

1st October 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mr Hiley

As I am sure everyone will agree, this week has seen a dramatic change in the weather! With this change, can I please remind parents to send children to school with a suitable outdoor coat, hats etc.. As a school we do encourage children to get outside during breaks and lunch-times; On particularly wet days, puddles accumulate on the school's playground, so it might also be beneficial for children to bring a pair of wellies that they can leave at school and use on rainy days, as opposed to getting school shoes wet and socks soggy!

Whilst on the subject of breaktimes, can I please remind those parents who send older children to school with a snack to enjoy during their break, to ensure that they provide either fruit or healthy alternatives. Please try to avoid crisps, chocolate, or snacks that are high in fat and sugar. By way of a reminder, children in Early Years (Nursery and Reception) and Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) are provided with a FREE piece of fruit. Thank you.

As we move deeper into the Autumnal months, visibility both in the morning and evening decreases. As a school, we would actively encourage both children and parents to wear something fluorescent and/or reflective which helps increase visibility for all other road users and pedestrians. For more information please visit: <https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/be-bright-be-seen-game/>

As every parent will know, children absolutely adore our Forest School provision. What could be better than engaging in some outdoor learning, crafts and activities? However, with winter approaching, and autumn turning out to be soggy than anticipated, Mrs McGregor, our Forest Schools Leader is desperately seeking some help with the construction of a semi-permanent shelter that children can use over the winter months. If you think you can help, or have any expertise in constructing outdoor shelters, then please get in touch with the school. More information can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

Earlier this week, information has been sent home with children about our up-coming Parent Interviews scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13th October 2021. After much consideration, it has once again been

decided that it will be safer for everyone involved if we hold parent interviews via the telephone. In order to secure an appointment with your child's class teacher, please ensure that reply slips are completed and returned to school by no later than Wednesday 6th October.

Also, this week information has been sent home about school photographs. Tiny Pixels will be on site on Friday 5th November 2021 taking individual and family photographs. As in previous years, those families who would like a group photograph which includes **non-school aged** children then they are invited to call into school between 8.15am and 9.00am on the 5th November, please report to Main Reception. If you would like a 'group' photograph of **School Aged Children** then please complete and return the reply slip provided on the letter sent home earlier this week by no later than Friday 22nd October. For those parents of children in Nursery, who do not usually attend our Nursery provision on a Friday, then they are more than welcome to bring children along for a school photograph between 8.15am and 9.00am. Can I just remind parents that it is the school's policy that face coverings are worn at all times whilst in the building, unless medically except.

As previously reported in the Friday News, it was with much sadness that Rev Anne Russell announced that she would be resigning from her position of Vice-Chair on the Board of Governors due to relocating. This leaves a vacancy for a co-opted governor on our Board. If you know of any individual within the wider community, who is not a parent of a child at the school and whom you think would make an excellent candidate to fill this vacancy, then please encourage them to contact the school on 015242 61412. Any successful appointment will be subject to all necessary safeguarding checks, including a DBS check. Whilst being a Governor requires dedication and commitment, it is a rewarding role which helps support children's learning, the school community, accountability, the curriculum and much more.

We are also in the process of undertaking a Staff Governor Election, due to Mrs Harrison's term of office coming to an end in November 2022.

Can I once again remind parents of children in Class 5 that there will be NO swimming on Monday 4th October due to Settle Pool having to close their doors to all swimmers whilst some building works take place at the pool.

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Whilst this might be disappointing, please remember that managers at the pool have agreed for building works to be undertaken so that Settle Pool's facilities can be upgraded and improved, further enhancing accessibility to all users. This will benefit everyone in the long-term and Managers are keen to pass on their thanks to everyone for supporting this temporary closure. Likewise, we would like to thank Settle Pool for all their support to school over previous years, including financially, which has ultimately assisted children to access lessons.

This week was the final week for the first block of children who have taken part in this term's After School Cooking Club. I have to say there have been some delicious aromas drifting down the corridor on Thursday evenings! Next week it will be turn of children who have secured a place in the second block of After School Cooking Club sessions. Can I just remind parents to make payment for places via Parentpay. Thank you to Mrs Reid and Mrs Askew for running these very popular sessions.

We do still have a couple of places available for children in KS2 (years 3,4,5 and 6) at the After School Basketball Club being run by Coach Mark Gunn on Tuesdays after school. If you would like your child to join in with this FREE fun afterschool sporting activity, then please contact Sally in the School Office. Remaining places will be offered on a first come first served basis.

On Thursday 7th October children at school will be celebrating 'Poetry Day'; there will be an opportunity for ALL children in ALL classes to join in with a celebratory lunch. There is no need to pre-order children can order on the day during registration. By way of a reminder, meals are FREE of charge to ALL children in Reception, years 1 and 2. £2.55 for children in years 3,4,5 and 6 and £2.10 for children in Nursery. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals there will be no charge. Children are also welcome to join in with Fun Day Friday as well as joining this special Poetry Day celebration.

