



NEWSLETTER: 11th September 2026

Our First Full Week

As we complete our second week of the new academic year, I would like to thank everyone for helping us make such a positive start. It has been wonderful to see our school buzzing with enthusiasm, learning and friendship once again.

A special welcome goes to our new Reception children. It has been lovely to see them settling so confidently into their new roles as members of our school community. They have approached new routines, friendships and learning experiences with great enthusiasm and we are incredibly proud of how quickly they have adapted to school life. Thank you also to our reception families for your support during this important transition.

Across the school, pupils have returned with positive attitudes and a real eagerness to learn. Classrooms have been busy places and staff have enjoyed getting to know their new classes and establishing the high expectations that will help every child thrive this year.

As we begin the year, I would like to remind families of the importance of regular attendance. Every school day provides valuable learning opportunities and good attendance helps children develop confidence, friendships and positive learning habits.

We understand that children will occasionally be unwell and should remain at home when they are genuinely too ill to attend school. However, many minor illnesses, such as a mild cold, do not necessarily prevent children from taking part in their learning. If your child is well enough to engage with the school day, we encourage them to attend wherever possible.

If you are unsure whether your child is well enough for school, please contact the school office for advice. By working together, we can ensure that children enjoy the best possible start to the academic year and maximise every learning opportunity.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting week ahead.

Mr Wilkinson

Dojo messages

A polite reminder that teaching staff are unable to respond to messages sent via ClassDojo. If you need to contact the school, please email admin@greatbentleyprimary.net or call the school office on **01206 250331**. Our administration team will ensure that your message is passed promptly to the appropriate member of staff and will help direct any queries to the person best placed to assist you.

Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of our children is always our highest priority. We would like to inform families that Mr Wilkinson is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). He is supported by our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Eastbrook and Miss Dean-Turner.

Our safeguarding team works closely with staff, pupils and families to ensure that every child feels safe, supported and able to thrive at school. If you have any concerns about the welfare or safety of a child, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the safeguarding team through the school office.

By working together, we can continue to provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment for all children.

Harvest Collection

We are delighted to be holding our annual Harvest Festival on 2nd October. Children in Years 3 to 6 will attend a service at St Mary's Church, while our Key Stage 1 children will take part in a special Harvest Assembly in school. As part of our Harvest celebrations, we would like to support our local community by collecting donations of non-perishable food items for a local foodbank. We would be grateful for any contributions, which can be brought into classrooms from Monday 14th September onwards. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your donations will help make a real difference to families in our local area.

Great Bentley Youth Council

Section 106 funds have been allocated for the provision of new play equipment. We are seeking the views of the community to identify how the play area could be improved and we'd love to hear from you! To take part please visit the link below.

www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/youth-council-play-area-survey-2026/

DATES FOR THE DIARY

10.09.26- iRock commences for those that have enrolled
16.09.26-Drum lessons recommence
18.09.26-Keyboard/Guitar lessons recommence
25.09.26 - Coffee Morning
01.10.26-Autumn School Census
2.10.26-Harvest Festival Yrs 3-6
06.10.26 - AJS to take individual pupil photo's
09.11.26 – Flu Immunisation
09.11.26 - Parents' Evening (Booking information to follow)
11.11.26 - Parents' Evening (Booking information to follow)

MUSIC LESSONS

Music lessons with Essex Music Services for those that have booked with them will commence next week.

Kate Watson will be teaching drums on Wednesday 16th September
Nina Greenwood will be teaching keyboard on Friday 18th September
Frank Bowyer will be teaching guitar on Friday 18th September

Please remember to bring in instruments/music books as required.

MENU FOR NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will be on week 2 of the current menu. Please remember to discuss the menu with your child so that they know what they will be ordering at register time each day or whether they have a packed lunch. Meals are charged at £2.49 each for all KS2 children (unless eligible for Free School meals) and payable on Arbor.

