



9<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Summer Term Edition 6

**Bentham CP School**

Headteacher: Mrs Claire Pearson

*"Building our future, step by step"*

[www.benthamcpschool.org.uk](http://www.benthamcpschool.org.uk)

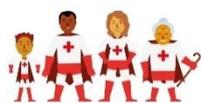
Welcome back after the half term holiday. The children have been sharing with me all the exciting things they did during their week off. Congratulations to Class 1 who were awarded a winners rosette for their fantastic umbrella at the Bentham Carnival. This week has been as busy as ever in school. We have learnt about staying safe near roads in assembly and I have seen lots of Maths learning taking place outside of children's classrooms. Rulers have been used to measure the length of our corridors, protractors have been used to measure angles on display boards and in Year 6 Maths skills have been combined with DT skills whilst children have been completing their DT projects...I believe there are a few drill holes in desks now!!

This week I have showed new families around our wonderful school. I look forward to welcoming these families and their children into our school in the weeks and months to come. We have also had some visiting headteachers from other primary schools who spent a day at our school, these headteachers commented on how welcoming and polite our children were. They were also impressed with children's behaviour at lunchtime. We know that our children are kind and polite but it is always lovely to hear this from visitors.

There has been a few changes in the dining hall this week. A salad bar has been introduced for Key Stage 2 children to help themselves to, Year 6 are now served their food on plates, smaller water jugs have been placed on tables to allow younger children to be independent in pouring their drink and picnic bags have been on offer. There has been much excitement in the hall at lunchtime and children are certainly enjoying all the changes.

Finally, this week our Year 6 children have been taught some important first aid skills when St John's Ambulance spent the day with them teaching various life-saving skills. Having had to put my own first aid training into practice, I know how important these skills are. Education isn't just about Maths and English. It is wonderful that we are able to offer these experiences to our children so that they leave our school equipped with a wide variety of skills for life. Have a lovely weekend, let's hope the sunshine returns.

Mrs  
Pearson



**BE A HERO.  
SAVE LIVES**

First aid is for everyone, everywhere

**School Uniform :** Uniform and Leisurewear in Lancaster, the Company who supply our school uniform, have launched a new website. This should make ordering uniform much simpler. For further ease of use, a link will be provided on the school's website, alternatively parents can visit <http://www.ualonline.com/>

**Are you missing out?** Are you missing out on additional financial support? Did you know that if you fit any of the following criteria you may be eligible for Free School Meals? This is an **additional** allowance to Universal Free School Meals which all children in KS1 are currently eligible to receive.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income related employment/support allowance
- Income based and contributions based JSA/ESA
- Child Tax Credit and/or have an annual household income that does not exceed £16,190
- Support under part VI of immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of state pension credit; or
- Universal Credit – during the initial roll-out of the benefit

If a child is eligible for Free School Meals then school receives some financial support, this is called Pupil Premium. Parents can read more about how we use Pupil Premium to support children in the school by visiting our website.

Unfortunately, since the introduction of Universal Free School Meals for all children in KS1 there has been a drop in parents applying for Free School Meals across the school. These parents are missing out on extra support, including payment contributions towards the cost of school trips. **As a school we are keen to support parents in any way we can, including financially.** By way of an incentive, we would like to offer £50.00 of uniform vouchers (this includes book-bags and shoes) to any parent who makes a **SUCCESSFUL** Free School Meal Application. Can we please reassure parents that all applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence. For more information, or an application form, please contact Sally in the School Office.

**Breakfast Club** Our Breakfast Club offers excellent value for money, and is available every weekday morning during term-time from 8.00am. The cost of a full session is only £4.00 per child, including a yummy nutritious breakfast which can be eaten at leisure with friends. A half-session is also available from 8.20am, this is priced at £2.00 per child and includes a drink. There are lots of activities and entertainment to take part in with friends at Breakfast Club – why not give it a go? Please support our Breakfast Club.

**Dress up and Dance** We will once again be supporting Macmillan Cancer Care by taking part in their fundraising ‘Dress up and Dance’ activity on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017. We are asking for voluntary contributions of £1.00 per child – all monies raised will go to this extra special charity. What better excuse to help raise money than to have lots of fun, have the opportunity to show off those dance moves, dress up and get groovy!

**Book Bags** Can we just take this opportunity to remind parents to regularly check their children’s book bags for letters and other communications from school. All letters are sent home on a Friday, unless they are URGENT. In some instances, children are missing out on activities because book bags have not been emptied and letters with reply slips returned to school on time. Thanking everyone for their continue support.

**Parent Coffee Afternoon** Following on from the Parents’ Coffee Afternoon which the school hosted earlier this term, a new e-mail address has been set up specifically for parents to use if they wish to communicate with the school via e-mail. [parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk). Please note that this e-mail is for NON-EMERGENCY information and requests, for example, if you would like to communicate something with your child’s class teacher, such as a quick question, or perhaps if it is easier for you to e-mail rather than telephone and request to speak with any member of staff. Please note that due to its non-emergency nature, this e-mail account will only be checked once per day, so please continue to contact Sally in the School Office if you need to get a message to anyone quickly.

**The next Parents’ Coffee Morning** will be taking place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 09.00am. Please come along and join Mrs Pearson to discuss plans for the school and make any suggestions you may have about the school. We look forward to welcoming you.

**Unfortunately and almost inevitably** those ‘itchy little issues’ referred to in Edition 4 have once again raised their game! We have had an increase in the number of parents reporting the ‘return of the head-lice’. These itchy little pests can be easily treated, and we would encourage parents to check their child’s hair regularly for any signs of unwanted tenants! As a preventative measure can parents of children with long hair please ensure that it is tied back securely at school. For more information about treatment options, please contact a pharmacist or health visitor. Prescriptions for FREE treatments can be obtained from Doctors’ Surgeries. Thank you!

**Parental Concerns** Can we please encourage parents or carers who have any concerns whatsoever about any aspect of school life to please speak to either their child’s class teacher, or Mrs Pearson. The school are aware of a few discussions which have taken place between parents surrounding the subject of bullying. Can we just reassure parents that many of these concerns have proven, after a full investigation, to be unfounded and that the school take seriously any issues surrounding the safety of children at school, including bullying. However, if the school are not aware of concerns then they are unable to resolve them. As a school we have very strict policies which govern unacceptable behaviour. Unfortunately, some incidents that have caused concern to parents have taken place outside of school – an area where we have no jurisdiction. However, as a result of the reporting of these incidents, we have started working alongside North Yorkshire Police and the Prevention Service supporting a scheme which covers topics such as anti-social behaviour, risk taking, exploring the law, e-safety, on-line gaming and much more. In addition, children in KS2 will all be taking part in a workshop exploring the topic of ‘Bullying’ on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, this will include an interactive theatrical production by the nationally accredited ‘Take-Away Theatre’. Thank you once again for everyone’s continued support.

**REMINDER : Countryside Day 2017** On the 14<sup>th</sup> June children in KS2 will be taking part in a visit to the Great Yorkshire Showground’s Countryside Day event. Can parents please ensure that children are at school for **7.55am PROMPT**. Children should come to school wearing their school jumper and appropriate clothing for the day (please consider the weather). A packed lunch will be required, as will sensible, comfortable footwear.