



Friday 8th January 2021

Spring Term : Edition 1

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas, albeit a different one. I would also like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Whilst I would like to be welcoming everyone back into school, this is sadly not the case.

Unfortunately, over the Christmas holidays, as reported in the media, the UK has seen an increase in the number of confirmed cases of Covid 19, with daily hospital admissions hitting unimaginable numbers. As everyone will be aware, there are reports about the NHS reaching 'breaking point' and cases where they are unable to provide routine treatment and care.

The Prime Minister announced this week that schools should also close, with only vulnerable children and children of key workers being invited into school.

Home Learning has been provided for all those children who are accessing remote learning. I would like to thank school staff for organising and distributing Home Learning Packs at such short notice. We were asked to be ready for this in October and we were, this proved so beneficial this week and meant we could get learning to parents immediately.

I am sure everyone will agree, these are unprecedented times, and it is absolutely imperative that we protect ourselves, our children, our family, our communities, key workers and the NHS. Please Stay at Home where possible and help to stop the spread of this terrible virus.

Unfortunately, the Outdoor Wellbeing Days for children in Classes 2,3,4 and 5 have had to be cancelled. However, we are in the process of trying to rearrange these activity days at a later date. Please be reassured that if you have made a payment towards the cost of an Outdoor Wellbeing Day then this will remain in CREDIT on your Parentpay account.

Children's Effort Grade letters should have been going home with children this Friday, 8th January 2021. Effort Grades provide parents, carers and teaching staff with guidance about a child's individual progress, assisting in both monitoring and tracking of progress both overall and in individual subject areas. If your child is not currently in school, Effort Grade Letters

will be posted to parent/carers home addresses and should be received next week. If you have any queries, or want to contact your child's class teacher about grades then please contact teaching staff via class e-mail addresses:-

nursery@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class1@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class2@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class3@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class4@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class5@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk

Please do bear in mind that all our teachers are still teaching in school every day. Please do not send emails unless you really need to, limit these as much as possible and please be patient for a response.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Milner, our new Nursery Teacher. Mrs Milner has been busy setting up the Nursery Classroom and contacting parents of children in Nursery introducing herself.

The closing date for applications to be made for the role of Interim Headteacher at the school (to cover my maternity leave) has now passed. This week, I have been working alongside our Chair of Governors shortlisting suitable candidates for interview. I am pleased to inform parents that three individuals will be interviewed for the post.

Finally, can I please ask that parents do not return Bentham Library Books to school as we are not currently visiting the library. Books should be returned directly to the Library which is located at The Looking Well – thank you.

Please continue to stay safe at home.

Mrs C Pearson
Headteacher

FREE SCHOOL MEALS If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, you should have been contacted by the school to find out if you would like a packed lunch preparing for collection from school on a daily basis. If this is not the case, then please contact the School Office. If, after further consideration, you have now decided that you would like to collect a packed lunch, then again, please contact the School Office on either 015242 61412 or via e-mail admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk.

As soon as we receive further information about the provision of Free School Meals during school closure from the Department for Education we will pass details onto parents/carers.

COMPUTER ACCESS We have been contacted by the Ingleborough Community Centre and Library with information that they have a small number of computers that can be used FREE of charge. Social distancing measures are in place for anyone wanting to access the computers. For more information, please contact Ingleton Library 0845 034 9536.

HARROGATE AND CRAVEN YOUTH COUNCIL We have been contacted by the Youth Voice and Creative Engagement officer who is currently working on a transport campaign for Harrogate and Craven Youth Council. As part of the campaign the HCYC are trying to ascertain young people's understanding, needs and barriers to public transport. To help support research you can complete a survey at :
<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?=-160588693375>

Parentpay Can we please remind parents/carers to regularly check their child's Parentpay Account. Unfortunately, there are still 43 accounts with outstanding debts. Please remember, if you are financially struggling and are unable to pay off an outstanding Parentpay debt then please contact the school. There are options available, including making small weekly contributions. Failure to contact the school about an outstanding balance may result in a referral being made to NYCC's Legal Team.

Reminder, for more information about Covid and symptoms in children, please visit:
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>