

12th March 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mrs Pearson

Dear Bentham Families

What can I say? It was absolutely wonderful to welcome all our children back into school on Monday. School is back to what it should be – full of happy children!

Many thanks for all of our parents and carers who are supporting the staggered drop off and pick up times and wearing masks in the playground, we really appreciate your cooperation with this. A separate letter for parents of Nursery children will be sent to you with some adjustments to the existing arrangements.

Needless to say, some children have found returning to school a little more difficult than others, which is why the decision was made not to return to a 'normal' timetable but, instead, give children an opportunity to settle back into school life and to re-establish friendships and routines. This will continue next week with a focus on establishing children's knowledge in Maths and English but also having a more relaxed timetable to incorporate some personal, social and emotional lessons. Next week we will also be finding out about the Census, taking part in a project called 'Let's Count' so that children have an understanding of those long forms we are filling in online!

Typically, the weather had to have its say and interrupt with Class Teachers' planning for the week - which was to get children outside as much as possible enjoying PE, gardening, team games, the trim trail and engaging in team building! Thankfully, there were some breaks in the weather and children were still given lots of opportunities to engage in and enjoy some time outside.

This week, Mr Tim Hiley, the school's newly appointed Interim Headteacher, who will be covering my maternity leave, was given the opportunity to visit the school. Mr Hiley met with staff and children, albeit socially distanced. I am confident that Mr Hiley will quickly settle into life at Bentham Community Primary School and parents will find him both an approachable and knowledgeable Interim Headteacher.

Last week, in the Friday News, it was announced that the Leadership and Management Team would like to change the name of our school to : **Bentham Community Primary and Nursery School**. It is felt that this name more accurately represents our school community by the inclusion of the word 'Nursery'. We are encouraging parents to voice their opinion on this proposal – please e-mail your thoughts and comments to admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk.

As I am sure everyone will agree mental health and emotional wellbeing is as important as ever. With this in mind, and to help promote healthy lifestyles, I have recently secured the purchase and installation of a track which will go around the circumference of the school field. The track will be accessible to all children, all year round. Children will be able to run, walk, hop, skip or jump around the track racking up 'tarmac miles'! Thank you to Governors for approving this purchase and supporting the health and wellbeing of our children. The funding of this project is being met by the Sport and PE Grant that all schools receive. Construction work will hopefully commence during May 2021.

During Lockdown 3, some families were given the opportunity to borrow a laptop from school so that they could access Home Learning and more easily engage in Zoom meetings. Can I now remind parents that if they have not already done so, these devices now need to be returned to school. Devices can be dropped off at the School Office. Thank you.

Finally, some more very exciting news to share with everyone. Mrs Chapman has recently announced that she is expecting a baby. Baby is due in August 2021. Many congratulations to Mr and Mrs Chapman. I have been informed that we now hold the record in North Yorkshire Schools currently for the highest number of teaching staff who are pregnant!

Have a wonderful weekend, stay safe.

Mrs Pearson

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School lunches will be available to all children. If your child is not in receipt of Free School Meals, meals are priced at £2.10 per day for children in Nursery, FREE of charge for all children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 and £2.55 per day for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. I would ask that parents please make payment for meals via Parentpay and ensure that accounts are kept in credit. Thank you.

RED NOSE DAY Thank you to Miss Downham for organising the sale of this year's Red Nose collection to children! Unfortunately, we have now SOLD OUT of noses. Children are invited to wear GREEN next Friday and make a donation of £1 for Comic Relief. The Red Noses this year are able to be recycled and more environmentally friendly so we are wearing GREEN to highlight this.

Support for Young Carers Harrogate and Craven Young Carers are a support group for young carers and their families. The service provides 1:1 support, an opportunity to meet with other young carers, activities, trips, residentials and much more. Young carers may be helping a parent, grandparent or sibling with cleaning, cooking, washing, household chores, personal care, shopping and other day to day activities. For more information about support services on offer please visit <https://services.actionforchildren.org.uk/harrogate-and-selby-young-carers/> or www.actionforchildren.org.uk. Contact number : 07702 512771.

Contact Tracing It goes without saying that it is as imperative as ever 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 evening or over a weekend then you MUST still let school know as quickly as possible by using the parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk e-mail address.

A few important pieces of information for week beginning 12th March:

PE Lessons and PE Kits

For children in Classes 2,3 4 and 5 PE lessons will take place outside as much as possible on a set day. As from next week children in **Classes 4 and 5 will have PE on a Wednesday** with children in **Classes 2 and 3 having PE on Friday**. Can parents please ensure that on the day of PE lessons, children come to school wearing their PE kit. We are asking that parents of children in Nursery and Class 1 (Reception) ensure that children have their PE kit at school, at all times - PE kits should include jogging bottoms and a jumper and should be left at school.

Book Amnesty

Please return any reading books that you have at home. It doesn't matter how many you have, please bring them back to school and place them in the boxes outside your child's classroom. We are thrilled that so much reading has taken place during this lockdown, but we would really like our books back for others to read.

Brainbuilder Books

If your child has their Yellow Brainbuilder Homework book at home, please return this to school so that we can get them ready for Summer term. There will be no homework sent home before Easter...I am sure you will be pleased to hear this!

Home Learning

Please can you bring back to school any home learning that you have completed over the past few weeks. The CGP Maths and English books, exercise books, worksheets etc. Whatever you have done and still have, please bring it into school.

Many thanks to all those children who have brought back most of the above – we are very impressed!