



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Autumn Term : Edition 12

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all those parents who managed to make it to the re-scheduled Reading and Maths Information Evening on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. It was lovely to see so many parents engaging in the workshops and we hope you found them useful.

At the time of writing, the whole school seems to be busy getting ready for our annual Christmas Fair which will be taking place after school today from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Please do pop into the School Hall and support our fundraising efforts.

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, I thought I had quite literally travelled back in time, when I was greeted at the school gates by what can only be described as a potentially brutal Viking! Thankfully, it turned out that this time traveller was only here for the day and was only interested in one thing – ensuring that children in Classes 3,4 and 5 all engaged in a wonderful educational learning experience! Please visit the school website for some photos of the day. Thank you to Mrs Cadman for organising this.

Finally, I would like to invite parents/carers to a Coffee Afternoon which will be taking place at the school on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 2.45pm. This is a lovely opportunity to meet with members of staff and myself in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pearson

**Christmas Advent Trail** On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, children in Class 3 have been invited to join children from Clapham School on a Christmas Advent Trail around the village of Clapham. This lovely festive activity is FREE of charge. Children will be accompanied by members of staff from both schools. On the day, children will be collected by coach from school at 1.15pm returning to school by no later than 3.30pm. Can parents please ensure that children bring with them a suitable warm winter coat for the weather, a water bottle, hat and gloves. Thank you.

**Exciting Christmas News.....** This year we will not be having a whole school trip to a local theatre to watch

a Pantomime. Instead, we are bringing a pantomime to the school! Oh yes we are! On **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020** the 'West End in Schools' Theatre Production Company will be performing 'Dick Whittington' to ALL children in the familiar surroundings of our School Hall. We would like to take this opportunity to thank The Friends of Bentham School for part-funding this lovely opportunity for children. As we are sure parents/carers will be aware the costs involved with bringing a pantomime to school are extensive, even with the significant and gratefully received support of the FOBS. With this in mind, we are asking that parents/carers make a **voluntary contribution of £2.50 per child** towards the cost of the pantomime and provision of refreshments and interval snacks! Payment should be made via Parentpay by no later than **31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**. Thank you.

**Halton Gill** As mentioned at the Parents' Meeting for this residential, due to parents providing transport both to and from Halton Gill, the cost of the trip was slightly less than originally calculated, the original charge being £50.00 per child, the actual cost now being £42.00 per child. If you have not already done so, can you please arrange for payment, in full, to be made via Parentpay. For those parents who have deposited £50.00 an £8.00 refund will be automatically TRANSFERRED to their child's Dinner Money Parentpay account. If you wish for the refund to be transferred to an alternative service, then please contact Sally in the School Office. Please note that a refund to parents costs the school money and we would rather prevent incurring this cost by just transferring the amount to another account of Parentpay. Thank you.

**'Save the Children'** and be in with a chance of winning a delicious box of biscuits! Can you guess 'What is Coach Christmas asking Santa for this Year'? For a donation of £1.00 you can have a go and be in with a chance of winning! Enter at the School Office.

**Toast Café** To help school raise funds towards trips and residential visits, entrepreneurs, Abbie and Ella from year 6 will be selling toast every **MONDAY** break time from the Music Room. Toast will be priced at 10p per slice.

**Spring Menu Choices** The new menu for the Spring Term has been sent home in children's book bags. There are lots of lovely warming lunches to enjoy on a cold Winter's day, including Roast Chicken, Glamorgan

Sausage, Jam Roly Poly, Fruit Crumble and much more! If your child will be taking a school meal when we return to school in January, can parents/carers please complete meal choices, and return these to the School Office by **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**. By way of information, our Fun Day Friday option will continue in the new term. Meal prices will continue to be charged at £2.10 per day for children in Nursery, FREE of charge for ALL children in Reception, years 1 and 2 and £2.55 per day for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. In some instances you may be eligible for Free School Meals or additional Pupil Premium funding. For more information, please see Sally in the School Office.

**Fun-Day Friday** Next week Fun Day Friday will be on Thursday! Children who do not usually take a school lunch, are invited to dine with their friends on both Thursday and Friday next week! On Thursday Pizza, Jacket Potato and Raspberry Buns, fresh fruit and yoghurt will be on the menu whilst on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the Festive Season with a Christmas Dinner (vegetarian option available). There is no need to pre-order, meals can be ordered during registration.

Monday : Pasta Bolognese/Falafel Burger/Jacket  
Tuesday : Salmon Nibbles/5-a-day Veggie Pasta/Jacket  
Wednesday : Minced Beef Yorkshire Pudding/Veggie  
Roast/Jacket Potato  
Thursday : Pizza/Jacket Potato  
Friday : CHRISTMAS DINNER

**New Year – New Idea!** At a recent meeting of the School Council, it was proposed by members that as from January 2020, children would be invited to come into school, dressed in non-uniform, on their Birthdays! If a birthday falls on a weekend or during the school holidays, then children can come to school wearing an outfit of their choice, the final Friday before their Birthday. Members of the School Council were keen to stress to parents/carers that children do not HAVE to come to school in non-uniform, only if they want to.

**PARENTPAY** Can we please remind parents/carers to regularly check their child's Parentpay account. At the time of writing there are **61** accounts showing as having outstanding balances 😞. 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.

To help with financial planning, and by way of a reminder, children in years 4 and 5 will be taking part in their residential visit to Bewerley Park from the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020. We are asking that parents secure their child's place on this residential by paying a deposit of £100.00 (non-refundable) by no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. Similarly, children in Year 6 will be taking part in a residential to Whitby from the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Again, in order to secure a place, a non-refundable deposit of £100.00 needs to be made by no later than 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020. To assist with the financial outlay, Parentpay has been set up to allow parents/carers to make smaller balance reducing payments at any one time.

