 15 th December
Christmas Holiday	Friday 18 th December- Monday 4 th January
Back to School	Tuesday 5 th January



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