

Weekly Communication update 24/09/21

Dear families,

Welcome to this week's Communication update. It will now include an update about what year groups are doing each week.

<p>General Update</p>	<p>Hello families. I hope this update finds you well. Attendance has been generally very good - a few children have been affected by this new virus which presents itself in a cough or cold. If your child is absent then please call the school office before 9am as this is when the office starts their calls home.</p> <p>It was lovely to have some trips take place this week - three Year 10 classes have been out doing a variety of activities including a trip to Brighton. Post 16 and one Year 11 group are attending college one day per week and one Year 8 group has started Forest School on Thursdays. Kidwizz is now running smoothly and any outstanding payments have been made - thank you. The office staff have asked me to thank you for returning forms so quickly. A number of forms have been sent out over the past couple of weeks and they have been returned promptly. This is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>At Bensham Manor we celebrate Black History Month with a series of events. More information to follow in next week's update.</p> <p>Pupils have been working incredibly hard this week:</p> <p>Year 7 - In English the topic is Myself - so the pupils are learning how to write an autobiography about themselves and learning about the talents and interests of all those in their class. In Art they are learning about Portraits and how to create our own self portrait using drawing and photography</p> <p>Year 8 - In Outdoor Learning the pupils are focusing on sustainability. In Textiles they are looking at elements in art and design. In English they pupils have been learning about being stranded on a desert island.</p> <p>Year 9 - In Arts Award pupils are focusing on learning about artists and arts organisations. In Maths the pupils are learning about place value and money. In English they are studying the novel Stone Cold.</p> <p>Year 10 - In Textiles pupils continue to focus on order and disorder. In PSHE they have been debating.</p> <p>Year 11 - In English they are looking at a big question - How are we harming our Planet and what can we do about it? In Skills for Life they are focusing on Team Skills.</p> <p>Post 16 - Pupils in Post 16 have started working in the on-site cafe. Next week they will also be working in the Outdoor Drinks hub situated in the front playground.</p> <p>Wishing you all a lovely weekend.</p>
<p>Lateral Flow Testing and Covid update</p>	<p>Please continue to test your children at home twice weekly using the kits we sent home on Wednesday. You should test your children on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. The rules on self-isolation changed on August 16th - the main change is as follows:</p> <p>Self-Isolation:</p> <p>If someone you live with has symptoms of Covid 19 or has tested positive for Covid 19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are fully vaccinated (14 days since you second dose) You are under 18 years and 6 months old You are taking part of have taken part in a Covid vaccine trial You are exempt from vaccination for medical reasons
<p>Parent/carer WhatsApp Group</p>	<p>If you would like to join this group please email the office on theoffice@benshammanor.com with your name, your child's name and the phone number you would like to use.</p>

Uniform and items of clothing	Can you please make sure that you write/sew/iron on your child's name to their clothing please. We have many items of unnamed clothing in lost property. Please email your child's form tutor if they have lost items of clothing. They will do their best to locate these for you. Any unnamed items that have not been claimed by the October half-term will be donated to charity.
PE	Please check your child's timetable to see when they have PE lessons. On the days they have PE, please ensure that they come to school in their PE kit - they do not need to wear school uniform on PE days.
Pastoral Parent/Carer evening	This will take place on Monday the 18th of October from 3.30pm by appointment only. You will have a slot on site with your child's form tutor and teaching assistant. Unfortunately you will not be able to meet with individual subject teachers but the form tutor will have all the information you need. We have invited staff from a number of local colleges on this day. You will have the opportunity to talk to college staff.
After School Clubs	Please ensure that you inform transport if your child is staying at school for club. We have some spaces left in a few clubs - Baking Club, Film Club, French Club, Drama Club and Sensory Club. If your child is interested in one of these clubs but is not in the Year group that the club is advertised for please contact the school office as we still may be able to accommodate your child.
Christmas Fayre-Save the date!	Bensham Manor will be holding its first ever Christmas Fayre on Saturday November 27th 10-2pm. More information to follow. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way then please contact the school office.
Mental Health Support	<p>Children, young people and their families can get free help, advice and urgent mental health support from 24/7 crisis telephone lines available in every London borough.</p> <p>Every NHS mental health trust in London has put these in place, so children, young people and their families can get help quickly when they need it. Professionals are also able to access these crisis lines if they are concerned about or would like advice about a child, young person or family. The crisis lines are supported by trained mental health practitioners, who can offer advice and signpost other sources of support as needed. The number is 0800 731 2864</p>
Contact details	If you have a new email address/telephone number then please ensure that you contact the office to update your details. Please do this via email to: theoffice@benshammanor.com . By law we must have the contact details for 2 adults for each child. Thank you.