

4th February 2022

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mr Hiley

Last week school had to reintroduce a number of restrictive measures in order to deal with an outbreak of Covid. Thankfully, this week the situation appears to have improved, with no further confirmed cases being reported, meaning that on Tuesday of this week school was able to return to more 'usual' routines and activities. As per my e-mail to parents/carers this means the following :

- Class bubbles will no longer be needed and the playground and communal spaces can be shared once again.
- Children will not be separated in Breakfast or After School Clubs.
- Tuesday Sports Club with Coach Gunn will be open to all regular participants
- Hall based assemblies will resume
- In line with the latest DfE advice, there will no longer be a requirement to wear a face-mask in classrooms **OR** in communal areas such as corridors for staff or visitors. You may wish to continue to use a face-mask, especially if you are meeting with someone in an enclosed space or office within school.
- Children should continue to be tested using an LFD kit twice weekly to prevent further outbreaks of Covid within school as long as Covid cases remain high in the local community.

As I am sure readers will agree, our Forest School Provision is enthusiastically received by all our children (and parents); what can be better than getting outside and engaging in some outdoor learning and craft activities, whether it be splashing in puddles, creating mud pies, identifying insects, growing veg, foraging or sitting around a campfire our Forest School delivers endless opportunities for children and staff alike. I am sure everyone will agree that Mrs McGregor has done an absolutely amazing job at getting our Forest School provision up and running. Behind the scenes, Mrs McGregor has been working towards her Open Awards Level 3 Forest Schools

Practitioner qualification, which has involved endless hard work, dedication and personal time commitment. I am absolutely delighted to announce that Mrs McGregor has now successfully achieved accreditation. Mrs McGregor's depth of knowledge and expertise in Forest School will no doubt benefit both the school and every child who takes part in the Forest School program – WELL DONE Mrs McGregor.

Whilst it may only just be the start of February, March will soon be upon us, and as is usually the case March brings with it fundraising for Comic Relief's Red Nose Day! This year we will, once again be selling Red Noses from school. These are priced at £1.50 each and I am reliably informed this year noses are, once again, plastic free, and are a 'wild bunch'.....

More information about other fundraising efforts by school on the 18th March will follow shortly.....

Our Chinese New Year celebratory lunch was a 'roaring' success for the Year of the Tiger! Thank you to our wonderful school cooks, Lila and John for preparing such a delicious feast for children to enjoy. Our next special lunch will be on the **14th February** when we will be celebrating St Valentine's Day by offering children an opportunity to enjoy a Happy Valentine's Day lunch! As with all special lunches, there is no need to pre-order. Meals can be ordered on the day during registration. Meals are priced at £2.10 per child in Nursery. FREE for ALL children in reception, years 1 and 2 and £2.55 per child for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. (Free for any child with Free School Meal eligibility).

On the menu : Forever Yours Chicken Fajitas

Be Mine Bean and Vegetable Burrito

Whole Lotta' Love Potato Wedges

Crazy About You Carrots and Perfect Peas

Paris Shortbread Sandwich with City of Love Custard

Whilst on the subject of school lunches, Children at school are still looking for an enthusiastic, friendly and approachable person to join the MSA Team. This post is for FIVE hours per week, term-time only (12 noon – 1.00pm). The post-holder will help with the supervision of children over the lunchtime break both

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in the School Hall and playground helping to provide a safe and caring environment. An enhanced DBS Disclosure is required for this post. For more information, please contact Sally in the School Office.

Again, in relation to School Dinners, can I once again remind parents that children CANNOT swap and change between having a packed lunch and/or a school meal. This INCLUDES alternating weekly. It is school policy, which has been agreed by Governors, that children either commit to having a packed lunch, or school meal on a **half termly basis**. Swapping and changing does have an impact on staffing, ordering and budgets. As a school we do offer three meal options per day and also accommodate special dietary requests. As has always been the case, there are exceptions when a child who usually brings a packed lunch will need to order a meal in an emergency situation, and this can be accommodated. Likewise, if your child would like to try a school meal, or take a meal once per week, then they are welcome to join in with Fun Day Friday which is available EVERY Friday at school or, equally, join in with any of the school's Celebration Meals. Thank you

We also have a vacancy and opportunity for a dedicated individual to work alongside Mrs Duckett in her role as Family Support Assistant; For more information about this exciting vacancy and post details please visit :

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

Copy advert, Job Description and Application Forms are also available by request from Sally in the School Office.

