



8th December 2017

Autumn Term Edition 13

This week Mark Gun, who will be in school after Christmas teaching children basketball skills, treated children to an exciting sporty assembly! Mark will also be running an afterschool club for children in years 3 – 6. It would be great if children could be part of this club – they even get a free basketball! Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust have been working with our children again this week. Anthea did some lovely felting with children in Classes 2 and 3. It was lovely to see the children learning a new skill. We also held our annual Christmas Crafts evening this week. Thank you to Miss Tierney for organising a wonderful evening, thank you also to other various members of staff for their support. My lack of creative talents meant that I was on tea and coffee duties!

Next week sees the start of Christmas performances... please keep reading for information about dates and times. These should help to ensure that you don't miss out on taking part in the festivities!

Finally, Classes 3 and 4 have been blowing their trumpets, plucking their violins and strumming their guitars. Parents of children in Classes 3 and 4 are welcome to join us in school on **Thursday 14th December at 2.45pm** for a short musical performance led by Mr Waugh and showcasing talented musicians.

Have a lovely weekend...will we see some snow I wonder?!

Mrs Pearson

WELL DONE As at 30th November 2017 our whole school attendance was 97.08%. This is excellent news. Thank you to everyone for their continued support, awareness of the importance of children attending school on a regular basis, and taking into consideration not booking holidays during term-time. Can we just remind parents, that if their child is poorly then they should contact the School Office on 015242 61412 as quickly as possible. In cases where children have an upset tummy, this can include diarrhoea or sickness, then can parents please ensure that children **DO NOT** return to school until 48 hours after the last incidence of either sickness or diarrhoea. As we are sure everyone will appreciate, this helps to contain the spread of any viruses, and keeps cross-infection to a minimum. Thank you.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR.. As all the children in all the classes are busy practising for their Christmas productions, can we just remind parents that these take place, as follows:-

Wednesday 13/12/17	2.00pm	KS1 Nativity
Thursday 14/12/17	6.00pm	KS1 Nativity
Monday 18/12/17	2.00pm	KS2 Senior Citizens Christmas Performance
Tuesday 19/12/17	ALL DAY	Peter Pan
Wednesday 20/12/17	6.00pm	KS2 Christmas Performance
Thursday 21/12/17	Various	Christmas Parties
Friday 22/12/17	3.30pm	SCHOOL CLOSURES

On **Monday 18th December 2017**, we would like to welcome the senior citizens of Bentham along to our KS2 Christmas Performance, where they will be treated to refreshments and mince pies. Please invite any grandparents, family members, neighbours and friends who are senior citizens along to this event. The performance will start at 2.00pm and the hall will be ready from 1.30pm. The afternoon is completely FREE. Please let Sally in the School Office know of anyone who will be coming along and joining in with this lovely occasion, so that we can ensure we have enough seats and mince pies ready! Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DINNER This will take place on **Wednesday 20th December**. There is no need to pre-order, children should order meals in their classroom at registration time on the day. It would be absolutely wonderful if everyone could join in this festive meal (there will be a vegetarian option). Christmas Dinner is priced at £1.60 per Nursery child, FREE for children in Reception, years 1 and 2 and £2.10 per meal for children in years 3,4 and 5. Payment should be made via Parentpay. If you have difficulty in accessing your child's account please contact the School Office. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept cash payments.

ALSO taking place on Wednesday 20th December **Go Festive; Go Full-On; Go Fluffy Pom Pom....** and help raise all important funds for 'Save the Children'. Mrs Nelson is busy organising lots of fundraising activities for this day. Children are invited to come to school in their Christmas Jumpers or Festive Hats for a voluntary contribution of £1.00 each. All proceeds will be donated to 'Save the Children'. Also in school's main entrance area is a 'Can you guess the Hidden Carol?' game. If you would like to try and win a box of chocolates by guessing the right carol then have a go! Carols are priced at £1.00 each. These will

be sold on a first-come-first-served basis. Thank you to everyone in anticipation of their support.

JAMMIE DODGERS Can parents please note, that there will be no more Jammie Dodgers taking place after school until after the Christmas break. The first session taking place in the New Year will be on **Wednesday 10th January 2018**. Thank you.

THE FRIENDS OF BENTHAM SCHOOL The **Mother and Toddler Group** hosted by the FOBS are holding a 'Santa's Christmas Party' for pre-school children, in the School Hall on **Friday 15th December** from 9.30am to 11.00am. There is a small charge of £4.00 per child. **Remember** you can also help raise further funds for the school when shopping on-line. For more information please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for Friends of Bentham School. Every purchase made via the scheme helps raise all important funds for the school.

Coffee Morning The FOBS are holding a fundraising Coffee Morning at the Town Hall on **Saturday 13th January 2018** from 10.00am until 12.00 m/d. There will be a raffle, jumble, tombola and cake sale. All donations would be very gratefully received! More details about collection and drop-off points for donations in the New Year!

Finally, the FOBS will be meeting again on **16th January 2018 – everyone is welcome.**

Nursery Provision The school are pleased to be in a position to confirm that they WILL BE offering 30 hours childcare for parents of children in Nursery as from January 2018. **Did you know** that the school now have three intakes for children of Nursery age? If you, or anyone you know, has a child who was born between 1st September 2014 and 31st December 2014 then they are eligible to start at our wonderful Nursery during January 2018. For children born between 1st January 2015 and 31st March 2015 we are able to offer a place from April 2018. For more information, or to place a child's name on the schools admissions list, please contact the School Office on 015242 61412.

School Open Day We have been advised by Settle College that they will be holding their annual School Open Day and Evening on 27th September 2018 – don't say you haven't been warned!

Class 4 Swimming Can parents please remember to return Consent Forms to the School Office and make payment for swimming lessons via Parentpay. Thank you.

Peter Pan : 19th December 2017 Can we just remind parents that, if they have not already done so, Consent Forms for this trip need to be returned to school ASAP. Payment for the visit should also have been deposited IN FULL on Parentpay. If you have any difficulties making payment, please speak to Sally in the School Office. By way of a reminder, if your child is not taking part in this festive educational visit, then they will be expected to register at school on the 19th December. Failure to attend school may result in an unauthorised absence. An unauthorised absence can lead to a fine being made against parents by the Local Authority. On the day of the visit can children be at school for 8.00am. Children will need a packed lunch, water bottle and clothing appropriate for the day and weather. By way of information, we will be leaving Blackpool at approximately 1.30pm so will be back in plenty of time for 3.30pm.

Spring Term 2018 The new menu for the Spring Term 2018 has been launched! A copy of the menu is available on the school's website. There are lots of new, exciting, healthy and nutritious meals for children to choose from. Can we just remind parents that as from January 2018 the price of a school meal will increase to £2.30 per day for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. £1.80 for children in Nursery and continue to be FREE OF CHARGE for children in Reception, years 1 and 2. I am sure everyone will agree, school meals continue to offer excellent value for money.

REMINDER Can we just remind parents about the importance of letting the school know if alternative arrangements have been made for the collection of their child at the end of the school day. Also, by way of a reminder, if parents of older children consent to children walking, scooting, or cycling too and from school unsupervised, then school need to be notified of this authorisation IN WRITING. Thanking everyone for their continued understanding and support.

FINALLY As we are sure everyone will be aware, evenings are getting darker earlier. Can parents please ensure that they remind children about the dangers of the road. Children should be encouraged to wear an item of reflective clothing. Remember BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN – THINK! ROAD SAFETY. For more information or tips on how to stay safe please visit <http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/early-years-and-primary>.

