



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Spring Term : Edition 8

Dear Parents/Carers

What a busy week! As reported in last week's Friday News, on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday children in classes 3,4 and 5 were all given the opportunity to take part in a Rivers Field Trip. Thankfully the weather over the week improved, enabling children to enjoy some time outside in fresh air and sunshine as opposed to gale force winds and heavy rain!

Children in Year 6 all thoroughly enjoyed their visit to London, including their educational visit to the Houses of Parliament. As is usually the case, our party of school children were an absolute credit to the school. During the journey a number of members of the public even commented on children's excellent behaviour. Thank you to Mrs Cadman, Miss Tierney and Mrs Barlow for accompanying children on this visit.

It is with sadness, that this week we have received news that we will be saying 'goodbye' to Miss Angela Tierney. Miss Tierney's last day at school will be Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Miss Tierney has worked at the school for a number of years, and whilst she will be missed by colleagues and children alike, we would like to wish her the very best of luck for her future.

Next week children in Reception, years 1,2 and 3 will be given an opportunity to engage in an educational workshop led by a Buddhist Monk. This activity will support children's learning and understanding of worldwide religion together with supporting knowledge of the diverse culture within the United Kingdom today. Children in years 4,5 and 6 will also be given the opportunity to enhance their learning about world religion when they visit Manjushri Kadampa on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Can I just ask that if parents have not yet returned the Consent Form for this visit can they please do so as quickly as possible. Likewise, if payment has not yet been made for this visit via Parentpay can parents please consider making the same ASAP?

This week parents of children in Nursery should have received a Parental Agreement for the Summer Term. To help the school with Nursery planning for our final

term of the academic year, can parents/carers please return completed agreements, indicating what days and hours they would like to secure at Bentham, to the School Office as quickly as possible - thank you.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15pm until 3.00pm, we are once again inviting parents/carers of children to join staff at a Parent Coffee Afternoon. This is a lovely opportunity to meet informally with other parents/carers and members of staff over a FREE cuppa and slice of cake.

Finally, in light of the concerns over Coronavirus, this week members of staff at the school have spent some time talking to children about good hygiene practices, the importance of using tissues, and correct handwashing procedures. Staff have explained that the virus is similar to Flu and can make you feel poorly for a few days, but that the infection is not serious for most people, and that children should not worry about the virus. Please can parents/carers reiterate these points to children. By way of information, a copy of the latest Government advice for school settings is attached to this edition of the Friday News.

Whilst it is appreciated that the use of alcohol gel in some instances being recommended to sanitise hands, soap and water are just as effective. NYCC has a ban on alcohol based hand sanitiser at school, for good reason, as it is more likely to cause hospitalisation through incorrect use than other sanitisers. We would, therefore, ask that parents/carers do not send children into school with instant gel type sanitisers to use during the school day. Thank you.

Have a super weekend.

Mrs Emma Chapman

**FUNDRAISING CAKE SALE – HELP!** Unfortunately, during the recent high winds some of our outdoor resources in Early Years was irreparably damaged. As you can imagine, this has caused quite a lot of upset for our younger children. Never one to be defeated, and with a view to re-stocking the outdoor provision, Miss Richardson is organising a fundraising 'Bake Sale' which will take place on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020** at 3.30pm. All we ask, is that all those aspiring Mary Berry's (or Paul Hollywoods) pop on their pinnies and get baking with a view to donating a cake or two that can be sold at the end of the day (shop bought cakes would also be appreciated if you have not got time to

bake). ALL proceeds of sale will go towards re-purchasing items for EYFS. A MASSIVE THANK YOU to everyone for their continued support.

**Sport Relief** On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, school will once again be supporting 'Sport Relief'. More information about how you can help raise funds for this charity event will be sent home with children shortly.

**IMPORTANT DATES** Can parents/carers please ensure that they do their very best to ensure that children are at school during May 2020 and avoid requesting any leave of absence. During May 2020 KS1 SATS will be taking place, with KS2 taking their SATs during the week commencing the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020. This year phonics screening for children in Year 1 will take place during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020. For more information about statutory testing please visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-1-and-key-stage-2-test-dates](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-1-and-key-stage-2-test-dates). Thank you.

**Odd Sock Day – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020.** This year we will be helping to raise all important funds for the North Lancashire Down Syndrome Support Group by inviting children to wear a pair of odd socks on **FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020** in return for a voluntary donation of £1.00. Why the odd socks? Well, a chromosome looks a little like a sock and people with Down's syndrome have an extra copy of the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome – so it is a great way to open up conversations and help raise awareness about Downs Syndrome. For more information about the Lancashire Down Syndrome Support Group please visit [www.facebook.com/northlancsdsgroup](http://www.facebook.com/northlancsdsgroup) or speak to Lisa Clark, Zack's mum.

