



**BENEDICT HOUSE  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

# Autumn Newsletter

## September 2023

### Message From The Headmaster



Dear Parents,

What a fantastic start to the term. It was a delight to welcome new children, families and staff to Benedict House. The beginning of the Autumn term has seen lots of wonderful learning, a trip to the National Gallery and Royal Opera House, an oil assembly, a MacMillan coffee morning and Harvest Festival to name but a few.

The parent survey results from last term have helped us to look at areas we can focus on and develop. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any suggestions or points you would like to discuss. Several interesting suggestions were made in the survey but as it is anonymous for obvious reasons, I do not know who to ask to expand on the suggestions. I did like the optimistic idea of an indoor swimming pool!!

Thursday October 5th is World Teacher Day, so if you are able to send a Class Dojo or a quick message to the teachers, I know they would appreciate it.

We have lots of wonderful things to look forward to this term, many organised by the Friends of BHPS. The doughnut sale and Autumn Disco followed by the Christmas events are always so much fun and enjoyed by all the children. If you would like to join the Friends or support them in any way, please let me know, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Warmest wishes,

Craig Wardle



Fabulous to see Ariana modelling the new skirt which has been added to the uniform list for girls.

Well done to Isabella in Chestnut for this fantastic homework project.





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## Whole School News

### LAMDA

81 of Mrs Moffat's LAMDA students took their exam at the end of last term and the results are now in with a superb 100% pass rate and all pupils scoring Distinction and High Merit grades. Our examiner Miss Angela Simms commented on their wonderful communication skills, how polite and responsive they were during their exams. As well as rehearsing their solo performances, the children had been practicing their communication skills in the run up to their exam on Mr Wardle as they entered the school each morning and it is wonderful that their hard work has been noticed and rewarded. Well done everyone.



A huge well done to Henry in Oak Class for passing his Grade 1 examination with merit for classical guitar. Lots of hard work went into this achievement I'm sure. Remember you can contact Miss Cordingley if you would like your child to learn a musical instrument!



This week Benedict House turned into Hogwarts with a visit from some very beautiful owls. It was fascinating to learn about these amazing creatures and some of the children were even lucky enough to hold them!





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# Chatterbox

We asked our lovely children  
what they were most looking forward  
to when starting the  
new school year...

Getting to  
know my new  
teachers –  
Italiyah, Oak  
Class



I am excited about  
learning with a  
new teacher and  
spending time  
with my friends.  
Flynn – Cedar class



I am looking  
forward to playing  
with all the new  
toys. Henry, Cherry  
Class



I can't wait to  
learn more  
Maths!  
Maisie,  
Holly Class



I'm excited about  
reading chapter  
books! Olivia G,  
Ash Class



I am looking  
forward to  
meeting new  
people.  
Jeevan, Birch Class





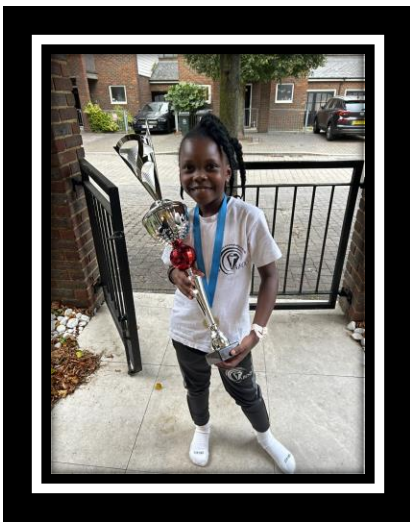
# News From Home

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It has been a busy summer for Akanaka and Shasha.

Akanaka is now a Green belt after her recent grading. The girls also completed their Perform challenges with Akanaka receiving a Distinction for the Silver Award and Shasha got a Merit for the Bronze Award. Congratulations!



Elsa-Grace recently won 1st place in her solo at the Street Dance International (SDI) competition in Under 10's Advanced. Well done Elsa-Grace!

If you have some news from home that you would like to share with the Benedict House community, please email Mrs Allen [amy.allen@benedicthouseprepschool.co.uk](mailto:amy.allen@benedicthouseprepschool.co.uk)



# Newsletter Team

Year 6

Hello, and welcome to the BHPS newsletter. We are Tanek Saggu and Caitlin Slater -Head boy and Head girl- and we are here to tell you about what goes on in our school.



