

# Bentham Brochure

## Bentham Community Primary School

### Mission Statement

#### *Building our future, step by step*

We encourage all our children to meet and exceed their potential, be it academically, sporting, socially or artistically

We aim to foster respect for the school community and wider environment

We encourage our children to take a global perspective throughout their learning

We encourage our children to have an understanding of the history and geography of the local area

Bentham CP School is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all children in school. All North Yorkshire schools, including Bentham CP School, follow the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The school will, in most circumstances, endeavour to discuss all concerns with parents about their child/ren. However, there may be exceptional circumstances when the school will discuss concerns with Social care and /or the Police without parental knowledge (in accordance with Child Protection procedures). The school will, of course, always aim to maintain a positive relationship with all parents. The school's child protection policy is available publicly.

## **Introduction**

Bentham Community Primary School is a small new school with a calm working atmosphere. It is situated in picturesque countryside and the school serves the villages of High Bentham, Low Bentham and Burton in Lonsdale and the surrounding farms and cottages in Mewith.

In this brochure we hope to tell you all that you would like to know about school. The care and concern of the children is at the heart of our educational philosophy and practice.

The school works very closely with parents who offer the school excellent support.

Children are set high standards in mixed age classes which are extremely well staffed with talented and highly skilled teachers and teaching assistants. Classes are taught by a judicious mix of individual, group and whole class teaching with carefully differentiated activities which cater for children from special needs to the most able.

There is a before school club that provides breakfasts and after school care from Monday to Friday in the community room which is led by experienced school staff.

KS2 pupils are able to take part in a full range of extra curricular activities which take place at the end of school within the cluster group.

We aim to create an environment where children feel secure and are helped to grow towards physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual maturity. Our children work thoughtfully and are encouraged to learn how to reach their full potential.

## **Admissions Policy**

### **Nursery**

Nursery pupils are admitted each term and must be three years old in the term before they join the Nursery Class.

Children can attend up to 5 nursery sessions per week and the morning sessions are from 9.00 am to 12 noon.

Children who attend Nursery are able to have a school lunch or bring their own packed lunch.at 11.30am.

If parents would like to visit the nursery please make an appointment with Mrs Claire Steele Early Years' Coordinator.

## **Main School**

Children enter main school in September of the academic year in which they are five years old. New entrants attend an induction programme during the summer term to make their transition to school as smooth as possible.

Our Early Years' Coordinator liaises closely with prospective parents to ensure school arrangements and procedures are clear. All parents must sign a home-school agreement. A meeting for prospective parents is held in the summer term to share information and discuss any questions or concerns parents may have regarding settling into school. If you would like a place in main school please complete the school's own admission form available from the office or download it from the school's website. This will be kept on file and you will be informed of the official North Yorkshire County Council Application arrangements in the year prior to your child starting full time at school.

Please note that 'in year' admissions are welcome when there are spaces available.

Prospective parents are encouraged to visit the school by prior arrangement with the headteacher.

## **Accessibility Plan**

Our new school building has disabled access from the school gate and throughout the school building plus we have two toilets suitable for disabled access.

## **Accommodation and Organisation**

The school building has seven classrooms, administration area, Library ,Nursery, community room, toilets and a hall. We have a large playground plus separate outdoor play areas for Early years.

We believe it is essential to provide a caring, supportive and happy environment, especially in the early years of schooling, so that all children feel secure and settled at school.

Our induction programme makes the transfer to school as smooth as possible. All pupils are involved in planning and choosing their games and activities for playtimes. Pupils' voice is valued in all aspects of school life and we have a very proactive School Council.

At present there are five classes:

#### Nursery Class

Class 1 Reception and Year 1

Class 2 Years 1 and 2

Class 2 Years 3 and 4

Class 4 Years 4 and 5

Class 5 Year 6

We provide mixed aged classes with high staffing levels provided by talented and highly skilled teachers and teaching assistants. As a result pupils receive personalised learning that meets their needs and provides the perfect environment for all children to develop to their full extent academically, personally and socially.

In each class children are taught by a range of methods: individual, group and whole class. Each child is allowed to progress at their own rate through carefully planned work.

Morning session 8:50 am to 12 noon

Afternoon session 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Pupils are taught for 24 hours a week; this does not include time spent on registration and breaks. There are a wide range of extracurricular activities which take place at lunch times and after school in addition to a thriving After School Club.

Lunch is from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. Excellent school meals are provided in our new kitchen and dining takes place in the hall. Packed lunches are permitted and we expect parents to provide a balanced nutritious lunch. Parents must contact the school office by email or telephone and inform the class teacher to change from school lunch to packed lunch.

## Curriculum

Our curriculum endeavours to provide each child with fertile growing conditions where with care and patience the growth of learning and thought occur.

