

Welcome to Acorn Class

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Acorn Class. We hope you all had a lovely Summer break. We are really looking forward to working with your children this academic year. Our priority in the first few weeks is to ensure that your child is happy and gaining confidence in coming to school and ultimately has a smooth transition into the reception environment.

Acorn Class staff

Monday – Wednesday will be Mrs Garlick and Mrs Presland (Mrs P)

Thursday will be Mrs Dean and Mrs P

Friday will be Mrs Tyler and Mrs P

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress or well-being, please do not hesitate to contact us.

annie.garlick@benington.herts.sch.uk jen.dean@benington.herts.sch.uk

head@benington.herts.sch.uk

Timings of the school day

The children can come into school between 8.45 – 8.55am. Registers will be taken at 9.00am. School finishes at 3.15pm.

To further reduce the risk of potential Covid-19 infections, parents **will not** be permitted into the building at drop off and collection times.

Lunches

Your child is entitled to a free school meal. You can order these each morning. Please talk to your child about their choices from the menu. Alternatively they can bring a healthy packed lunch in to school.

Phonics

Each day your child will be taught phonics using the Letters and Sounds resource published by the Department for Education and Skills. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children. Each day your child will learn a new phoneme (sound) and will begin applying their phonic knowledge when reading a range of texts and also applying their knowledge when writing for different purposes.

Reading Books

We aim to hear your child read individually twice a week in school. Every child must have a clearly labelled book bag in school. We will send home books to share with your child and they will be changed on **Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays**. At this stage it is expected that your child is read to each night in order to develop their language and imagination skills. You will find a

Reading Record book in your child's book bag in which you should write comments to let us know how your child is enjoying the book. As the children progress we will send home reading books that encourage the children to read to you and develop their skills appropriately.

Physical Education (PE)

Our PE days will be Tuesdays (with Rising Stars coaches) and Wednesdays (with Mrs Garlick). Your child will need to come to school in their PE kits that day and they can be worn all day.

Uniform: white t-shirt (preferably with the school emblem but it can be a **plain** white t-shirt)
navy shorts / navy joggers
navy jumper
trainers / plimsolls

Please be aware that your child will be doing a combination of indoor and outdoor PE throughout the year, so please make sure they are suitably dressed for the weather.

Parent and Teacher consultations

In the lead up to half term we will begin conducting parent and teacher consultations. The monitoring and assessment of **all** children is an on-going day-to-day process. However, within the next few weeks we will begin focusing on a number of children in depth per week. We will take video narratives and analyse their interests, next steps in learning and characteristics of effective learning. During that week we will have a progress meeting with parents at a convenient time and the children will be able to bring in special items to share with their class.

General reminders

Clothing, bags and other belongings should be clearly named. Please ensure your child has a clearly named water bottle with them everyday. It is recommended that your child has spare clothing that can be left on their peg in case of any accidents. We will be playing in our outdoor environment come rain or shine so please consider sending your child in with some wellies.

Benington School has a Facebook page. If you wish to join, please log on to Facebook then search: Benington primary school., you will need to ask to join as it's a closed group. There is also an open group with the same name. You will also find it useful to download the parentmail app to your phone to receive regular updates.

Safeguarding

If your child is being collected by an adult we have not yet met (this could even be dad or granny that hasn't yet collected), please inform Acorn Class staff or telephone the school office.

Dates for your diary

Friday 17th September – Celebration Assembly 2.45pm in the school hall

Wednesday 22nd September – Acorn Class welcome meeting 9 am-9:30 in the school hall, all parents are welcome

Thank-you
Acorn Class Team