**Caving Visit** On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, children in Year 6 have been given the opportunity to take part in a FREE caving experience at Long Churn Caves, Selside. Can we please remind parents that children need to come to school wearing warm jogging bottoms (no jeans), thick socks (2 pairs would be ideal), a t-shirt, woolly hat and warm jumper. Children should also bring a pair of wellies, a packed lunch, a water bottle, a healthy snack, a towel and a spare set of clothing and footwear to change into.

**Reminder** If your child would like to join staff at this year's Christmas Crafts event on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, please remember to return the reply form to school as quickly as possible. There are still places available on the Branch Christmas Decoration and Christmas Fingerprint Coasters crafts. Please remember to return a cash payment of £4.00 with your reply slip. Thank You.

**Public Health England** This week Public Health England have provided some information about Flu-like illnesses, together with diarrhoea and vomiting in school children. These illnesses are common at this time of year and, in most instances, can be treated successfully at home. To help spread infection, advice is that everyone washes their hands frequently in warm water and soap, particularly after using the toilet or a tissue to catch a cough or sneeze. It is most important to always wash hands before eating. For more information about Flu please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>.

In the case of gastrointestinal illness it is important that children stay off school and away from other communal settings until 48 hours after they last had diarrhoea and/or vomiting. Further information and advice can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/> Please remember that if you or your child are in an 'at risk' group and develop symptoms of either Flu or the Winter Vomiting Bug then please seek prompt medical assessment via NHS 111 or your GP.

### **What's on next week?**

#### Monday 9th December 2019

9.20am Children in Year 6 Long Churn Caving Trip  
Lunchtime Knitting Club  
Lunchtime Board Games Club  
1.30pm Class 3 at Godly Play (parent helpers needed!)  
Music Lessons : Mrs Brennan (Flute/Keyboard)

#### Tuesday 10th December 2019

Jordan's Lunchtime Football Club  
Lunchtime Book Club  
Christmas Crafts

**There will be no Jigsaw Club**

#### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Music Lessons : Mr Hinchcliffe (Accordion)  
10am Brian McDaid Labour Candidate for Craven visiting Class 5  
10.45am Class 2 at Godly Play (parent helpers needed)  
1.30pm Class 4 at Godly Play  
1.45pm Classes 3 and 5 Carol Singing at Low Bentham Institute  
5.00pm Governors' Meeting

#### Thursday 12th December 2019

2.45 Parent Coffee Afternoon – all welcome  
3.30pm Afterschool Pilates Club – last one

#### Friday 13th December 2019

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day  
Elf Run (all funds raised to St John's Hospice/Save the Children)  
3.00pm Praise Assembly

Attendance for week commencing 25/11/19 : **92.01%**

### **Christmas in the Mart 2019 at Bentham Auction**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December Bentham Auction will be hosting a 'Christmas in the Mart' event. On the evening of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a family book launch of a new Nativity book that has been created by two local artists/writers. The new story will be read to an audience at 6.00pm in the Nativity area. Also on the 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a family Carol Concert with Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band, this will start at 7.00pm and is expected to last for one hour.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, there will be an 'Open Book Team' presenting two stories from the Nativity – this will again take place in the children's Nativity area in the company of a real life set, including donkeys and sheep.

During the morning of Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Paul Curwen will also be in the top ring, sharing the Christmas Story by using balloons!

Can we also remind parents/carers that there will be a selection of children's festive artwork exhibited at the event. There will be lanterns, hanging angels, pom pom angels, salt dough ornaments and many more crafty creative festive artworks that have all been created by children at school. Please do go along and take a look.

For more information about what is happening at 'Christmas in the Mart', please contact Andrea Dennis at [andreadennis@outlook.com](mailto:andreadennis@outlook.com).

**Finally.....Octopus for a Premie UK.** The former Headteacher of Brougham Street Nursery School is collecting used postage stamps to help raise funds for 'Octopus for a Premie UK' this Christmas. This is a charity that provides a premature baby with a knitted or crocheted Octopus to have with them in the incubator. The tentacles replace the umbilical cord as a comfort to the baby, whilst also preventing them playing with and potentially removing the tubes that they may rely on for feeding, oxygen etc. **Here's how YOU can HELP.** Please collect any used postage stamps and hand them into the School Office. It really is that simple. Thank you.

## **Festive Dates for your Dairy!**

**Christmas Crafts** This annual event will be taking place after school on the 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Carol Singing at Low Bentham Institute** On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, children in classes 3 and 5 will be carol singing to senior citizens at the Low Bentham Institute.

**Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day** ALL children in ALL classes are invited to join in with our annual Christmas Festive Feast on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December! Also on this day children are invited to come into school wearing a 'Christmas Jumper' . Rumour has it that Mrs Nelson will also be organising an 'Elf Run' for all Santa's little helpers. This year school will be festive fundraising for 'Save the Children' and local charity 'St John's Hospice', Lancaster. Look out for more information about how you can help.

**Nativity Performance** On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 will perform their Nativity to an audience of Senior Citizens and Key Stage 2 children.

**Christmas Advent Trail** On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December children in Class 3 have been given an opportunity to join children from Clapham School on a Christmas Advent Trail around the village of Clapham.

**Nativity Performance** On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 will perform their Nativity to parents/carers.

**Auction Mart Carol Service** On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December children in all classes will be taking part in the Auction Mart's Carol Service from 2.30pm. Parents/carers are asked to make arrangements to collect children from the Auction Mart at 3.30pm. By way of information, the School Bus will be collecting children who use this service from the Auction Mart and transporting them home.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY** On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December we will all be enjoying Christmas Party Celebrations! There have been whisperings that a certain Mr Claus may travel from the North Pole to join in with the fun!