



NEWSLETTER: 4th September 2026

Welcome Back!

What a wonderful first week as Great Bentley's Head of School. It has been fantastic to welcome everyone back and see the children settling so quickly into their new classes. Across the school, pupils have been busy exploring their new topics, establishing classroom routines, and embracing the exciting learning opportunities planned for the term ahead.

Please ensure that you are checking Class Dojo for regular updates from class teachers. This will also include PE dates and learning that the children have been doing over the week. If you're unsure on PE days, please ask your class teacher.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or information you would like to share, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Alternatively, you can email admin@greatbentley.essex.sch.uk, and your message will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please notify the school before **8:30am** by calling **01206 250331** and leaving a message on the absence line. Regular attendance is essential for both academic progress and the development of strong friendships and positive learning habits. We kindly remind families that holidays taken during term time will not normally be authorised, and penalty notices may be issued in accordance with current attendance regulations for extended unauthorised absences.

Thank you for your continued support as we begin another exciting year of learning together. We look forward to seeing all that the children will achieve during the months ahead.

With best wishes for a successful and happy term,

Mr Wilkinson

Uniform

As we settle into the new academic year, we would like to thank families for helping children arrive at school looking smart and ready to learn. Please take a few moments to check that your child is wearing the correct school uniform each day and that children wear PE kit on the appropriate days. A consistent uniform helps to promote a sense of belonging and pride in our school community.

One of the biggest challenges at the beginning of the year is returning lost property to its owner. We kindly ask that **all clothing and personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name**, including:

- School jumpers and cardigans
- Coats and waterproofs
- Water bottles
- Lunch boxes
- Hats, scarves and gloves

Even older children can struggle to recognise their belongings when many items look the same. Clearly labelled items can be returned quickly and help us reduce the amount of lost property that accumulates throughout the term.

Birthday Treats



We love celebrating birthdays at school and helping children feel special on their big day. However, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, we would like to remind families that children should **not bring sweets, cakes, chocolates, or other food treats into school to share with their classmates**. This decision has been made due to the increasing number of children in school with food allergies, intolerances, and dietary requirements. By avoiding the distribution of food items, we can help ensure that all children remain safe and included in celebrations.

Children are, of course, very welcome to celebrate their birthday with their class in other ways. Many children enjoy wearing a birthday badge, sharing a favourite book, or simply enjoying the special recognition they receive from their classmates and teachers throughout the day. We appreciate that sharing treats has traditionally been a lovely way to mark a birthday, and we thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Collection Arrangements Reminder

To help us ensure the safety of all children at the end of the school day, please remember to inform the school office if someone different will be collecting your child, please contact the office as soon as possible by phone so that staff can be notified. We are unable to release children to an unknown adult unless prior permission has been received from a parent or carer.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

10.09.26- iRock commences for those that have enrolled
 16.09.26-Drum lessons recommence
 01.10.26-Autumn School Census
 2.10.26-Harvest Festival Yrs2-6
 06.10.26 - AJS to take individual pupil photo's
 09.11.26 – Flu Immunisation

MENU FOR NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will be on week 1 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.



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

WEEK 1

weeks beginning: - 20th [Apr](#), 11th [May](#), 8th [Jun](#), 29th [Jun](#), 7th [Sept](#), 28th [Sept](#), 19th [Oct](#)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot Dinner	Spaghetti & meatballs	Jacket potato with cheese, beans, tuna	Pizza & pasta	Roast chicken with roast potatoes & Yorkshire pudding	Beef burger & chips
Vegetarian/Vegan Hot Dinner	Spaghetti & Quorn balls	Jacket potato with cheese, beans	Pizza & pasta	Quorn fillet with roast potatoes & Yorkshire pudding	Vegetable burger & chips
Alternative Option	Jacket potato	Ham or cheese roll	Jacket potato	Chicken 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 & salad bar	Carrots, peas, sweetcorn, cauliflower cheese & salad bar	Sweetcorn, baked beans, spaghetti hoops, fresh bread & salad bar
Dessert	Fruit jelly	Biscuit	Fruit salad & cream	Ice cream & sauce	Iced chocolate cake

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

Congratualtions to Tala-Rose completing the summer reading challenge!



Did you know/Fun Fact for the week?

Bees have to visit around 2 million flowers to make just one pound of honey!