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The school has gone through a lot of changes in the summer holidays 2023, and we are here to tell you about some of them. The school is planning to increase the area of playground we have and introduce lots more trees.

Next up, is an article from the deputy heads/school council reps.

Hello, our names are Thida Stirrup and Veselin Mitov, and we are the Deputy Head Girl and Boy and School Council Team. First up, we have an announcement to make: If anyone has any suggestions at all, please do not hesitate to write them down in the suggestions boxes. If you are wondering where to find the suggestions boxes, there will be one located in every classroom. You can also tell either of us about your suggestions, you can find us in the playground during lunch and play time!

Next, another big announcement: Soon, we will be setting up a school council; with representatives from every year – so if that's something you might be interested in, talk to your teacher about it!

We have already gathered up some suggestions from several students to help improve the school; here are a few we have selected: Trousers for girls - Crochet Club - More inter house activities – Pizza on the lunch menu - More fruit variety - Making the houses fairer - Cricket Club. Remember, your suggestions deserve to be heard. Talk to us about it, and your suggestion just might help us be a better school; and may even be featured in the next school newsletter!

Finally, it's time for... Question Of The Month!!!

The question is... What is your favourite sandwich filling? Tell us your answer, and it will have a chance of appearing in the next newsletter!

Thanks for reading, and remember, every suggestion counts! - Thida and Veselin :D

**Hello! Our names are Samara and Swenik, and we are your Deputy Heads Girl and Boy and Eco Team! This year, we will try our best to make Benedict House as sustainable as possible. Every month, we will give you tips on how to make your life greener!**

## Why should we try to be more eco-friendly?

When everyone plays their part well, everything fits together like a puzzle, giving the earth we all desire to live in.

## September's Eco Tip

Recycling is one of the most important (and easiest) steps to going green and reducing your carbon footprint. Check all your plastic, cardboard and aluminium waste for the recycle symbol before you throw it away.

Extra green tip: buy products made from recycled materials. When shopping, look for "recycled" or "post-consumer" products. You can get anything from sleeping bags to glass materials made from recycled materials.

## Five facts about Plastic

- Dirty plastics cannot be recycled
- More than 90% of our ocean plastics come from just 10 rivers!
- The largest dumping site of plastics is not a landfill, it is the Pacific Ocean!
- Only 9% of all plastic produced is recycled
- A whopping 2 million plastic bags are used every minute worldwide!

Please use these tips to help you live a greener life. See you next time in October's Newsletter!



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# Preschool Owls and Badgers

## Welcome To Pre-School

We have been so happy to welcome our new children, as well as those returning to our Pre-School. As you can see no time was wasted in exploring and getting on with the most important part of school life- having fun!





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# Reception

## Squirrels and Hedgehogs

Welcome to Reception

In Reception, we started the year by getting to know each other. We asked each other questions, we found out about our likes and dislikes. We enjoyed discovering both classrooms and playing while we learn.

We started our phonics lessons and had a deep dive into understanding differences and similarities in objects and pictures. We learned about our senses, tasted different fruit and vegetables, we closed our eyes and listened to nature, we looked, touched and smelt around our playground.





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# Year One Cherry and Holly

Year 1 have had a great start to the school year. We have been investigating our new classrooms and our new outside area. The children have independent fun challenges to complete during the school day alongside their normal lessons.

One of the challenges was to make a bridge using construction materials. These children took their learning even further by trying to contain the 'river' by making a dam.



In Maths, the children have been completing practical activities. E.g. locating 1 more than a number and sorting shapes.



In Science the children have been exploring plants. They made their own flowers and used seeds to create their own flower pictures.







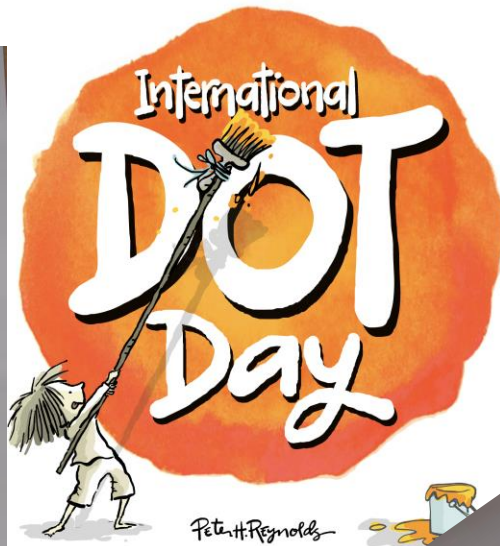
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# Year Two Ash



Year 2 has started off well, they even had a chance to show some of their unique personalities after we read a book called 'The Dot' and how important it is to use your imagination and no matter what try your best and then take ownership. Something we love in Year 2.





