

6th December 2024

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mrs Pearson

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone for all their support with last week's FOBS Christmas Fair. The atmosphere in the School Hall was definitely festive and, as always, the evening was a resounding success. It was lovely to see so many families, visitors, Governors, children, staff and even Father Christmas at the fundraising fair. We raised just over £785 which is fantastic, plus another £128 was donated towards the Year 6 Leaver's Hoodies. Thank you!

With so much 'sparkle' visible this time of year, it is also important to remember the struggles that some people are facing, and that Christmas can be a particularly difficult time of year for those that are grieving and have lost loved ones. Grief is a very personal journey, for some of us memories may bring smiles to our faces, for others it may bring tears, one thing for sure, losing a loved one always brings memories. This year, as a school, we will be giving children an opportunity to pick up a 'Christmas Star' from their classrooms, and to write a personal memory message in memory of a loved one or a lost friend on the star. Stars should be returned back to the School Office, where they will be laminated, and given back to children ready to hang on our 'Memory Tree', which will be lit up in the central garden of the school playground for all to share. "Even though you are far from sight, we will be searching for you among the Stars on Christmas Night". Thank you to Mrs Naylor and Mrs Johnson for organising this.

On Tuesday, children in Butterfly and Hedgehog Class really enjoyed a visit from Firefighters based at Bentham Fire Station. As a special treat, Firefighters also brought along Bentham's Fire Engine and parked it in the playground! Our youngest children were all treated to a turn sitting in the Fire Engine, listening to the sirens being turned on and watching how hoses sprayed water to help put fires out and wash away unwanted spillages. In Hedgehog Class this visit helped children with their new learning topic 'The Great Fire of London'. Linked to this topic, children

have been turning into investigators, and thinking about the events that may have led up to causing this historical great fire.

Children in Hedgehog Class have also started their new class book 'The Polar Express'. Mrs Harrison is even encouraging children to persuade their parents/carers to let them watch a 'festive film' over the weekend to help support learning.

In Butterfly Class, as well as enjoying the visit from Firefighters children have also been busy making stained glass Christmas Trees out of cardboard and tissue paper. The new class book 'Super Molly and the Super School Day' has been started, and children have really enjoyed learning about being a Nurse with Mrs Campbell. Mrs Campbell even let children practice some emergency bandaging.

On Thursday, children were once again visited by the Emergency Services when Max's mum, a Paramedic, visited children in Butterfly and Hedgehog Class to talk all about her job. We are very grateful to Max's mum for spending this time with children.

On Tuesday, children in Fox and Owl Class enjoyed their visit to Bentham Methodist Church where they took part in a Rewind to Christmas Event.

On Wednesday, the older members of our community thoroughly enjoyed a visit by our older children to Low Bentham Institute where a captive audience listened to our children singing festive carols.

Next week, as we get closer and closer to the end of term, we once again have a busy week ahead!

On Tuesday ALL children are invited to come into school wearing a Christmas Jumper. It is also Christmas Dinner Day! Dinners can be ordered in class during registration. Meals are priced at £2.50 each for children in Nursery, FREE for all children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 and £3.06 for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. If you are eligible for Free School Meals there will also be no charge.

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On Wednesday, children in Reception to Year 6 will be off to the Pantomime at The Lancaster Grand Theatre to watch 'Mother Goose' (Oh YES they WILL). On the day of the visit children will need to be at school for **8.30am** wearing their uniform and bringing with them a waterproof coat. Breakfast Club will be available as usual and children will be taken directly from the Community Room to their classrooms. There are still a lot of parents/carers who have not made a contribution of £14.00 towards the cost of this visit for their child via Parentpay. We are asking that these parents/carers reconsider making a contribution towards the cost, which the school is already heavily subsidising. If you are unable to access Parentpay, cash can be handed into the school office. Thank you.

On Thursday night, Mrs Nelson's eagerly awaited Christmas Crafts Evening will be taking place after school in the hall. This will mean that there will be **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB AVAILABLE**. If you are not joining children in this crafting activity, please ensure that arrangements are made for an adult to collect your child from the School Hall at 5.00pm PROMPT.

On Friday evening, we are inviting families to come back to school with children to meet in the school playground at 4.25pm ready to take part in the Community Lantern Parade. Children will be given the opportunity to walk from school to The Auction Mart with their beautifully crafted lanterns lighting up the route. **NO CHILDREN** will be permitted to take part without being accompanied by a responsible adult.