Please note that due to a kitchen deep clean on Thursday there will be no roast on Thursday the options will be:-

Pasta - tomato sauce or macaroni cheese Or jacket potato



Menu - Mon 13th April 2026 to Fri 23rd October 2026

WEEK 2

weeks beginning: - 27th Apr, 18th May, 15th Jun, 6th Jul, 14th Sept, 5th Oct

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot Dinner	Fish fingers & mash	Jacket potato with cheese, beans, tuna	Sausage roll & wedges	Roast gammon with new potatoes & Yorkshire pudding	Chicken nuggets & chips
Vegetarian/Vegan Hot Dinner	Veggie fingers & mash	Jacket potato with cheese, beans	Quorn sausage roll & wedges	Quorn sausage with new potatoes & Yorkshire pudding	Vegetable nuggets & chips
Alternative Option	Jacket potato	Ham or cheese roll	Jacket potato	Gammon or cheese roll	Jacket potato
Served with	Peas, sweetcorn, baked beans, fresh bread & salad bar	Baked beans, spaghetti hoops, sweetcorn & Salad bar	Sweetcorn, baked beans, spaghetti hoops, fresh bread & salad bar	Carrots, peas, sweetcorn, baked beans & salad bar	Sweetcorn, baked beans, spaghetti hoops, fresh bread & salad bar
Dessert	Lemon cake	Fresh fruit	Ice pole	Artic roll	Chocolate brownie

All meals are served with apple juice or water

The salad bar is available daily including lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, carrot sticks, peppers, coleslaw, sweetcorn & cold pasta

Fresh fruit is available daily including orange, banana, apple, kiwi & melon

CELEBRATING WITH YOU

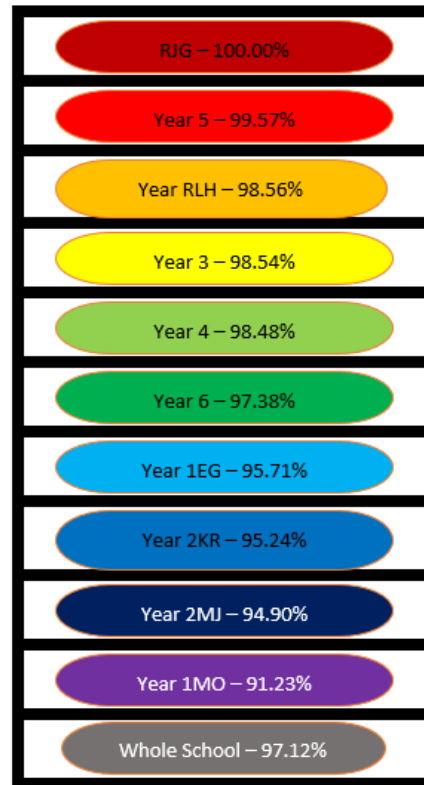
Well done Maximus (yr 4) for winning this year trophy at the village show for most points in the 8-11 year old category.



Over the summer, Ariana enjoyed creating various craft entries for the Great Bentley Village Show and she came first place for lots of her entries, well done Ariana!



This Weeks Attendance Leader Board



The local Superdrug Nurse Clinic in Clacton-on-Sea wanted to share the following information as the winter months are approaching

Superdrug Nurse Clinic

HELP TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM COMMON INFECTIONS

Stay protected. Stay confident.
Children's vaccines available at **Superdrug Nurse Clinic**.

SAFE, EFFECTIVE & NURSE LED CARE

Quick & convenient appointments

For children & eligible families

BOOK ONLINE TODAY

Search Superdrug Nurse Clinic

Qualified Nurses | **SAFE** Safe & Effective | **18+** For children & eligible families | **Health & Happiness**

Appointments subject to availability. For full eligibility and vaccine information, visit [superdrug.com/nurse-clinic](https://www.superdrug.com/nurse-clinic)

SNC2024

Did you know/Fun Fact for the week?
Octopuses have three hearts and blue blood!