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## Year Three Chestnut



Year Three have had an excellent start to the new year and have begun their new topic Stone Age to Iron Age Britain. They have been really creative with their homework and have already produced some incredible pieces to share with the rest of the class. We are all excited about learning the songs for the Young Voices concert later in the year and have begun learning the dance moves in our Music lessons already!

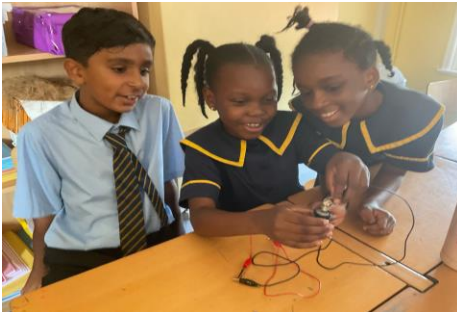
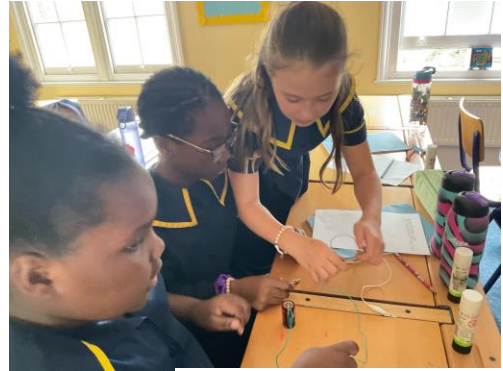




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PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## Year Four Birch and Willow

Year 4 have started the new term off with a flying start. In fact, some would say time has gone in a flash with the start of their electricity topic. As well as this, the children have been learning lots about their new Viking topic, even completing mini projects at home. A great start Year 4!



Year 4 Willow had a blast this week diving into the fascinating world of James Dyson and his amazing inventions. Not only did we get to learn about Dyson's life and genius, but we also got our hands dirty (figuratively speaking) by taking apart and piecing back together one of his famous Dyson Vacuums.

The children were totally into it! They loved getting all up close and personal with the inner workings of these everyday home gadgets. I must admit, though, I wouldn't trust them with your precious vacuum back at home - they're little engineers in the making, and who knows what they might discover!



# Year Five Cedar



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IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!

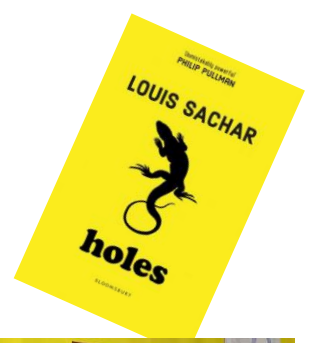
Year have been immersed in Ancient Greek Myth, History and Geography for the start of this academic year. They have shared their superb summer projects and we have regaled them with tales of Theseus, Perseus, Gorgons, Titans, monsters, magic and quests to far-off lands. They have begun planning and drafting their own myths and have produced timelines displaying where the period falls in human history. This is only the beginning. 'Onward Pegasus, onward!'





