

Bensham Manor Newsletter

Spring 2021



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear families,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Bensham Manor newsletter. I am so delighted to be able to write this at a time when the school has fully re-opened. This last lockdown was quite difficult for everyone and the staff are overjoyed to be back doing face to face teaching and learning. Your children have returned to school with such a positive attitude and an invigorated willingness to learn.

We celebrated Careers Week at the start of March and all classes had a guest speaker who spoke about their career and answered any questions that the children had. The week was a triumph and the pupils very much enjoyed learning about all the different careers that they can choose from. We also celebrated World Book Day which the pupils really enjoyed. On March 19th we had a fun-packed day celebrating Red Nose Day and raising money for a very worthy cause.

The next term is always our busiest and we have lots of building work going on. We are getting a climbing wall in the middle playground, Ms Mammatah's Food Technology Room and the Dining Hall are both having a re-fresh and the Music Room is being re-built. Very exciting times ahead.

Please enjoy this edition of the newsletter. I wish you all a very Happy Easter. Please continue to keep safe and well.

Mrs Robinson (Headteacher)

New Kitchen

A recipe for success!

Students and the Life Skills Cooking team have moved into our beautiful new kitchen classroom. This fantastic resource will allow our youngsters greater independence to develop their cooking skills in a modern environment in which they can hone essential, associated life skills. The new room comprises 12 pupil induction hob workstations which include 2 adjustable height work surfaces and electric fan ovens.



At the time of writing, an outside space is being cleared and will shortly be astroturfed. A selection of herbs and fruit/vegetables will be grown and cared for by pupils for use in their cooking lessons.



Comic Relief

Doing something funny for money

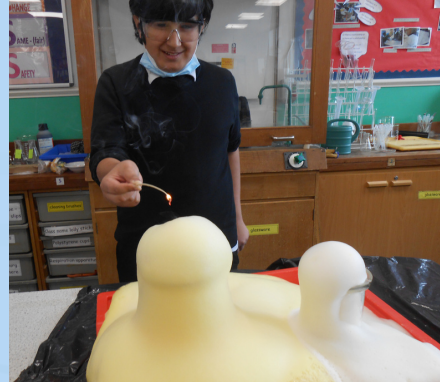
From outdoor discos to arts and crafts - we had a very eventful Red Nose Day. Have a look yourself!



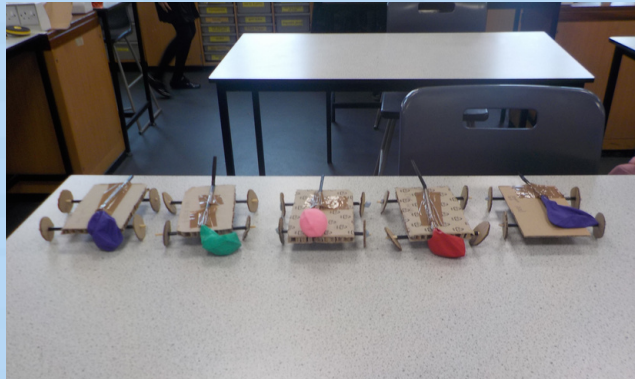
Science

Science and Engineering Day

Bensham Manor celebrated science and engineering week with lots of fun and exciting activities. Year 7 and 8 took part in building rocket balloons and firing them along a zip wire.



Year 9 and 10 built balloon cars and raced them against each other. Some students showed their amazing maths skills by calculating the speed of their cars or rocket balloons.



Other groups explored their senses building different shapes with mouldable sand or experimenting with fluffy slime ghosts. The science department showcased lots of different demonstrations including screaming jelly babies, elephant's toothpaste and the coloured density column. It was great to see students motivated and inspired. They demonstrated effective communication and team working skills and enjoyed learning through science. We are already planning for next year!

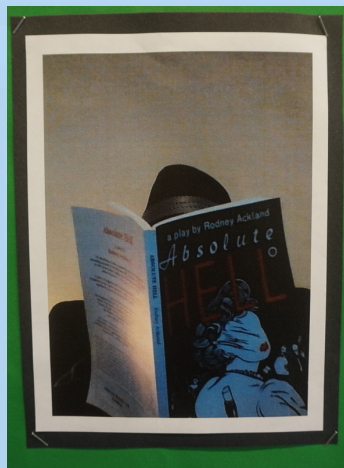
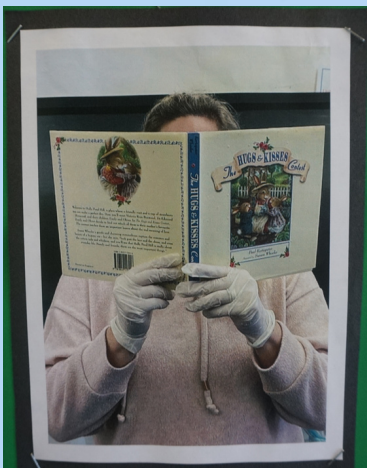


World Book Day

Today a reader. Tomorrow a leader

What an amazing World Book Day this year. Despite still being in lockdown, Bensham students sent in photos reading with their favourite person or even their favourite pet. We also created a competition to complete the Bensham Book Day quiz - we've had over 40 entries - brilliant.

