



Friday 8th November 2019

Autumn Term : Edition 8

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after half-term. I hope that everyone got an opportunity to make the most of the glorious half-term sunshine? The response to our 'Find a Book' half term project was absolutely overwhelming. Thank you to everyone who took part in this project. It really was a pleasure to receive so many e-mails and pictures of children finding and reading hidden story books.

Earlier in the week, I sent home the results from a recent questionnaire that parents/carers were asked to complete at Parent Evenings. I am delighted that responses were so positive and encouraging. Thank you. If you would like a paper copy of the results document, then please see Sally in the School Office.

This week I joined children in Class 3 on their residential visit to Halton Gill. For many of these children it was their first night away from home without family. As is always the case, children all behaved admirably and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, making the most of time outdoors and actively engaging in challenges and planned activities. Thank you to Mrs Hodgson, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Nelson and Mrs Horton for also coming along and supporting this visit and also to Mrs McGregor for joining us whilst still on maternity leave.

You may have noticed a few additions of new equipment around school. We have a new Willow Dome and Tunnel constructed on the school field, part funded by FOBS and part funded by school. A number of children were engaged in helping to create this tunnel, and we look forward to watching it grow and develop, ready for children to play in when the weather warms up.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Pearson

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 7th 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 31st December 2019. Thank you.

Christmas Performances Following a recent review of our Christmas Performance plans, we have had to make some slight changes to scheduled dates. **Can parents/carers please make a note of the following amendments :**

Monday 16th December 2019 at 9.30am

Invitation to **Senior Citizens** (including Grandparents and members of the community) to watch a **Nativity Performance** by children in *Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2*.

Children in Key Stage 2 will also be joining the audience to watch children perform. Unfortunately, due to number restrictions in the School Hall, **parents/carers will not be able to join the audience** on this occasion to watch this performance.

Tuesday 17th December 2019 at 6.00pm

Invitation to **parents/carers** to watch a **Nativity Performance** by children in *Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2*

KS2 Christmas Performance This production will now **NOT BE TAKING PLACE**. Instead, children in years 3,4,5 and 6 will be putting on a spectacular show during the Summer Term.

Finally, we are hoping to arrange to take part in a Christmas Carol Service with the Auction Mart. More details about the date and time to follow.

Year 6 Leaders in School Following a recent recruitment exercise..... children in year 6 have all been given the opportunity to apply for a number of 'Leader in School' roles! These roles will help to build children's confidence whilst at the same time develop social and academic skills. Younger children at the school will also benefit significantly from engaging with our older children. Children have now been appointed to roles, and we are pleased to announce the following successful applicants!

School Council : Oliver and Lola
House Captains : Macy, Ella, William and Augustas
Friday Recyclers : Taylor and Olivia
Playtime Equipment Supervisor : Alfie
Menu Writer : Caitlin
Toast Café : Abbie and Ella (see below for more info)
Librarians : Ava, Chloe and Alma
ICT Co-ordinators : William and Augustas
Sports Leaders : Abbie, Macy and Ethan

Starting on Monday 11th November Abbie and Ella will be selling 'Toast' for 10p per slice at morning break from the Music Room Door. The funds raised from this enterprise will go towards funding school trips and residential.

Bag2School As we reluctantly put away our summer clothes until next year, what better opportunity could there be to have a wardrobe refresh!? If you, or anyone you know, has any unwanted items of clothing that they would like to donate to help raise funds for the school these would be very much appreciated! Please look out for Bag2School collection bags in children's book bags. Collection bags should be dropped off at the school's Main Reception on the morning of Thursday 28th November 2019. Thank you.

Ofsted Parent View Following on from parent evening questionnaires, we are encouraging parents/carers to go on-line and complete a short Parent View Questionnaire. Parent View gives parents/carers an opportunity to tell Ofsted what they think about their child's school, including how happy children are and how the school supports children. For more information, and to complete a Parent View questionnaire, please visit <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Youth Club Bentham Youth Club are holding a fundraising Coffee Morning on Saturday 30th November 2019 at the Town Hall. The youth club is accessible to children of all ages, with lots of children from the school now regularly going along to the club and enjoying the wide range of activities on offer. To help support fundraising efforts for this important community provision, Bentham Youth Club are asking for donations for their prize raffle at the Coffee Morning. Any donations would be gratefully received and can be handed into Sally at the School Office. Thank you.