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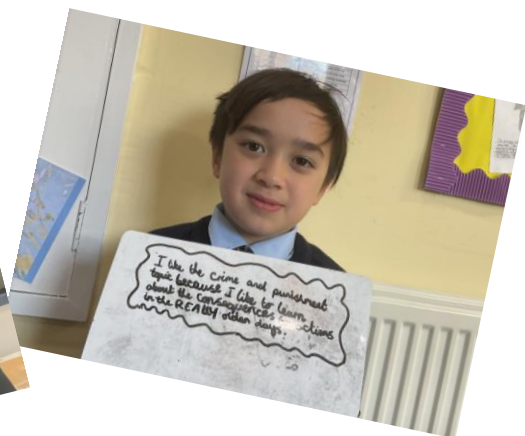
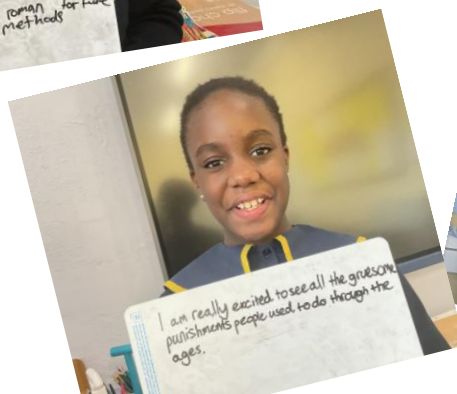
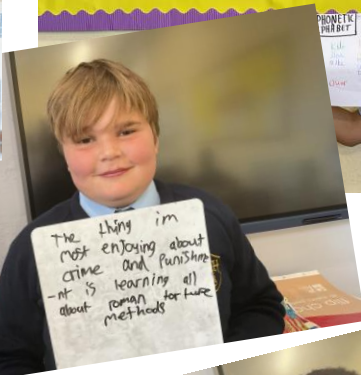
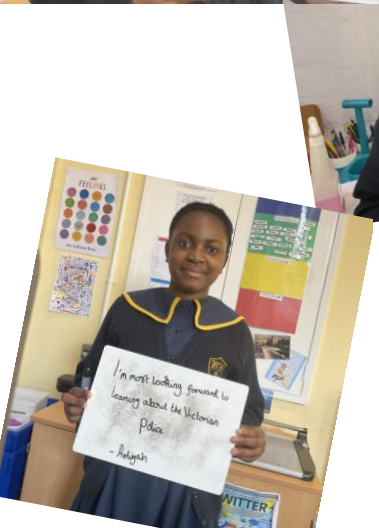
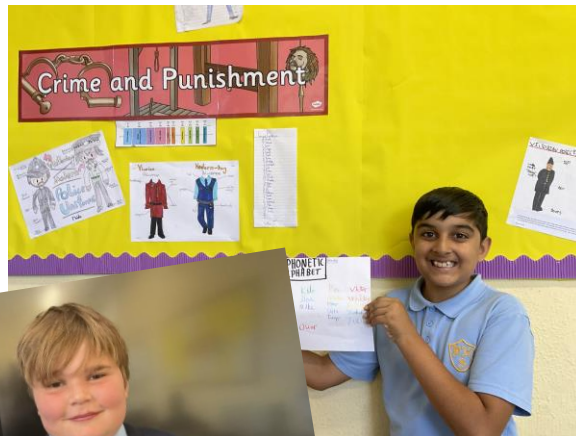
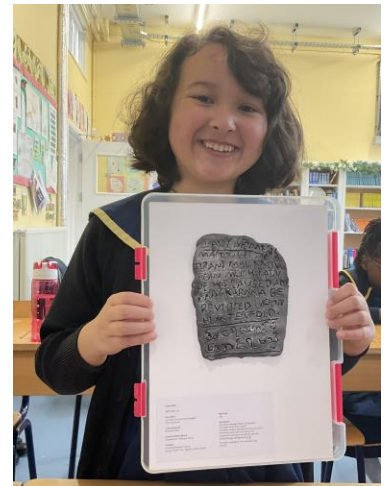
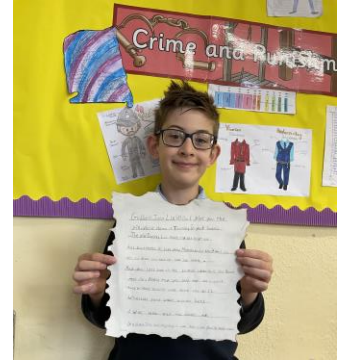
## Year Six Oak



Year 6 have had a great start to the academic year. Many of them completed the 11+ examinations with confidence and resilience. We were very proud of them all.

We have begun reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar, students have enjoyed learning about the characters including Stanley's No Good, Dirty, Rotten, Pig-Stealing Great Grandfather! Students have been analysing the correct use of dialogue.

Crime and Punishment is our current Humanities Topic and the students have enjoyed learning about the range of punishments from Roman to the Anglo-Saxon period. There have been some exceptional homework pieces. Students were asked what they are most enjoying about Crime and Punishment.





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## Music News



### Djembe (African) Drum Workshops.

Mr Fergusson has organised workshops for Years 3 to 6 to listen to and play this popular instrument with a professional player on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Having experienced these before, I can tell you that it will be exciting, and LOUD!

