

9th February 2024

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



## Message from Mrs Pearson

Compared to last half term, the first half of the Spring Term has definitely been a lot shorter! Later today school closes for the week, before re-opening on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

As mentioned in last week's Friday News, when children return after half-term we will once again be running some additional After School Clubs for children to get involved in. We do still have a couple of places available at both the 'This Girl Can' Kanga Multi-Sport Activity Club and also spaces in the Art Club. If you are interested in one of the last remaining places, please contact Sally in the School Office.

The winner of this year's 'Guess the Smallest Number', as part of our NSPCC Number Day, was one of our children – well done Lola for your wonderful guesswork. Prize money will be making its way to you.

Earlier this week it was lovely to welcome parents/carers to our Musical Showcase Assembly. I am sure everyone will agree, it was magical to see children of all ages sing and play instruments. Well done to everyone involved, and a massive thank you to Mr Hills our music teacher for supporting children with music. For those parents/carers who missed out on this opportunity to watch children perform, there will be an opportunity to come into school and see children's art work as we exhibit pieces in our very own School Gallery during March.

This week, I once again took the opportunity to pop into children's classrooms to see what they were busy learning. This is a lovely part of my job, where I get to engage with children, help encourage their learning, and get to see what wonderful activities they are getting involved in.

Led by Mrs Williams, our early years children in Ladybird and Butterfly Class have been busy learning about mythical creatures and dragons. Children used their imagination to think about different ways that dragon eggs could be protected. Children also looked at how the Chinese New Year is celebrated.

In Hedgehog Class children have been busy learning

about animals and their 'groups', children were asked to identify if certain species were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores; this, on occasion, caused lots of debate.

Children in Hedgehog and Rabbit Class were also visited by Mr and Mrs Johnson who spent time with children talking about Bentham Community Primary School in the past. Children had lots of questions for Mr Johnson, one of the school's former Headteachers. We would just like to say a big Thank You to both Mr and Mrs Johnson for both their time and for giving children a wonderful insight into days gone by at Bentham Community Primary School.

In Rabbit Class Miss Thistlethwaite has also been busy with children in maths lessons, learning all about measuring in length. In English children in Rabbit Class have started their new book 'The Happy Prince'.

Moving up the school, children in Badger Class have been learning all about the water cycle in Science, whilst in English children have started planning some writing based on the book 'The Lost Thing'.

In Fox Class English has involved children looking at the poem 'The Highwayman', whilst in Science children have been busy making electrical circuits, which included being challenged to successfully light a bulb or sound an alarm – all very technical.

Finally, our oldest children in Owl Class have been busy practising for their SATS alongside being challenged to see who could write both the best and most for an advertising article based on 'Bentham'. In History the whole class really enjoyed looking at Crime and Punishment. In Maths learning was all about dividing fractions by integers.

On top of all that learning, children in Owl Class, supported by Mrs Shaw, also found time to hold a 'Cake Sale' on Tuesday after school. Funds raised from the sale of cakes are all going towards helping to fund additional activities on this year's residential trip to Keswick. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraising event in any way and in particular to the 5 families in Year 6 who baked and contributed cakes – we really appreciate your support. There

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really were some delicious home bakes up for grabs.

This year the whole school are invited to join in and celebrate World Book Day. We are giving children the opportunity to get creative, let their imagination run wild, show off some artistic flair and decorate a wooden spoon as a character from a book. Some ideas are at the bottom of this newsletter. If you don't want to buy a wooden spoon, you could cut the shape of one out of a cardboard box instead. Character Spoons should be brought into school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March where they will be put on display for all to enjoy. Over the duration of the day, children will also be involved in some other book related activities. Children will not be dressing up this year.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy time away from school next week – hopefully the sun will shine.

Mrs Pearson

## **Worried about the Cost of Living?**

If you're struggling to pay for food and other essentials, there are local schemes and organisations in North Yorkshire which may be able to help or point you in the right direction. You'll find information about emergency financial support, managing debt, benefit entitlement, energy bills and staying connected all in one place at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving)

North Yorkshire Council's cost of living web page also has information about pension credit, schemes to help families and local community-based support including Warm Welcome spaces as well as advice on staying safe and well

## **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Crunchy Topped Mac 'n' Cheese  
Cheesy Bean Loaded Potato Skins  
Jacket Potato

5.30pm Year 6 Parent/Carer Meeting about Keswick Residential – Owl Classroom

## **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Sausage and Mash  
Vegetable Hot Pot  
Jacket Potato  
3.30pm FINAL session of KS1 KANGA After School Club

3.45pm–6.00pm Parent/Carer Meetings with Class Teachers

## **Wednesday 21st February 2024**

Minced Beef and Dumplings  
Cheesy Leek Croquette  
Jacket Potato

1.00pm -3.15pm Parent/Carer Meetings with Class Teachers

## **Thursday 22nd February 2024**

Battered Fish  
Cheesy Bean Burger  
Jacket Potato

1.00pm-3.15pm Parent/Carer Meetings with Class Teachers

3.30pm SportsCool After School Club (3,4,5 and 6) – ONE of TWO additional FREE sessions.

## **Friday 23rd February 2024**

***Fun Day Friday : all children invited to join in with a school lunch***

Chicken Nuggets  
Cheese Whirl  
Jacket Potato

1.00pm FOX Class Swimming Lessons  
3.00pm Celebration Assembly (all parents)

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## Safeguarding Information – Keeping Children Safe

### 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** website to find a qualified behaviourist near you.



February Half Term Rugby Camps 2024

Lymm RUFC | 12 - 13 February  
West Park Leeds RUFC | 12 - 13 February  
Keighley RUFC | 14 - 15 February  
Tynedale RUFC | 19 - 20 February  
Chester RUFC | 19 - 20 February  
Macclesfield RUFC | 21 - 22 February

Under 10s - 15s | £95

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### Apply for free school meals online

If you would like to apply for free school meals for your child, simply login to your **Synergy Parent Portal account** and follow the process outlined below. If you have previously applied for school admissions or funding for your two year old you will most likely already have an account. If not, you can easily [create an account here](#).

- STEP 1**  
Enter your National Insurance Number/National Asylum Support Service (NASS) number and date of birth.
- STEP 2**  
Select the child(ren) you wish to apply for. If you have previously applied for a school place for your child they will already appear on the dropdown list. If your child does not appear automatically, they can easily be added by entering their forename, surname, date of birth and gender.
- STEP 3**  
Attach any supporting documentation, if necessary, this could include documents such as a copy of your Universal Credit statement.
- STEP 4**  
A message will then be displayed stating that we will be in touch with confirmation details. The school(s) at which your child(ren) attends will be notified as soon as the application has been fully processed by our team (5 working days). Your child(ren) can then begin enjoying free school meals once the school has received this notification.



If your application is unsuccessful you can then move to a further screen to find out why this may be the case.

If you need help or wish to discuss your contact us:

[free@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:free@northyorks.gov.uk)

