



# Beenham Primary School Newsletter



VALUES  
EDUCATION

[www.beenhamschool.co.uk](http://www.beenhamschool.co.uk)

## A FAB START!

Hello everyone

Welcome back!

It has been lovely watching the children relishing their return to school with their friends. They are really enjoying each other's company.

Our topic for this term is called "We are Technologists", and focused learning will begin on Monday. We have carefully chosen this term's topic to provide a real contrast to the very heavy written curriculum that we inevitably had to provide over lock down.

This term there will be lots of computing, science, design and technology and art across the school. I promised that I would upload the curriculum and class information onto the website for you by the end of this week but I'm afraid builders and cleaning toilets have taken over! 😊 😊

I would ask for your patience at the current time as we gradually try to return to some kind of normality. I will make sure that the information is available for you on the website next week.

Cont . . .

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Our **VALUE** this month is  
**Self-belief**

*Happy Birthday*

Leo Trinder



Cont . . .

Our value for this month is self-belief. We are aware that the lockdown has eroded the self-esteem of many children in different ways. For some children it was a big step in coming back to school this week. . . both in terms of facing new learning and also picking up and re-building old and new friendships. We will be trying to equip all children with the tools that they need to begin to rebuild their place in school, in terms of learning, confidence and relationships with others.

With this in mind, we have developed something called a “Recovery Curriculum” which will underpin all our work in school. I will write and explain more about this in next week’s newsletter.

Finally, I’m sure you will have seen on Twitter and the children will have told you, we are working hard to develop our confidence as a school in using Microsoft TEAMS.

We have already used it to enable a child who is absent from school at the moment, to join in with lessons with his class. This morning I also managed to stream a whole school assembly into each class using TEAMS.

Our aim is to use the platform to enable any child who has to self-isolate, to engage with classroom learning if they are absent from school. We are also aiming to hold parent assemblies in a couple of weeks via TEAMS, once we are up to speed.

### **Drop off and pick up from school**

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for following our social distancing guidance whilst arriving and queuing on the school premises.

I would be grateful however, if you could leave the site and go home, as soon as you have dropped off your children. It was brought to my attention earlier in the week that some of you are lingering in groups outside of school.

We have deliberately staggered drop off and collection times so that we don’t have too many adults in a group at one time, either on or off school premises. In addition, pre-school have to bring their children in each day. On a couple of occasions last week, school parents were congregating in a group at the gateway to school at a time when pre-school families were then arriving. Not only is this unnerving for some, this virus hasn’t gone away . . . we need to work very hard to prevent a spread.

I can hear myself having a moan and I’m sorry . . . but if schools are to remain open then we need to do our bit. There are cases of the virus out there and locally too. We must adhere to the social distancing rules.

Finally, I have been asked by several parents, if we would allow parents who have siblings in other classes as well as Mai, if they can drop both children off at the same time. We are still trying to integrate the new children in as well so I would ask if you could bear with us for one more week with the current arrangements and I will review next Friday.

Finally, can I please ask that you drop your child off or come onto the school site no earlier than 5 minutes before the start of the school day.

Many thanks for your co-operation in all areas.

## Mai Class information

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year! I am very impressed with how the children have quickly settled back into school. The older children have been excellent role-models welcoming the new reception children into Mai class, quickly making friends and playing together.

Our lovely new mud kitchen has been a big success with the children. Please could I ask if you could bring in some wellies into school for your child to wear when they are playing in the 'muddy' area. Also, I would like to start sending reading books home again, please could your child bring their book bags into school from next week.

Forest school will resume shortly, I will update you with the details soon.

Have a lovely weekend 😊

Mrs Cannings

## Torak class information

Torak class have had a fabulous start to their term.

We have begun to read "The Iron Man" by Ted Hughes and the children have composed and performed a musical piece for the opening of chapter one.

They were all fantastic! Great Job Torak 👍

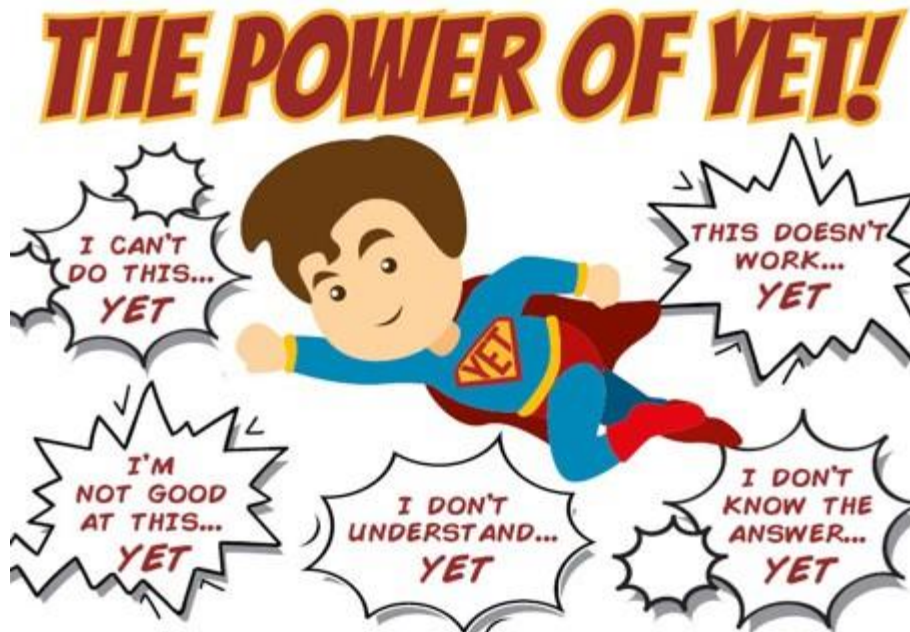
Mrs Edwards

## Mosi Class information

Hi everyone,

After a lovely summer, the first (half) week is over! I have been so impressed with the children and how they've settled back at school after such a long break and under still fairly strange circumstances. Everyone has joined in with various activities and contributed to setting our class up for a fun and successful year.