### Parents do you sing?

On 5<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm the school will be celebrating Christmas with carols and readings at St John's Church, Sidcup. The children will have practised some traditional and some new carols but it would be good to have an adult choir (men and women) to sing one or two carols. If you enjoy singing please do consider joining in, and I will organise a few sessions at 8.45 and 3.45 after half term for us to practise. The more, the merrier!

Year 4 have been improving on glockenspiels using pentatonic scales and they were really good

We all enjoyed learning and performing Harvest songs for the Festival. Years 5 and 6 gave a witty rendering of *Easy Peasy Harvest*, including the names of many vegetables in their song, and Years 3 and 4 sang their favourite, *Cauliflowers Fluffy*. Younger children have been practising *The Big Blue Tractor* with great enthusiasm.

When taking Y5 to the Royal Opera House last week, I noticed that not only in **The Nutcracker** ballet on in the Christmas holidays, but from 1st October special 'Nutcracker backstage tours can be booked for adults and children...

## PE News

### BHPS Events

This month has seen many sporting activities and events back at BHPS!

- Balanceability
- Cricket tournament
- Netball matches
- Football tournament
- Wake and shake

### Sporting Events

These past months have seen many sporting activities and events!

- Rugby World Cup
- American Open Tennis
- Davies Cup tennis

What sports have you watched or followed along?

What part of P.E or sports are you looking forward to?

What part of P.E or sports are you looking forward to?  
What sporting event have you watched/followed so far?



# Dates for your Diary

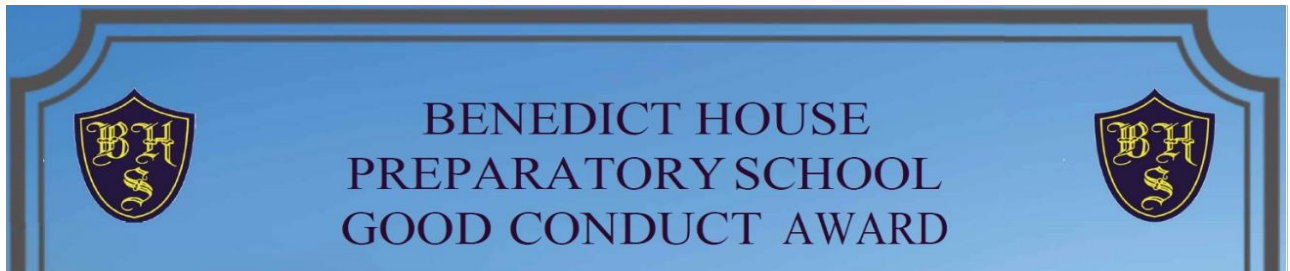
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## October 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Black History Month</p> <p>Balanceability 1 1:00am – 12pm (Reception)</p> <p>Dyslexia Awareness week</p> <p>Netball match (away) vs Royal Park 4:00pm-4:40pm</p>	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Year 6 Trip to Tower of London</p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Viking Day in school</p>	<p>5<sup>th</sup> National Poetry Day</p> <p>World Teacher's Day</p>	<p>6<sup>th</sup> U11 football tournament 11am</p>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
<p>9<sup>th</sup> Assessment Week</p> <p>Balanceability 11:00am – 12pm (Reception)</p> <p>Bikeability – Yr6</p>	<p>10<sup>th</sup> Assessment Week</p> <p>World Mental Health Day</p> <p>Bikeability – Yr6</p> <p>Y2- Yoyoi Kusama exhibition at Tate Modern</p>	<p>11<sup>th</sup> Assessment Week</p> <p>Bikeability – Yr6</p>	<p>12<sup>th</sup> Assessment Week</p> <p>Bikeability – Yr6</p> <p>Y5 Ancient Greek workshop</p>	<p>13<sup>th</sup> Assessment Week</p> <p>Bikeability – Yr6</p>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>
<p>16<sup>th</sup> Balanceability 11:00am – 12pm (Reception)</p>	<p>17<sup>th</sup> Bexley Selection Test results</p>	<p>18<sup>th</sup> Conkerfest! 3pm</p> <p>Kent Test results</p>	19 <sup>th</sup>	<p>20<sup>th</sup> Open morning</p> <p>American themed lunch</p>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>

