



16th October 2026

Today, the whole school came together to take part in Show Racism the Red Card Day, and it was wonderful to see so many children proudly wearing red and engaging in a range of meaningful activities. Throughout the day, pupils explored the importance of kindness, respect, equality and inclusion, learning how our differences make us stronger and how everyone deserves to feel valued and welcome.

Children across the school participated in discussions, stories, creative activities and collaborative learning experiences that encouraged them to celebrate diversity and challenge prejudice. It was fantastic to hear the thoughtful reflections from our pupils and to see their commitment to treating others with fairness and respect.

At Great Bentley, we are proud of our inclusive school community and today provided a valuable opportunity to reinforce our shared message that everyone belongs, everyone matters, and everyone should feel safe to be themselves. We would like to thank the children for their enthusiasm throughout the day and for demonstrating our school values so brilliantly.

Mr Wilkinson

Christmas Cards

A reminder that Cauliflower Cards must be returned to school by Wednesday 21st October.

This is a wonderful opportunity to turn your child's artwork into personalised Christmas cards, gift tags, wrapping paper and a range of festive gifts. If you would like to place an order, this can be done online using the details provided with your child's artwork.

We are always amazed by the creativity and talent displayed by our pupils, and we look forward to seeing their designs transformed into special keepsakes for family and friends.

Forms must be returned to school by **Wednesday 21st October** as we then approach half term when they are being collected.

Working Together

We are fortunate to have strong partnerships between home and school and we kindly remind parents and carers that if you have any concerns relating to your child's education, wellbeing or experiences at school, these should be raised directly with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Whilst it can be tempting to discuss concerns with other parents, they are often unable to help resolve the issue and may not have the full picture. By contacting the school directly, we can listen carefully, investigate appropriately and work with you to find a positive solution. Open communication between home and school allows us to provide the best possible support for all children and helps ensure concerns are addressed fairly, promptly and sensitively.

Therapy Advice Lines

Please see the following website: [NHS - Therapy Advice Lines - North East Essex - Colchester and Tendring | Essex Local Offer](#) for Essex's local offer: The service offers advice to parents and carers of school-age children in Colchester and Tendring. They can speak to qualified therapists for advice and support.

Forest School



Year 1 have had a lovely time at their forest school sessions this half term!

They have made bug hotel and have taken part in den building, climbing, tightrope walking and lots of digging!

Dates for the Diary



- 21.10.26- EYFS walkaround for Sept 2027/28 (2)
- 21.10.26-Deadline for Cauliflower Cards artwork to be returned to school.
- 23.11.26 - Last day of half term
- 3.11.26 - Little City visit for Reception
- 09.11.26 – Flu Immunisation
- 09.11.26 - Parents' Evening (Booking information to follow)
- 10.11.26-Year 6 Crucial Crew
- 11.11.26 - Parents' Evening (Booking information to follow)
- 13.11.26 - Children in Need Non-Uniform Day
- 18.11.26 - Penny Race
- 21.11.26-EYFS Sept 27/28 Open Morning

- 25.11.26-EYFS walkaround for Sept 27/28 (3)
- 27.11.26-Non-pupil day
- 7.12.26 - EYFS Nativity – 2:15
- 8.12.26 - KS1 Crafternoon – 2:00 – 3:00
- 9.12.26 - KS2 Crafternoon – 2:00 – 3:00
- 10.12.26 - Key Stage 1 Nativity – 9:30
- 10.12.26-School Christmas Lunch
- 10.12.26 Christmas Jumper Day
- 11.12.26- Key Stage 1 Nativity – 2:15
- 11.12.26-Carol Service 9.30 Yr5-6, 10.30 Yr 3-4 (further details to follow)
- 14.12.26 - EYFS Nativity – 2:15
- 14.12.26-Flu Immunisation mop-up
- 15.12.26-Rec & Yr 6 NHS height & weight (further details to follow)
- 17.12.26-iRock concert 2.30pm
- 18.12.26-Last day of term

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.

Please note that there will be a change to the menu on Wednesday and Friday next week therefore:-

Weds = Burger & chips or jacket potato + fruit salad & cream

Fri = Pizza & pasta or jacket potato + iced chocolate cake



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	Loaded 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

On Saturday Imogen and Rupert Perry found a 1-3 day old kitten in the road. So young her eyes were shut.

They stopped to rescued it, freezing and hungry. We warmed it up and fed it kitten formula. Colchester caring for our cats came to collect it and put it into their incubator. We will be buying formula to feed Lucky (named by Imogen and Rupert). And we hope to see her again.

Well done you two. You saved a life!!!



Colby Barrett from year 4 is part of the Madison Heights Youth Bowling Club in Maldon. Colby recently competed in the National Championships at Dunstable and received a bronze medal for Under 10's Male All Events. Well done Colby!



FRIENDS OF GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The PTA are looking for donations of unwanted wrapping paper. If you have any spare, please leave them in the office foyer. Thank you in advance.

PTA AGM Meeting 22nd October 6pm @ school

Our PTA AGM is coming up! If you've ever thought about getting involved, we'd love for you to come along and find out a little more about what we do. There's no commitment to join, just come along, meet the team, hear about our plans and see how you could get involved in whatever way works for you.

- 16th October 'Show racism the red card' own clothes day, wear something red and bring in a gift for the present room (poster attached)
- 3rd November Little City for Reception classes
- 18th November Penny Race – details to follow
- 8th Dec EYFS & KS1 Crafternoon 2-3pm
- 9th Dec KS2 Crafternoon 2-3pm



Half-term Events



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

This Weeks Attendance Leader Board

Year 6FDT – 98.31%
Year 5SB – 98.03%
Year 3AC – 97.98%
Year RJG – 97.89%
Year 1EG – 95.48%
Year RLH – 95.20%
Year 2MJ – 95.09%
Year 4JK – 94.32%
Year 2KR – 93.23%
Year 1MO – 92.49%
Whole School – 95.89%

Did you know/Fun Fact for the week?

The longest river in the UK is the river Severn with 354 km/ 220 miles