



Friday 12<sup>h</sup> February 2021

Spring Term : Edition 5

Dear Bentham Families

Following on from last week's Friday News, I can now confirm that there are still no plans for school to open up to any more children than it is currently open to following the half-term holiday. This is in line with Government guidelines. The current situation will remain for, at least, two weeks beyond half term. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 has been mentioned by the Government as a *potential* date for the wider opening up of schools, however this has still not been confirmed. Therefore, I do not expect an increase in the number of children in school for the two weeks following half-term, and anticipate that current arrangements will continue.

This week, I have made a second successful application to the Department of Education for some tablets which will, hopefully, soon be delivered. We do still have a couple of laptops available for distribution, so if you are struggling to access home learning, please do get in touch with the school. I would much prefer these devices to be helping a family than to be sat at school in their boxes.

Miss Downham's 'Bake-Off' Competition was a resounding success, and I would personally like to thank everyone that took part. The standard of entries was extremely high – making judging almost impossible. Prize Certificates and Vouchers will be on their way, in the post, to the lucky winners. Miss Downham also organised a Staff Bake-Off which went down a treat in the Staff Room!

This week, for those parents of children who are in receipt of Free School Meals, Co-op vouchers totalling £15.00 per child have been distributed to help cover food costs over the half-term holiday. We have now also received confirmation from the Government that for those families in receipt of Free School Meals, they will be provided with vouchers totalling £30.00 per child to cover the period 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Again, I would ask that if you receive these vouchers and your child attends school during the two- week period, then please provide them with a packed lunch. Vouchers will be posted to families during the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February and I

would once again ask that parents be patient about their distribution. School can only access the Government Website to download vouchers on a set date and time, please be mindful that this might not be the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, but later on in the same week.

Please remember that if your circumstances have recently changed, and you think you might now be eligible for Free School Meals, then please contact Sally in the School Office. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

I think, all that is left to say, is have a wonderful half-term holiday. Stay safe, stay home, enjoy the time off!

Mrs C Pearson  
Headteacher

**Home Learning** As you have hopefully seen, last week we introduced 'Finishing Off Friday' as part of our home learning. We recognised that some children were not getting an opportunity to finish off all the learning that had been set by class teachers. We hope 'Finishing Off Friday' will allow children to spend that little bit more time on a project, or go back and improve a piece of learning.

**Parent's Meetings** As during the Autumn term, we will, once again, be carrying out this term's parent's meetings via telephone. Although we have not seen some children in school this term, we still feel that it is important to keep the communication between school and home. Therefore, your child's class teacher will be contacting you with a 10-minute telephone appointment slot for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. On the day, your child's class teacher will call you twice and, if there is no answer on either occasion, they will need to move onto the next appointment. The conversation will mainly involve talking to you about the progress your child has been making with home learning, successes and problems and an opportunity for you, as parents, to ask questions. As in the past, in the case of parents who are separated, only one phone call will be made for each child except in exceptional circumstances. We hope that you find this phone call valuable and informative, despite the unusual situation. Please note that if your child is in Nursery, you will not be receiving a phone call unless they have physically been in school. Mrs Milner has not even met many of the children so she will only be contacting those Nursery children's parents who have been in school.

**Nursery** We are starting to plan ahead for April and September when we have new intakes of children into our Nursery. If you know of a local family who have not yet contacted us with their details, then please do encourage them to give us a ring or send an e-mail with their child's details. This means that, in due course, we can then ensure families receive the necessary information for their child.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION February Half Term (15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021)** The Department for Education (DfE) have recently confirmed that schools will be **CLOSED** to **ALL** children, including those identified as vulnerable and those children of critical workers over the February half-term holidays.

**Contact Tracing over the February Half-Term** Whilst school might not be open it is still imperative that everyone plays their part in stopping the spread of this terrible virus. Therefore, if your child tests positive for COVID 19, or develops any symptoms during the holidays, then you **MUST** still let school know as quickly as possible by using the [parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) e-mail address. Many thanks to everyone to date who has helped support the fight against Covid.

**World Book Day** This year we will, once again, be celebrating World Book Day, albeit in an alternative format! Miss Richardson is currently busy planning activities that children can take part in from home on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to help celebrate this special day. More information to follow.....

**Red Nose Day** This year, we are once again supporting Red Nose Day which is taking place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. We have ordered lots of red noses which Miss Downham will be co-ordinating the sale of! Rumour has it there will be ten different 'styles' of noses with one very rare 'Golden Tommy' just waiting to be found. Please support this worthy cause and arrange to purchase your Red Nose from school. More information to follow.....

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/>

**Class e-mail addresses:**

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[class4@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class4@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) (Miss Hayward)  
[class5@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class5@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) (Mrs Harvey)

**Finally**, a bit of fun! Earlier this week, 'Gill' our resident former sea-going vessel who retired to be moored in dry dock in school's EYFS area has had to set sail to pastures new..... Thank you to Miss Boocock and Mrs Askew for their part in her final expedition (as photographically evidenced)... can you provide a suitable caption?