**DRUMZ ALOUD** Following on from last year's very noisy, popular and fabulous 'Drumz Aloud' workshop sessions, we have once again secured 'Drumz Aloud' to visit school on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Children in years 1 to 6 inclusive will all take part in drumming workshops in the School Hall. Can parents/carers please ensure that children have their PE kit at school on the day – sessions are physically active! At 3.00pm we would like to invite parents/carers of children to come along to a school assembly, where children will be given an opportunity to perform and showcase their newly acquired drumming skills to an attentive audience! We look forward to seeing you.

**REMINDER : BRUNCH DAY** All children, in all classes

are invited to join in with a special 'Brunch Day' School Lunch on **FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020**. On the menu will be sausage, (vegetarian option also available), bacon, beans, hash-browns, tomatoes, bagels, scrambled eggs and mushrooms (aka 'a full English'). For dessert children will have the choice of either a Krispie Cereal Bar, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt. There is no need to pre-order, orders for this special Brunch can be placed on the day during registration. The price of a meal is £2.10 per child in Nursery, **FREE OF CHARGE** for all children in reception, year 1 and 2 and £2.55 per child in years 3,4,5 and 6. Children currently eligible for Free School Meals will also not be charged for taking part in this special lunch opportunity. Payment for meals should be made Parentpay.

**Uniform and Leisurewear, Lancaster** As one of our uniform suppliers, Uniform and Leisurewear in Lancaster will be holding a promotional 'Super Saturday' event on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a 10% discount off of total spends – to include uniforms, workwear, sportswear and accessories (sale items not included). Why not pop along to 15 Common Garden Street, Lancaster, LA1 1XD and bag yourself a bargain?!

**Friends of Bentham School** The FOBs would like to thank any parents, carers, friends and family that supported their recent Coffee Morning at the Town Hall. This week, the FOBS have kindly agreed to provide some funding towards up-grading the school's computers, which are used by EVERY child in EVERY class, together with providing some financial assistance towards our Early Years outdoor provision. THANK YOU.

**EASTER BINGO CHOCOLATE DONATIONS** This year the Friends of Bentham School will, once again, be hosting an evening of 'Easter Bingo' with lots of chocolate prizes to be won! On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 children are invited to come into school wearing non-uniform in return for a donation of chocolate! All donations will be used to create prize hampers! Please help support the FOB's fundraising efforts and remember ALL children in ALL classes benefit from their continuing efforts. Thank you.

#### **Library Visits**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020: Class 3 : 1.30pm  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020: Class 2 : 1.30pm  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 : Class 4 : 1.30pm

## Godly Play

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 : Class 2 : 10.30am

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 : Class 4 : 1.30pm

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 : Class 3 : 1.30pm

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 : Class 5 : 1.30pm

**Parentpay** Unfortunately, we still have a number of accounts showing outstanding balances. Can parents please ensure that their Parentpay account is up-to-date. Please remember, if you are having difficulty meeting any payment, then please do not hesitate to contact the school. In some circumstances, a payment plan or financial support could be put in place. Please be reassured that all discussions will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Failure to contact the school about outstanding accounts may result in the debt being referred to NYCC Legal Services.

## Children and Family Support Worker Appointments

Are you struggling as a parent/carer, or would you simply benefit from some help, advice or support? Then why not talk to a Children and Family Support Worker?

During March 2020, there will be a number of appointments available at Bentham School for parents/carers to meet with a Family Support Worker. Whether you're an 'expectant' family, or already have a child or children aged birth to 19 years appointments will be available FREE OF CHARGE on the following dates :

9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

To book an appointment, please call 01609 533118 or e-mail : C&FCravenHub@northyorks.gov.uk

## What's on Next Week?

### Monday 9th March 2020

10.00am Family Support Worker Sessions in Community Room

1.00pm Class 4 Swimming (inc Ben, Tommy & Charlie)

### Tuesday 10th March 2020

1.00pm Vision Re-take Tests (Reception) School Health Team

Lunch-time Football with Jordan

### Wednesday 11th March 2020

Music Lessons : Mr Hinchcliffe (Accordion)

Music Lessons : Mrs Brennan (Key-board/Flute)

1.30pm Class 4 Library Visit

### Thursday 12th March 2020

Guitar Lessons

Buddhist Monk Workshops : Reception, 1,2 and 3

3.30pm KS1 Multi-Skills After School Club (2 of 5)

### Friday 13th February 2020

Sport Relief

Baby and Toddler Group : School Hall

2.15pm Parent Coffee Afternoon

3pm Praise Assembly