# Celebrations

Week Beginning 11th September 2023



Pre-school - Owls	Oscar	For being so amazingly kind and helpful to his new class mates
Badgers	Kiki	Settling in so well and making lots of new friends
Reception Hedgehogs	Jacob	For being a great team player
Squirrels	George	For making a fantastic start to the year in his new school. You are a super star!
Year 1	Ahaana	For settling in so well into her new class.
	Preesha	For settling in so well into her new class.
Year 2	Ire	For starting the year off with amazing listening and focus skills
Year 3	Jasper	For settling so quickly and displaying an excellent attitude to learning.
Year 4 Birch	Vincent	For settling in well at BHPS, listening well to instructions.
Year 4 Willow	Max	For making a great start to life at BHPS
Year 5	Hanaa	For making an excellent start in her new school.
Year 6	Abigail	For amazing effort in her science work this week.

Heads Awards	Reason
Y2: Marley, Ben, Sofia M, Olivia S, Reggie, Cadem, Olivia G	Great joined up handwriting
Otto	Fantastic effort in PSHE

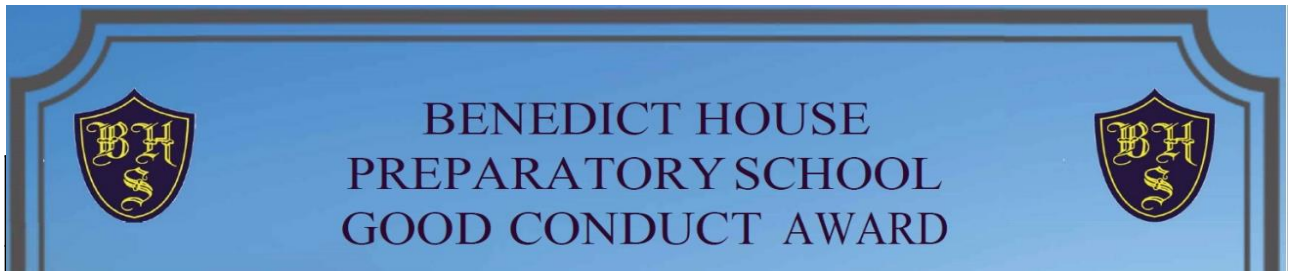


Isaac – For being kind and looking after another child.



# Celebrations

Week Beginning 18th September 2023

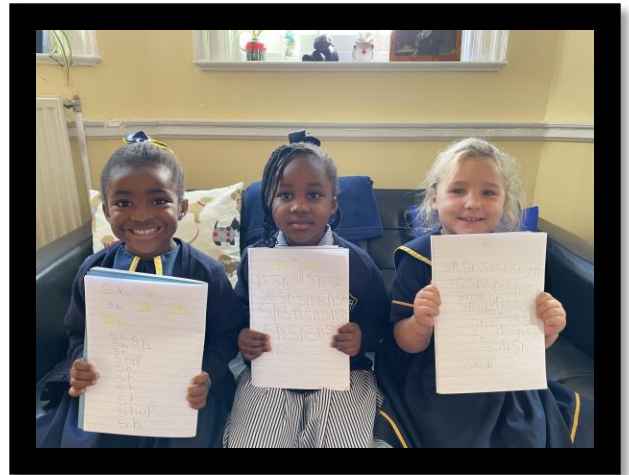


Pre-school - Owls	Ezra	For settling so well into life at Benedict House
Badgers	Paul	For becoming more vocal in class
Reception Hedgehogs	Reya	For amazing effort in all areas of learning
Squirrels	Jeremaih	For making new friends and working really hard in all subjects.
Year 1 Cherry	Violet	For working really hard in lessons and always contributing ideas.
Year 1 Holly	Maisie	For showing an amazing attitude to her learning
Year 2 Ash	Marley	Outstanding effort in Maths and settling in well to BHPS family
Year 3 Chestnut	Isabella	Bravery in swimming and confidence in solo singing.
Year 4 Birch	Zane	For a great start to Year 4, showing good focus in lessons.
Year 4 Willow	Leo	For a fantastic piece of writing in English
Year 5 Cedar	Jasher	For settling down quickly in the morning and getting straight on with work
Year 6 Oak	Monty	For a mature and sensible attitude and always offering to help.