On the 18th December, parents/carers of children in Badger, Fox and Owl Class are invited into school to join children in an afternoon of Christmas Crafting and a Festive Afternoon Tea! More information about this lovely celebration has been sent home. If you are joining children and staff, please ensure the electronic reply is completed so that numbers can be accurately catered for.

Can we just remind parents/carers of children who

bring packed lunches to school, that when including fruits and vegetables in pack-ups can these please be cut up/sliced. Items such as grapes and cherry tomatoes can be a choking hazard when left for children to consume whole.

Two more weeks to go, a couple of Nativities, a EYFS Christmas Carousel, Christmas at the Mart and a Partridge in a Pear Tree!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs C Pearson
Executive Headteacher

Monday 9th December 2024

Fish Star (v)
Loaded Potato Skins (v)
Jacket Potato

Tuesday 10th December 2024

CHRISTMAS JUMPER/CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

Turkey, Stuffing, Sausage and Gravy
Vegetarian Roast (v)
Jacket Potato

1.30pm-3.00pm Rewind to Christmas (Fox and Owl Class) Bentham Methodist Chapel

Wednesday 11th December 2024

Minced Beef Pie
Broccoli and Cheese Bake (v)
Jacket Potato (v)

8.30am Panto at Lancaster Grand Theatre (R-Yr 6)

Thursday 12th December 2024

Meatballs and Pasta in Sauce
Potato and Vegetable Curry (v)
Jacket Potato (v)

1.00pm Badger Class (Secret Garden). **Please remember to bring suitable clothing for activities, including footwear, hats and gloves.**

3.30pm-5.00PM Christmas Crafts in the School Hall

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Friday 13th December 2024

Fun Day Friday – all children invited to join in and try a school lunch!

Pizza (v)

Veggie Burrito (v)

Jacket Potato (v)

3.00pm CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY in the School Hall.

Safeguarding Information – Keeping Children Safe

This Week, Wake-up-Wednesday is all about Mental Health and Wellbeing Apps.

Safety around dogs

The bond between your child and dog can bring fun and happiness to family life. We don't expect our own dog to bite, but any dog can bite if they feel they have no other option.

Children are most likely to be bitten at home, by a familiar dog. Luckily most bites are preventable and close supervision is key.

- A calm, happy dog** is less likely to react unsafely to children's natural exuberance.
- Give your dog a safe space of their own where they can go if they need time out. Have a rule to leave them alone when they're there.
- Keep them occupied – physical exercise and mental activity help keep your dog happy.
- Teach your child to be calm and kind with your dog. Avoid shouting, teasing or restrictive cuddles.



- Close supervision** is the most important thing to keep children safe.
- Watch, listen and remain close when your child and dog are together.
- If either your dog or child seems unhappy, positively and calmly separate them. You can throw your dog a treat or toy, or lead your child away.
- Understand your dog's body language so you can spot signs they feel uncomfortable or stressed.
- When you know you'll be distracted during busier times, use safety gates to keep children and dogs separate. Or, take your child or dog with you.

- Your growing child** – as your child changes, the risks can change too.
- Teach the rules to your child from an early age and keep explaining them as your child understands more.
- As your child becomes more mobile, review changes needed, like adding safety gates.
- Think ahead about your changing family life and new risks that can emerge. Read our fact sheet on bringing baby home.

- Trigger times** – teach your child to leave your dog alone when they are:
- Sleeping – no-one likes to be woken up suddenly.
- Eating or having a treat – they might think you're going to take their food.
- Have a toy or something else they really like – they might not want to share!

- Still worried?**
- If you're worried by the way your dog is with your child, talk to your vet. They'll check your dog's health and can refer you to a qualified animal behaviourist.
- Visit the [Animal Behaviour and Training Council](https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandguidance/how-to-help/dogs) website to find a qualified behaviourist near you.



This work was supported by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)

Messy Church Christmas Christingle 4 p.m. Sat. 14 December Bentham Parish Church



Crafts, Games, Tea, Celebration
It's free, for children and families of all ages, all are welcome

Bentham Parish Church, The Church of England
Low Bentham, LA2 7DD
parking opposite the church
more details from peter.greenwood@leeds.anglican.org

Can we remind parents/carers of children who are taking part in Forest School activities over the next few months to ensure children bring to school suitable clothing. Waterproof



trousers and jackets are ideal (see photo). Wellies are also more suitable than walking boots at this time of year as the ground can be very muddy! Wellies are also easy for children to take on and off! We would also encourage children to bring hats, gloves and scarves. Thank you.