



6th October 2017

Autumn Term Edition 5

Dear Parents

Over the last two weeks I have been spending time in every classroom, speaking to children, observing lessons and looking at children's learning in their books. It has been a real pleasure to see all of our children settled into their new classes and in some cases with their new teachers.

There is some great learning taking place throughout the school and I have been amazed at how well behaved, polite and mature children continue to be. We are planning on opening up our classrooms to parents in the future, giving parents an opportunity to spend some time in school and in their child's class – so keep an eye out for this information.

Communication with parents is an aspect of school life we are continually striving to improve. We have the Friday News, the website, parent coffee afternoons, parents' evenings, a texting service, all alongside additional various school events throughout the year. We also welcome parents into classrooms on a Monday morning and we are always happy for parents to speak to class teachers at the end of the school day or to make an appointment. **WE NEED YOUR HELP THOUGH.** We try, throughout the year, to offer children a wide range of opportunities and experiences that take them out of the classroom and into the local area and beyond. All of these trips require consent from parents, either via a tear-off slip at the bottom of a letter or through a full page Consent Form. Unfortunately, we are spending a lot of time chasing consents, sending text reminders, photocopying forms and letters multiple times and running around at the last minute phoning parents for verbal consents. We cannot continue to do this as it not only costs time and money, but it is also affecting children's learning when members of staff are out of classrooms trying to contact parents. We are all guilty of misplacing a letter or forgetting to sign something, so we will continue to send ONE reminder. However, in future, if we have not received consent then unfortunately your child will miss out on a trip opportunity.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to all those parents and children who stayed behind two weeks ago for our Big Dig. We made a huge amount of progress and the area outside continues to get better and better. Thank you also to Mr Ellershaw who brought his tools and put up a shed in our Early Years Outdoor area – it is very much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pearson

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION : ACTION REQUIRED :
Primary School Starters : Reception 2018**

Are you a parent of a child born between 01/09/13 and 31/08/14? If so, then you will need to apply for a primary school place for September 2018.

The information needed to apply for a place is available at:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Applications can be made online. If you do not have access to the internet then paper applications can be made. For a copy of the application form please contact the Schools Admissions Team on 01609 533679. Alternatively please speak to Sally in the School Office. **Please note : all applications need to be made by no later than 15th January 2018. ACT NOW.**

Praise Assembly We would like to once again remind parents that they are welcome to come along to our weekly praise assemblies which take place every Friday in the School Hall at 3.00pm.

Parent Coffee Afternoon We would like to invite parents, grandparents and families of children at the school to our Parent Coffee Afternoon which will be taking place on Thursday 19th October at 2.45pm. Please come along to hear about developments in school and put forward any ideas or suggestions.

Tesco Bags of Help Grant Please remember to help our fund raising efforts by supporting our Wildlife Project at local Tesco stores.

Governor Ballot Following the recent Parent Governor Election, we are pleased to announce that we have received three applications for the vacancy. There will shortly be a Ballot, and parents are encouraged to take part in this, and vote for the individual they think would best represent the Parent Governor role on our Board of Governors.

Reminder : Please return reply slips for the 'Finding out about Phonics' and 'Spotlight on Spellings' sessions ASAP. Thank you.

E-Mail request Can parents please complete and return the reply slip in connection with e-mail addresses to the School Office as quickly as possible. Hopefully, we will be able to roll out a trial of e-mailing letters and correspondence to parents shortly!

Peter Pan : A Musical Adventure Please see children's book bags for more information about this wonderful opportunity for children to experience a 'live' musical.

Parentpay It must seem like we are always nagging – but can parents PLEASE ensure that Parentpay accounts are kept up-to-date and topped up. This week we have 63 accounts showing as having money outstanding. Thank you.

Year 5 Bewerley Park Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the meeting this week to find out more about this residential. For those parents who were not able to attend the meeting, please look out for a letter and information in your child's book bag.

Skipton Music Centre : Open Morning

On Saturday 7th October from 9.30am until 12.15pm Skipton Music Centre will be hosting an 'Open Morning' at Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton. The morning is FREE of charge and children and adults of all abilities are welcome to bring along their musical instruments and join in the fun. For more information please contact Pip Jopling on 01609 534 795 (pip.jopling@northyorks.gov.uk).

The Friends of Bentham School will once again be hosting a fund-raising Christmas Market in the School Hall from 6.30pm until 8.00pm on the evening of 24th November 2017. There are currently spaces available for craft stalls. There is a small charge of £5.00 per stallholder (plus the donation of a Raffle Prize). If you are interested in securing a stall, or if you know anyone who would be interested then please contact the School Office on 015242 61412.

Eco-Ramble for Children in Need The Rev'd Timothy Fox has organised a sponsored Eco-Ramble in Greta Wood, Burton in Lonsdale for Children in Need on Saturday 14th October. Everyone is welcome to take part and help raise all important funds for this well

known charity. Participants should meet at the car park opposite the play-park at Burton-in-Lonsdale at 11.00am. If you are able to help with the ramble on the day, or if you require a sponsorship form, then please contact Rev'd Timothy Fox on 015242 62575.

Messy Church It's fun, it's free and it's for ALL ages! On Saturday 7th October from 4.00pm until 6.00pm High Bentham Methodist Chapel will once again be hosting 'Messy Church'. Messy Church is a time when families can get together and enjoy being together, making things together, eating a meal together and celebrating together. There is no charge for Messy Church, however there will be an opportunity to give a donation towards craft resources and catering costs.

Parents of Children in Year 6 Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall, Clitheroe will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 7th October. A Stonyhurst education is more affordable than many imagine; generous bursary schemes are available, alongside many other benefits, including no charge for additional specialist learning support. For more information, please pick up a Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall Leaflet from School Reception or contact i.murphy@stonyhurst.ac.uk (01254 827016).

Bentham Library are launching a new 'Story Time' provision commencing on the 11th October 2017 at 11.00am. The session is aimed at children under 5. In addition, the Library are also planning to hold a Gruffalo Party on Wednesday 25th October. For more information, please contact Bentham Library.

Bentham Golf Club are holding an Autumn Fair on Saturday 4th November from 11.00am to 2.00pm. Entry is FREE. For more information, please visit www.benthamgolfclub.co.uk.