Over the last few days we have been thinking in particular about our brains and about how we can change our thinking around things we might find difficult or challenging. The children have been making bold and bright posters to put up in the classroom to remind themselves that even when things are tough, we can work together to find a way through.



We have also started reading our shared book, “Goodnight Mister Tom” which is supporting our topic for this term of “Tomorrow’s World”. The children have written what their vision is for Tomorrow’s World and we are looking forward to exploring some possibilities of what the future might bring!

We will begin our topic properly on Monday, but in the meantime I hope you all have a lovely, relaxed weekend and I am looking forward to working with all of you over the next year.

Miss McBean

## JUDO



Please note that Judo will not be starting up until after the October half-term.



Sports Xtra will be starting their after school multi sports club for KS2 children next week. Further details of how to book a place are attached to this newsletter.

## Breakfast and After School Club

*Please can we ask you to fill in the following survey to enable us to plan for the reopening of the Breakfast Club and After School Club:*

[Wrap around care survey](#)

## Caterlink – School lunch update

Please see attached to this newsletter a menu for the new catering company.

Unfortunately, you will be unable to pre order your child's meal with them at home as the online system is purely for adding payments to your child's account. With this in mind, you may wish to go through with your child what they will expect to see on the menu when they choose their lunch in school each day.

The online payment system is now set up so please follow the instructions in the email Mrs Appleby sent out to ensure that your child has enough money on their account. Year R, 1 and 2 are entitled to universal infant free school meals so you will not need to top up with any money. If your child is entitled to free school meals, again you will not need to top up the account with any money.

If you have any further queries or questions, please see Mrs Appleby or Mrs Sharp in the school office.

# Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

## Additional money for schools

The Pupil Premium is the government's name for a sum of extra money that's paid to schools to help with costs. It can help to pay for important things, like school trips, uniforms and PE kit, music lessons, and additional help with subjects like English and Maths.

It's there to help support children from lower income families, so the government uses information about children that are entitled to free school meals to work out where, and how much, to pay.

## Free school meals and Pupil Premium

Getting the right information to make sure that Pupil Premium money can be claimed for your child is sometimes complicated for schools.

When a child applies successfully for a free school meal, their application includes allocation of Pupil Premium money for the school.

However:

- some children don't claim for the meal - for instance because they bring a packed lunch
- and all children under the age of 7 are given a free school meal automatically - they don't need to apply

Both of these situations mean that Schools miss out on funding because they don't have the right information from parents that would enable them to apply for the Pupil Premium.

Free School Meals (FSM) are provided to children whose parents/guardians are in receipt of:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance\*
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (from the National Asylum Support Service)
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you're **not also entitled to Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Working tax credit run on-paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

\*Children who receive Income Based Job Seekers Allowance in their own right are also eligible to receive free school lunches.

## Applying for Free School Meals through West Berkshire Council:

To apply for free school meals at West Berkshire schools and maintained nurseries:

- [Apply online](#) - it's quick and easy and you can do this at any time that is convenient for you - we'll contact you about your application and to confirm that you qualify.
- [Apply over the phone through Customer Services](#) - we'll take you through the form for you right there and then - just have your National Insurance number ready.

## Road Closure – 9<sup>th</sup> September

Bourne Lane/Beenham Hatch Lane in the Parishes of Bucklebury & Beenham will be closed on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 from the hours of 08:00 to 16:00 from its junction with South End Road to The Green. This closure is to enable Volker Highways to carryout carriageway repairs on behalf of West Berkshire Council.

Please follow diversion for alternative route. This will be signed on site.

All enquiries please contact West Berkshire Council on 01635 519080

A plan of the closure can be found at: <https://one.network/?tm=118492231>



### Beenham Primary School on TWITTER

Find us by searching for @BeenhamPrimary

#### **MAKING CONTACT WITH SCHOOL STAFF**

If you have an issue that you would like to discuss with any member of the school staff and you wish to make an appointment to see them, then please email them direct. We do encourage face to face contact whenever possible as we genuinely believe it is the best way to resolve any concern that you may have. Email addresses are as follows:

School Office: [office@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk)

Mrs Cannings: [lcannings@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:lcannings@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk)

Mrs Edwards: [nedwards@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:nedwards@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk)

Miss McBean: [smcbean@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:smcbean@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk)

Mrs Butcher: [headteacher@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk)

**Keep in touch with the school governors by visiting their website regularly. Follow the direct link below.**

**[Beenham School Governor website](#)**

#### **NEWSLETTER COMMENTS**

If you would like to comment or respond to any of the items in this newsletter then please email [office@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk) or fill in the slip below.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/pupil comment:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/guardian/pupil