Finally, whilst it may be tempting to temporarily hibernate over the winter months, this is not possible. Recently more and more children have been registering at school late. Please remember that arriving late to school impacts learning throughout the day. Can parents please try and ensure that children arrive at school on time, ready for registration and a day's learning. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr T Hiley

Interim Headteacher

Bentham C P School

Covid-19

Can I please once again remind parents that, inevitably, some of us will succumb to seasonal colds that present with similar symptoms to that of Covid. As a school we would like to encourage parents to secure a PCR test if any member of the household presents with any symptoms that could be attributable to Covid infection. By following guidance we can help prevent the spread of Covid and protect our friends, families and communities. Advice from the Government now states:

“Do not use a rapid lateral flow test if you have COVID-19 symptoms. Get a PCR test as soon as possible and self-isolate, even if symptoms are mild”.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

By way of a reminder, please do not send your child to school if they have cold symptoms without undertaking a PCR test. Please remember, that in line with advice from the Local Authority, it may be deemed necessary to send a child home, or not accept them in class if they are displaying cold symptoms and have not been tested. As is always the case, thank you to everyone in advance for their co-operation, support and understanding.

Car Parking at School Can we remind parents about using the school's car park safely. Please do not double park, block other cars in, park in the gateway or abandon vehicles. Perhaps consider walking to school, or alternatively, if distance is the issue, driving only part of the journey to school, parking up in a safe and legal place and walking the remainder of the journey to school. Thank you.

PE Days

This term, our PE days are, as follows:

Nursery :	Tuesday/Friday
Class 1 :	Tuesday/Friday

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Class 2 : Tuesday/Wednesday
Class 3 : Monday/Tuesday
Class 4 : Monday/Tuesday
Class 5 : Monday/Tuesday

Influenza Vaccination As previously reported information has been sent home to all parents about this year's Influenza vaccination which is being offered FREE OF CHARGE to all children in Reception to Year 11 inclusive. The vaccination team is scheduled to visit school on the 7th October 2021. Please remember, if you want any advice about this vaccination then you need to contact the School Immunisation Team on 01423 553115. To consent to your child receiving the vaccination, please visit <https://www.hdft.nhs.uk/fluconsent/>. If you are unable to access the internet, then please, again, contact the School Immunisation Team directly. When booking online schools identification number is 121380.

Year 6 – transferring to Secondary School

Whilst children may have only just arrived in Year 6, arrangements now need to be made to secure a place at secondary school for September 2022. Places need to be applied for before by no later than 31st October 2021. Applications can be made online at

www.northyorks.gov.uk/admissions.

Vacancies at Bentham Community Primary School

Would you like the opportunity to join our friendly team of staff here at Bentham Community Primary School? We currently have vacancies for a GTA (General Teaching Assistant) and MSA (Midday Supervisory Assistant). Details about both vacancies can be found at :

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers>

Alternatively, contact Sally in the School Office for more information. The closing date for applications is 12.00 mid-day on today's date. (1st October 2021).

FREE SCHOOL MEALS These are difficult times, with financial circumstances changing on an almost daily basis for some families. In some instances, families may be missing out on Free School Meals. Whilst ALL children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are eligible for UNIVERSAL free school meals, families may also be entitled to some additional financial support. Free School Meal eligibility for children in younger year groups includes universal entitlement and additional pupil premium funding which

helps support children in school with their learning. If you think you may be eligible for some additional support, then please contact Sally in the School Office. Please be reassured that all applications will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

Brownies

We have been contacted by the 1st Clapham and Austwick Brownie group who are reaching out to local schools with regards to recruiting more 'Brownies'. This invitation is open to all girls aged between 7 and 10 who might be interested in joining a local Brownie Group. Brownies have lots of adventures, learn new skills and can gain reward badges for their efforts. For more information about what brownies get up to, please visit

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/brownies-7-10/all-about-brownies/>.

If your child would like to join the 1st Clapham and Austwick Brownie Group then please contact Amy North Johnson at : Amy@jandnservices.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th October 2021

Connie's Chicken Quesadilla
Five Veggie Pasta
Jacket Potato

Tuesday 5th October 2021

Pasta Bolognese
Cauliflower and Broccoli Cheese Bake
Jacket Potato
3.30pm-4.20pm After School Basketball Club

Wednesday 6th October 2021

Sausage Toad in the Hole
Vegetarian Sausage
Jacket Potato

Thursday 7th October 2021

School Census Day

9.00am Childhood Vaccination Team (Influenza)

Poetry Day

Margherita Pizza, Potato Smiles 😊, peas and/or Baked Beans
Jacket Potato
Upside Down Apple Slice with or without Ice-Cream
Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

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3.30pm-4.30pm After School Cooking Club (1 of 3)

Friday 8th October 2021

Fun-Day-Friday

Fish Fingers

Cheese Pastry

Jacket Potato

Bentham C P School - Forest School Plea:

Any Mums/Dads/Grandparents/friends who have the skills and knowledge to help set up and put in place a semi-permanent shelter for Forest School would be hugely appreciated!

In order to enjoy Forest Schools over the coming months, school have purchased a very large parachute tarpaulin to protect the children from the elements.

However, our site does not have the tall trees needed to put it up. I need to find a way to dig down into rocky ground to secure some tall poles to then attach the tarpaulin too.

I'm open to other ideas and suggestions. I've included some photos of what I'm trying to aim for.

If anyone has the expertise, please get in touch with the school office or me@benthamcp.org, so that we can try and create a shelter and enjoy our Forest Schools sessions through winter.

Ideally, I would love to have this ready before half term.

Thank you

Mrs McGregor

Contact details:

admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk

015242 61412

amcgregor@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk



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