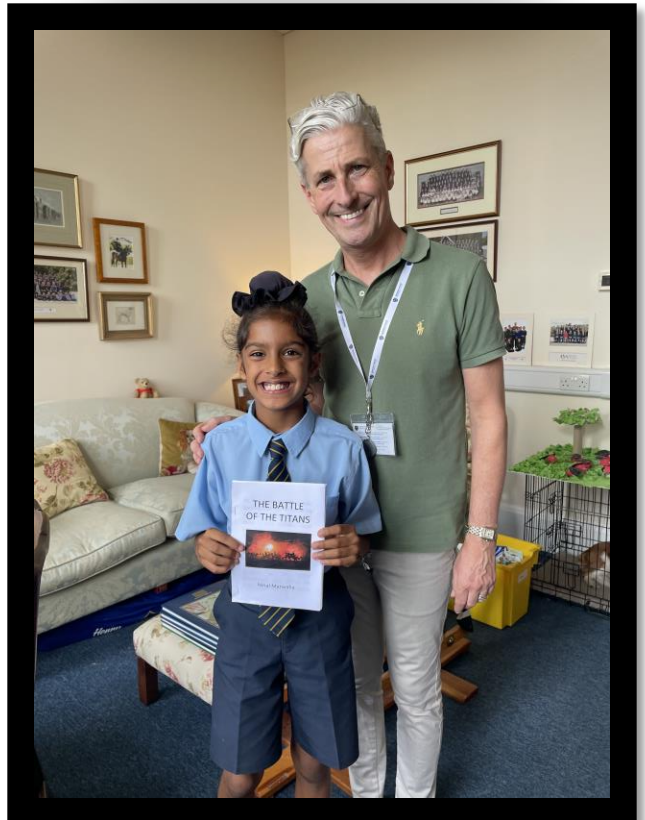
Heads Awards Name	Reason
Fernami, Emmie and Reya (Reception)	Fabulous phonics work
Tanek - Oak	For a fantastic booklet about Sikhism



# Celebrations



Some of the worthy winners of our Headteacher's awards this month. A huge well done to Aanya, Emmie, Reya, Feranmi, Thida, Tanek and Nihal.





# New FOBH Committee 23/24

Firstly we would like to welcome all our new parents.....

All parents of Benedict House School children are members of the 'Friends of Benedict House (FOBH)' which is another term for a PTA. You can become as involved as you wish and any help is hugely appreciated. It is your time and help which enables the committee to run such successful events. Throughout the year we host various events in order to raise money for the school. Last year we kicked off the year hosting our first adults quiz night, and we held many events for the children including, a Halloween disco, Santa's Grotto, a Valentine Disco and finished the year with an amazing summer fete.

Last year the Friends donated over **£7,500** to the school which included, microphones for performances, sports equipment, outdoor games for the playground, math equipment and science equipment for the new STEAM room

## The Committee

There are various roles which need to be fulfilled in order to run the committee. These include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Vice Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Treasurer, Events, Communications. *(Roles can be shared to reduce workload as we all know home life can be busy, especially if you are new to the role)*

## The AGM

There is an **annual meeting** where everyone is welcome to attend and can volunteer for various roles within the Friends of Benedict House committee. This is also an opportunity, for parents, to share any ideas and comment on future events for the school.

**AGM MEETING  
MONDAY 2ND  
OCTOBER @ 9AM**

**Join in person (School's  
Steam Room) or  
via Zoom  
(details below)**

'Great opportunity to make small changes in school'

'Its busy but it worth it seeing the kids have fun'

'Raise money for your child(ren) school'

'Use your voice to create some great events for the school'

'Put on amazing events the children will love'

'Join a friendly parent committee, everyone chips in'

## Join up and share great ideas for the school

Lucy Crabbe is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://zoom.us/j/8268647494?pwd=WEFsYXk5Vys5UIRBYz](https://zoom.us/j/8268647494?pwd=WEFsYXk5Vys5UIRBYzBoenNHNkQyUT09)

BoenNHNkQyUT09

**Meeting ID: 826 864 7494**

**Passcode: 620233**



**BENEDICT HOUSE  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

**OPEN**  
MORNING 

**Friday 20th October**

We offer high quality, independent education for children aged 2.5 years - 11 years.

Join us from 9:45am to experience Benedict House School for yourself and your child.

**- Book your place now!**



**CHATSWORTH  
SCHOOLS** 

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

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