We provide a broad balanced curriculum which caters for the needs and development of the whole child. Children are encouraged to think and develop an imaginative understanding of the world around them. The school curriculum is designed to sustain children through all aspects of life and as a result a variety of extra-curricular activities are provided. All pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for healthy lifestyles and safety. Pupils are prepared for life in a culturally diverse society and we promote equality of access regardless of race, gender, religion, discipline, disability and economic and social background. Our school believes in global education with many international links. As a result we host visitors from abroad throughout the year and this has a huge impact on children's global awareness.

Our children in nursery and reception begin to develop their thinking through planned structured play and child-initiated learning. Language is at the heart of our curriculum, and is central to the development of thought processes. Children's thinking and self expression are encouraged through listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. A variety of stimuli are used particularly literature and poetry.

As children progress through school their learning develops accuracy and clarity and expresses feeling and imagination.

The Oxford Reading Tree scheme is central to the teaching of initial reading skills. It is augmented by a wide range of fiction and non-fiction materials in the well-stocked school libraries and in each classroom. In the initial stages of reading phonic and whole word recognition skills are developed to provide a variety of reading strategies to help children become independent readers. Emphasis is also placed on reading aloud to children, as it is one of the most valuable strategies for teaching reading skills and fosters an enjoyment of books. The school places great stress on encouraging all children to develop a love for literature in its many forms.

We have developed a reading support scheme to enable children in Early Years and KS1 to have shared reading experiences with their parents.

Older children are encouraged to become fluent, confident and discriminating readers. We use Accelerated Reader scheme in Key Stage 2 which improves children's comprehension skills.

We have a structured approach to the development of spelling and handwriting and provide a homework programme with parental support materials.

## **Topic Work**

Each term children's work focuses on a particular topic which enables children to study different curriculum subjects whilst understanding the links which exists between them. Parents with specialist knowledge or skills related to a topic are encouraged to share these with their child's class teacher.

Many of the topics use the children's own experiences as starting points, particularly in the Early Years. Gradually the children extend and deepen their work beyond their own experiences with increasing application of concepts and ideas. Structured planning policies make sure that balanced programmes of topics have been covered during each key stage. This ensures children have covered a broad range of themes from science and the humanities.

The importance of pupils' voice, questioning and dialogic methods are the central threads of our approach to teaching creative topics.

## **Music**

Children are encouraged to listen and respond to a wide range of musical activities. They develop the skills needed to create musical compositions and gain confidence in groups or class performance.

In KS2 children have the opportunity to extend their school-based music experiences by taking part in instrumental tuition provided by the County Music Service.

## **ICT**

Each classroom is equipped with Clevertouch screens and PCs including broadband Internet facility, scanners, digital cameras and camcorders which are used to enhance pupils' learning. There are also laptops and I pads available for use.

Children are encouraged to incorporate their ICT skills across the curriculum, by the use of word processing; data collection, control technology, e-mailing and Internet where appropriate. On occasions upper KS2 pupils work is displayed on the school's website.

## **PE and Movement**

Children take part in games, gymnastics and creative movement and dance. During the summer term we hold our annual sports day and also take part in the village schools' cluster sports day. Clubs are held at the end of school i.e. Zumba. Some of KS2 classes PE lessons are provided by specialist sports coaches to further enhance pupils' provision. KS2 children also go regularly for swimming lessons to Hornby Pool.

## **Philosophy**

Children are introduced to philosophy and the development of critical thinking skills from an early age. We believe that this enables children to improve their key thinking processes and enhances their understanding in all curriculum areas.

## **PSHE**

Personal Social Health Education is a vital element of our children's learning. It enables pupils to make independent decisions about their lives.

## **RE**

All children come together for assemblies. The school assembly is the focal point of religious experience for it brings children together in an act of worship which should be acceptable to all denominations. Assemblies are broadly Christian in character, but the beliefs and festivals of other faiths are also used for assembly themes. Services are sometimes held in nearby churches, at appropriate times, during the school year. Regularly representatives from churches take part in school assemblies.

RE teaching focuses on the Christian faith, but children also study the major world faiths and are encouraged to develop a sensitive understanding of our multi-cultural society. Each class goes to Bentham Methodist chapel for lessons in their Godly Play room. Children's personal growth is fostered by stories which makes sense of life and explore feelings.

Parents are entitled, by law, to withdraw their child from assembly and RE teaching. Children are able to read in another area of the school, but please consult the headteacher if you have any concerns about this matter.

## **Special Needs**

Our school policy has been designed to identify children with Special Educational Needs as early as possible. In the first instance additional provision will be made, as far as possible, within school. In the case, where appropriate, a child will be put on the school's "Special Educational Needs Register" and their progress reviewed regularly. If it is felt that a child requires further or more specialised provision, pupil support services and other external agencies will be involved. This may result in a formal statement of needs. Parents of pupils identified with special needs are fully consulted and are entitled to have

access to the school's Special Educational Needs Policy. External support services are provided by the Local Authority. We are committed to inclusion and strive for excellence for every child. Our Gifted and Talented Policy ensures pupils with special skills and talents achieve their full potential. The policy is in accordance with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

## **Sex Education**

Sex education is not taught formally, but any questions arising are dealt with appropriately giving due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life. During years 5/6 there is a formal talk, "Growing Up", given by the school nurse. Parents may withdraw their children from this talk.