MSA Vacancy We still have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor at the school, working on a Thursday and Friday between 12 and 1pm. For more information please see Sally in the School Office.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS As a school we continually strive to achieve a 'whole' school attendance of 97% or above – but we need your help. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of good attendance at school. It has been proven that children who attend school both regularly and on time tend to achieve higher levels of attainment and maximise their chances at any future success. There is a significant amount of evidence supporting the importance of the link between attendance and attainment. Whole school attendance also has an impact on Ofsted outcomes – with schools showing poor attendance being heavily scrutinised and judgements affected. With this in mind, can we please ask parents/carers to take attendance, and the impact of the same, into consideration when planning for family holidays etc. and to try to avoid requesting time off during term-time?

As 'food for thought' attendance at the school for the first half of the Autumn Term was **97.18%**.

Pilates/Yoga After School Club for KS2 Girls This week an invitation to join an After School Pilates/Yoga Club run by Jill Eccleston has been sent to ALL girls in KS2. Whilst the school are heavily subsidising the cost of this activity, we are asking that parents/carers make a contribution of £10.00 per child towards the cost of participation at the Club. If your daughter would like to take part in this exciting new activity, then please complete and return the reply slip to the School Office and make payment of £10.00 via Parentpay by no later than Monday 11th November. If you are struggling to meet the payment, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Children in Need This year we will be supporting 'Children in Need' by inviting children to come into school on Friday 15th November 2019 dressed in something spotty or colourful in return for a voluntary donation of £1.00 (or more). During the morning, each class will get an opportunity to take part in the 'Big Morning Move with Joe Wicks' – this is a chance to get active whilst raising money! Please remember all donations go to Children in Need, which we are sure everyone will agree is a good cause. Thank you.

Finally, at Bentham C P School learning does not 'just happen' in the classroom. Nor does it only 'happen' during the school day between the hours of 9.00am and 3.30pm! Here at the school we provide a range of additional activities and events that support your child's learning. Following on from recent discussions with parents/carers, it became apparent that not everyone was aware of what lunchtime and after school club activities are available to children. Hopefully, the below list will help:-

	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Knitting Club in Whernside Room 12.30pm – 1.00pm Games Club (Board Games) in the Music Room	Year 6 Math's Club (invited children from Class 5)
Tuesday	Jordan's Football 12.00m/d – 12.30pm : Years 4,5,6 12.30pm to 1.00pm : Reception, Years 1,2 and 3 12.30pm – 1.00pm Book Club in the School Library	Jigsaw Club (invited children) Gardening club has now finished and will return in the Spring.
Wednesday	12.00m/d – 12.30pm KS2 Math's Games 12.00m/d – 12.30pm Brainbuilder Club	Jammie Dodgers for children in years 1 and 2
Thursday		3.30pm – 4.30pm KS2 Girls Pilates and Yoga After School Club KS1 Multiskills Club has now finished.

These 'Clubs' rely on either school staff volunteering their time or sourcing external providers who are willing to offer a club for a short period during the day. Club providers very often make a charge for their services. As a school we heavily subsidise the costs involved, we do, however, from time to time, request that parents/carers make a contribution towards the cost of any one activity. I am sure everyone will agree that the above selection offers a good choice for children. Over the duration of the school year, we will be widening opportunities further.

What's on next week?

Monday 11th November 2019

Anti-Bullying Puppet Workshops
11.00am : Remembrance Service School Hill
Lunchtime Knitting Club
Lunchtime Board Games Club
2.00pm Reading to Dogs

Tuesday 12th November 2019

Jordan's Lunchtime Football Club
Lunchtime Book Club
Afterschool Jigsaw Club (invited children)

Wednesday 13th November 2019

Music Lessons : Mrs Brennan (Flute/Keyboard)
Music Lessons : Mr Hinchcliffe (Accordion)

Thursday 14th November 2019

3.30pm Afterschool Pilates Club

Friday 8th November 2019

Children in Need

Anti-Bullying Puppet Workshop On Monday 11th

November Mr Watterson and his puppets will, once again, be visiting the school. Children in ALL classes will be given an opportunity to join in with stories and role play, based around anti-bullying, using puppets. Sessions will help promote friendships and respect for each other.

REMEMBRANCE DAY A day to reflect upon and remember all those in the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. On Monday 11th November children in years 2, 3,4,5 and 6 will be joining in a Remembrance Service taking place at School Hill at 11.00am. Children will be laying a Commemorative Wreath on behalf of the school. It would be lovely to see Parents/carers joining children at this Remembrance Service.

To help raise funds for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, we are selling a selection of Remembrance merchandise (50p each), including Poppies, from the School Office.