This year we are continuing to invite children to come into school wearing their own clothes (not school uniform) on their birthdays..... If birthdays fall on a weekend or during school holidays, then children can, if they choose, come to school in their own clothes on a day of the week following their birthday when school is open. It is perhaps best to check with class teachers which day would be best just in case children are taking part in PE!

Car park issues have been relatively light over the past few month but, unfortunately, on a number of occasions this week, I have been approached about issues involving the school's car park. Please can I remind parents NOT to double park, block cars in spaces, park in the school's gateway or irresponsibly abandon vehicles. Please consider how an emergency vehicle would access the site if the need should arise. Now the nights are getting lighter and the mornings brighter perhaps consider walking to school, or alternatively if distance is the issue, driving only part of the journey, parking up in a safe and legal place and walking the remainder of the route to school? Thank you.

Next week, on Tuesday 8th February we will be promoting 'Safer Internet Day' and working with children across all year groups highlighting the potential dangers of the internet, which as we all know can be a wonderful resource but also a dangerous place. As a reminder children will also be taking part in a 'World Religion Afternoon' on Wednesday 16th February. Mrs McGregor has been busy securing and organising speakers representing different world religions to visit the school and work with children in their house groups. This is a wonderful way to celebrate cultural diversity and learn about the world's different religions.

Finally, a MASSIVE thank you to Mrs Harrison for organising the year's Number Day in support of the NSPCC. Throughout the day, numbers have quite literally been flashing before my eyes! The lucky winner of this year's 'Guess the Lowest Number' will be announced later today.....

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr T Hiley

Interim Headteacher

Class 4 & 5 Residential

As we move away from restrictions and pandemic issues, we are delighted to be able to reintroduce residential visits. We have secured a fantastic venue at Keswick Youth Hostel for Classes 4 & 5 (Yrs 4,5 & 6) where, we will be taking over two entire floors exclusively for ourselves for an exciting and action-

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packed week of outdoor activities. The residential will take place from Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July. We are putting together the final arrangements so that we can finalise the cost to allow parents/carers to spread this over the following weeks if they wish. We will be holding an information meeting for parents, carers and children on **Wednesday 16th February 2022** at **5.30pm** in the School Hall where we will be able to outline the week's activities along with associated costs and answer any questions.

Parentpay

Unfortunately, despite last week's reminder, there are still a number of accounts (69 – an increase from last week) on Parentpay currently showing an outstanding balance. Can I please ask that parents check that all payments are up-to-date. Please remember if you have any queries regarding these arrears or if you have difficulty making payment, contact the school office sooner rather than later to discuss this further. In some cases a mutually agreeable repayment plan can be put in place with the school. Failure to make payment towards outstanding debts may result in the arrear being referred to North Yorkshire County Council's Legal Team.

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 11th February 2022 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!

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

REMINDER Breakfast Club and After School Club

Breakfast Club runs EVERY weekday morning from 8.00am to 9.00am and is available for children in Reception to Year 6 inclusive. Full sessions run from 8.00am to 9.00am and are priced at £4.00 per child, per day, including breakfast and refreshments. Half sessions run from 8.20am to 9.00am and are priced at £2.00 per day per child, including refreshments.

After School Club runs Monday to Thursday, term-time only from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and is priced at £3.00 per session, per child. Places at both clubs need to be pre-booked via the School Office.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 7th February 2022

Chicken Korma and Rice
Vegetable Korma and Rice
Jacket Potato

Tuesday 8th February 2022

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Macaroni Cheese
Sweet and Sour Vegetables
Jacket Potato

3.30pm – 4.20pm After School Basketball Club

Wednesday 9th February 2022

Roast Chicken
Cheese and Tomato Pasta
Jacket Potato

8.30am- 9.00am Maths Drop In (Year 6)

Thursday 10th February 2022

Nacho Beef Bake
Vegetable and Bean Chilli
Jacket Potato

3.30pm – 4.15pm Maths Drop In (Year 6)

Friday 11th February 2022

Battered Fish
Roast Vegetable Roll
Jacket Potato

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

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<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

Messy Church

Why not go along to Bentham Methodist Chapel on Sunday 13th February 2022 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm and enjoy 'Messy Church'? There will be games, crafts, stories, activities, food and songs – an afternoon of fun for ALL the family. Entry is FREE to everyone.

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