In school there is also a 'Masked Reader' competition - guess who's reading that book! Lots of staff have snapped themselves reading, but their faces are covered, so students have to guess who the staff member is from the book they're reading. Winners will be announced in the last assembly of this term on Wednesday 31st March.



Have any idea!?

Remember that we learn to read so we can read to learn. Reading is amazing, it helps us escape into so many different worlds and experience places, people and events. Keep on reading!

Penpals

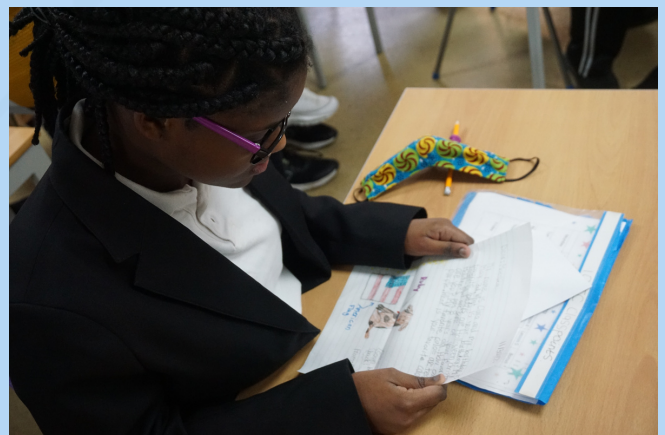
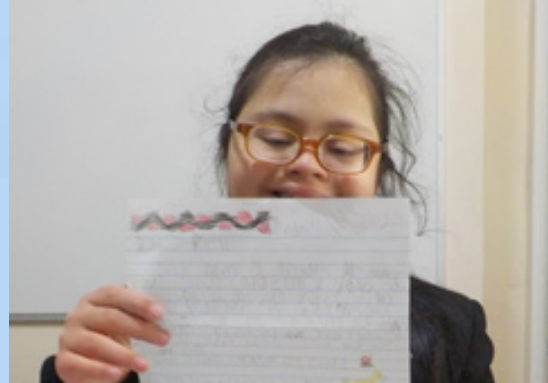
From Thornton Heath to the USA!

Some pupils from Bensham Manor School have written to their pen pals at a Sheehan School in Massachusetts, America.

On the left is Karen (Occupational Therapist) posting the letters to America, in December. On the right is Mary, posting her letters to us.



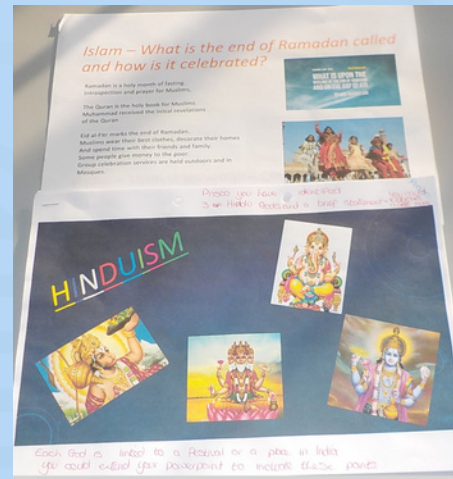
Here are a few of the students reading their letters.



In the Classroom

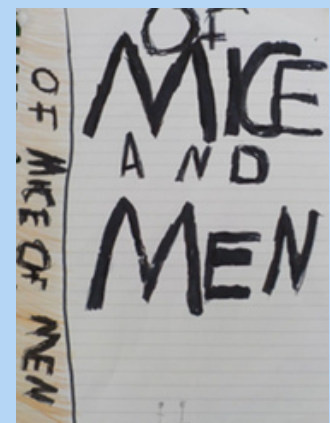
Religious Studies

9CW are back into the swing of things and are working hard in RE. They are researching facts about religious festivals like Christmas and Ramadan



English

10JC have been creating front covers for Of Mice and Men. Well done to Cuan, Joe, Tia, Moeshea, Camron and Vanessa!



Jack Petchey

Well done Aaron H!

This student has absolutely thrived during remote learning blossoming in so many ways, particularly socially and emotionally. From a quiet student last year, to a confident and vibrant student since the beginning of this year to present. His confidence has increased significantly where he's always keen to share meaningful contributions to the rest of the class.



He also helps his teaching assistant and teacher when they have any IT issues, showing his impressive IT skills and is always the first to say "You're on mute!"

He has completed his independent tasks to a high standard and is an excellent role model to the rest of his peers. He also has a fantastic sense of humour, making the rest of the class smile, which was much needed during these challenging times. Lastly, he has been the best example of showing the rest of us how we can still believe & achieve, even during a global pandemic.

Careers Week

During the first week in March Bensham Manor celebrated its first ever Careers Week. We are working hard to ensure that pupils are fully prepared for life after Bensham Manor.

We had such a wide range of people give each class in the school a talk about what their career was. We had a hairdresser who works in Croydon, we had a Postman who works in Dulwich, we had a National Rail Signaler who works in London and a Car Salesperson who works in Bromley to name a few.

The pupils got to ask questions and find out all about these Careers and what skills and qualifications are needed for each particular job.

This week generated many talking points with pupils about what they would like to do in the future and has helped to develop their confidence.

We are looking forward to running another Careers Week in 2022 - hopefully this one will be face to face!