## **Homework**

We have an extensive school homework policy providing a balanced programme of activities which enhance children's learning; parents receive appropriate information and advice sheets. In addition we provide meetings for parents to help them support their children's learning.

## **Extra curricular activities**

We believe a varied provision of extra-curricular activities is an essential part of school life. The following activities are provided during the school year: school plays, music groups, art club, Zumba, football, netball, rounders, multi sports and cricket clubs with teams regularly taking part in North Craven cluster events.

## **Residential Visits**

Children in Years 3,4,5 & 6 are all given the opportunity to go on a residential trip. Children in Years 3 & 4 usually go to Malham for two days (one night) whilst Year 5 participate in a longer action packed residential visit to NYCC's Centre at Bewerley Park. Year 6 children experience a "City break" and spend three days (two nights) in Edinburgh or York.

## **Pastoral care**

Responsibility for the pastoral care of each child rests firstly with the child's class teacher. If the class teacher cannot help, the problem should be referred to the headteacher.

If your child has worries or problems which could affect his or her work, please inform the class teacher immediately.

## **Parental Contributions for Educational Visits**

The Educational Reform Act 1988 has made educational visits taking place during school hours free of charge. We feel such visits are a valuable part of school life, but the school does not have the necessary funds to cover the costs of such visits. As a consequence we ask parents to make voluntary contributions towards the costs of each visit. If a parent does not contribute, their child will still be eligible to take part. However, if voluntary contributions prove insufficient it may be necessary to cancel a trip.

## **Transfer to Secondary School**

Our children transfer to secondary school at eleven years of age. Parents are able to express a preference for places at Settle College or QES in Kirkby Lonsdale in Cumbria. .

Each school holds prospective parents' evenings. Liaison meetings are held with the secondary schools to facilitate the transfer of children.

## **Holiday Requests**

As from September 2013 absence due to holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances during term time. Please see guidance notes and the application form on the school website for further information.

## **Children's Progress and Parents Evening**

Parents are invited to attend parents' evenings during the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms to discuss their child's progress. Progress and effort grade reports are provided at the beginning of each term.

However, parents are always welcome to discuss their child's progress. Please make an appointment with the teacher concern.

## **Behaviour and discipline**

To enable us to create a pleasant, safe and civilised environment we have certain school rules. These are principally based upon safety, security and consideration for others that are discussed with the children.

Unacceptable behaviour will be checked and serious misbehaviour will result in children losing privileges such as playtime. Parents will be invited to discuss with the headteacher any continual misbehaviour if we ever experience in the future the case of extreme anti-social, racist or violent behaviour then exclusion from school will occur.

Please could parents note the following rules;

Jewellery (rings, earrings and necklaces) constitute a dangerous hazard at school. Serious injuries have been caused, particularly in PE. You are asked to ensure that your child does not wear any of these items in school.

Small studs may be worn by those children with pierced ears. Children may bring in watches and calculators only at their own risk. Money, sweets, toys and valuables are not allowed in school without prior permission from the class teacher.

## **Medicine in school**

As a result of recommendations from North Yorkshire County Council Education Authority our policy on administering medicine to children in school is as follows:



Children who are ill should remain at home to recover and avoid further spread of germs. A telephone message informing the school of an absence should be made on the first day of absence.

We cannot take responsibility for keeping and administering medicine to children during school hours.

In the case of a doctor insisting that a child must have medicine during school time or a child suffering a long-term ailment such as asthma, where medication should be available in school, please contact school and complete the medical authority form.

## **Friends of Bentham School**

The school has a thriving Friends of Bentham School group which supports the school for the benefit of children, parents and teachers and also raises extra funds. Parent help for special activities is greatly appreciated. For example: class topics, concerts, visits, transport etc. They provide major support for school visits, learning resources and playground equipment.

## **Insurance**

Please note the County Council does not provide personal accident insurance for pupils.

## **School Uniform**

Children are encouraged to wear grey or black coloured clothing for school. Bottle green sweat shirts, white or green polo shirts, book bags etc are embroidered with the school logo are available from [www.mikessportsworld.co.uk](http://www.mikessportsworld.co.uk) and can be ordered directly online. Children should wear dark coloured flat shoes or sandals.

Parents are asked to provide their child with suitable PE attire: shorts, T shirt and pumps or trainers which should all be named. Parents should ensure that fashion and leisure wear are avoided.

## **Documents**

Under the terms of the Educational Reform Act 1988, parents are entitled to have access to a number of documents: LA curriculum statements, DFS circulars and statutory orders, schemes of work, LA agreed syllabus for RE, published OFSTED report specifically related to the school and documents outlining arrangements for considering complaints procedure about the school curriculum.

If a parent has any complaints about the school please contact the headteacher. If a problem cannot be resolved it will be referred to the Governing Body. If the problem is still unresolved it will be referred to the Local Authority according to the complaints procedure. The Secretary of State will deal with matters in the final instance.