

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



## Message from Mr Hiley

Earlier this week, Miss Webster sent home information to parents of children in Nursery, Reception, years 1 and 2 about this year's Christmas Production 'The Prickly Hay'. As explained in the letter, due to Covid we are limiting audience numbers. If you are parent of a child in Nursery, Class 1, 2 or year 2 in Class 3 then please remember to complete and return reply slips to secure tickets to performances by no later than Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately, we will NOT be able to honour late responses.

This will be the first time the school has 'opened' its doors to parents for a very long time! This decision has not been taken lightly, and numerous considerations have had to be taken into account. We have worked with guidance from our partners at NYCC and the UK Health Protection Agency to ensure appropriate and proportionate risk assessments are in place. Please read the following information very carefully to ensure our event can go ahead safely and to avoid any possibilities of transmission which may have knock on effects for Christmas!

**We would strongly recommend that any adults coming to any of the performances carry out a Lateral Flow Test even if asymptomatic. This is our first line of defence to help keep everyone as safe as possible.**

On the day of the performance, we would ask that parents do not enter classrooms, but make their way directly to the School Hall where they will be met by a member of staff and seated. We are also asking that face coverings are worn at all times, unless you are medically exempt. In addition, please remember that taking photographs or videos of children performing is strictly prohibited.

It goes without saying, on the day of performances, if you have one or more symptoms of Covid then please DO NOT attend the performance. Please also consider not attending if you are not well with any other potentially contagious illness. As everyone will appreciate, there are also a lot of nasty coughs, colds and bugs doing the rounds at this moment in time and as I am sure everyone will agree, we need to limit the spread of any illness – it has never been more important to look after each other.

For those parents who will be bringing children back for the evening performance we would once again ask that

children are dropped off at classroom doors and parents do not enter classrooms.

At the end of the performance, can parents please make their way to the school playground where a member of staff will send children out to be collected.

We would also ask that parents do not enter the corridors in the school building. Whilst usually we would love to let parents have a wander around the school and take a look at our lovely displays, this year we are unfortunately unable to allow this to happen. Thanking everyone in anticipation for their compliance and understanding.

We will also be ensuring maximum ventilation in the hall which means we will have doors and windows open no matter what the weather so please come prepared! Many layers would be our recommendation!

Now on to other Christmas news and events!

On the 8<sup>th</sup> December, children in classes 1,2,3,4 and 5 will be taking part in a Nativity at the Auction Mart. We can now confirm that parents are welcome to attend this performance at the Auction Mart from 1.30pm onwards. In order to avoid any confusion and unnecessary mixing of adults and groups, at the end of the event we will be walking **all** children back to school for a usual collection time of 3.30pm. Please do not ask if you can take your child directly from the Auction Mart as this will really help us with our safeguarding and also ensure those children taking part in the Christmas craft session after school are all back at school ready for the fun!

Don't forget, our school Christmas Lunch will be taking place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, and all children are invited to join in with this seasonal feast! Meals are priced at £2.10 per meal for children in Nursery, FREE of charge for ALL children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 and £2.55 per meal for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. Christmas Lunch is also FREE for all children eligible for Free School Meals. Payment should be made via Parentpay prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Also, on the 10<sup>th</sup> December is 'Christmas Jumper Day'. In return for wearing a Christmas Jumper or Christmas Accessories families are being encouraged to donate £1.00. All monies collected will go to a mental health charity. **To help with any confusion, Christmas jumpers should be worn over the top of school uniforms (jumpers**

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



replacing the school sweatshirt). Children are welcome to accessorise with Christmas hats, gloves, scarves hair ties etc.

And finally, Christmas Parties will be taking place across school on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December. On the day, children are all invited to come into school in their party clothes if they want to. There is a rumour that a certain Mr Claus may also have this date in his very busy seasonal diary..... But as with everything this year – there are no guarantees!

This week our very popular After School Cookery Club once again opened its doors to children. Due to children in the first group missing two sessions there will be a delay for children in Group 2 starting their sessions. Group 1 will have their final session on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, whilst children who were previously confirmed as having secured places on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2<sup>nd</sup> December and 9<sup>th</sup> December will now have their turn in the New Year (6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022). Apologies for any confusion and disappointment caused.

Once again, thank you to everyone who supported children with their Children in Need Sponsored Walk or Mile with a Smile. We managed to raise an **astounding £1721.42** for Children in Need.

Finally, this week school photographs were sent home with children. If you have not received your order, or have any queries, then please contact Tiny Pixels directly on 01282 606064 or

<https://tinypixels.gotphoto.co.uk/login>

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr T Hiley

Interim Headteacher

## Free Family Events for Christmas at the Methodist Church

MESSY CHURCH : Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 : 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Christingle Service : 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 : 4.00pm

Carol Service : Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm

Crib Service : Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 4.00pm

For more information about the above events, please see attached Flyer.

## Christmas Cards

We know how much the children enjoy sending Christmas cards to their friends in the run up to Christmas. In order to do this in a 'Covid safe' way we will be adopting the same postal system as last year!

Any Christmas cards can be posted into a class box which will then be transferred to our main post box in the Entrance Hall. These will then be delivered by our Y6 postal service. This will help avoid any unnecessary gathering in corridors.

**Please note - Last posting day for Christmas Cards is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December!**

## Mobile Phones on school grounds.

We understand that parents and carers may wish to use mobile phones to make calls, check messages on social media etc while they are waiting for their children at the end of the school day, and we are absolutely fine with this. We would ask however, that you do not use your device cameras to take photographs while on school premises. We have several families who have expressly asked that their children do not feature on any photographs taken in school and it is an important safeguarding issue that we respect their wishes. If there is something specific you would like a photograph of, please have a word with your child's class teacher and we will be able to arrange it, if at all possible.

## Return of Baby and Toddler Group

We are absolutely delighted to confirm that the Friends of Bentham School are once again offering a 'Covid secure' Baby and Toddler Group session, every Friday, term-time only in the School Hall. The next session will be on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 from 9.30am until 11.00am. If you have a pre-school aged child, then please do pop along to this friendly informal group – we look forward to seeing you!

## Covid-19

There is clear evidence (ZOE Covid Study) that a runny nose and cold like symptoms are now the most common symptoms of Covid infection in unvaccinated children. This is challenging as we move into the usual Autumn cold and flu season therefore, we would strongly recommend that if your child is showing mild cold symptoms including a runny or blocked nose you test regularly with an LFD

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

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(Lateral Flow Device) test. By following guidance, we can help prevent the spread of Covid and protect our friends, families and communities. Advice from the Government continues to state:

**“Do not use a rapid lateral flow test if you have COVID-19 symptoms as listed on the NHS website. [Get a PCR test](#) as soon as possible and [self-isolate](#), while awaiting the result even if symptoms are mild”.**

For more information, please visit

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

Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms that could be attributable to Covid without undertaking an appropriate 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 covid symptoms and have not been tested. As is always the case, thank you to everyone in advance for their co-operation, support and understanding.

## PE Days

Nursery:	Thursday	(AM)
Class 1 :	Tuesday/Friday :	PM (including Nursery children who stay for afternoon sessions)
Class 2 :	Tuesday/Wednesday	
Class 3 :	Monday/Tuesday	
Class 4 :	Monday/Tuesday	
Class 5 :	Monday/Tuesday	

**Christmas Reading Challenge** North Yorkshire Libraries will be running a Christmas Reading Challenge for 4–11-year-olds from Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. As a reward for reading children will be able to earn stickers, prizes and certificates. For more information, please see the attached leaflet, or contact North Yorkshire Libraries on 01609 534547. [www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries).

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Fish and Sweet Potato Cake  
Cheese and Onion Quiche  
Jacket Potato

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Macaroni Cheese  
Quorn Rainbow Pie  
Jacket Potato

**3.30pm-4.20pm After School Basketball Club**

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Roast Chicken  
Vegetable Roast  
Jacket Potato

**1.30pm Auction Mart Carol Service (Classes 1,2,3,4 and 5)**

**3.30pm Christmas Crafts**

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Chicken Korma  
Vegetable Korma  
Jacket Potato

**3.30pm-4.30pm After School Cooking Club (Week 3 of 3 for Group 1)**

**3.30pm-4.30pm CREST Science Club**

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

9.30am – 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group in the School Hall

**Christmas Dinner**

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

Return Swimming Consents by 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (C4)

**URGENT REMINDER Return Parental Agreements by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 AT THE VERY LATEST.**

Return Menu Choices by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (All)

Apply for a child's Reception Place by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (N)

Return Ticket Request for The Prickly Hay by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

## **Festive Dates for your Diary...**

08/12/2021 : Christmas Crafts Evening

08/12/2021 : Auction Mart Nativity

10/12/2021 : Christmas Dinner

10/12/2021 : Christmas Jumper Day

14/12/2021 : The Prickly Hay Performance (EYFS/KS1)

16/12/2021 : Christmas Party Day

17/12/2021 : Last day of Term school closes at 3.30pm



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

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04/01/2022: Coach Gunn's Holiday Sports Camp

05/01/2022 : School Re-opens

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

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**Celebrate Christingle with us**

**Join us and help give young  
people a brighter future**

*Sunday December 12th 4.00 p.m.  
At Bentham Methodist Church*



[christingle.org](http://christingle.org)

Charity Registration No. 221124



XT01334/0919

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



## Free Family Events for Christmas at the Methodist church

Sunday 5th December, 2.30-4.30pm

### Messy Church

Christmas Crafts, games and story, plus hot dogs and cakes for everyone

Sunday 12th December, 4pm

### Christingle Service - come and make a Christingle

A short, fun service in support of the Children's Society

Sunday 19th December, 4pm

### Carol Service

Worship the Newborn King with well-known songs and readings

Friday 24th December, 4pm

**Crib Service** - come and be a character in the nativity, costume optional!

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

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3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

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