



Friday 13th November 2020

Autumn Term : Edition 8

Dear Parents/Carers

This week I would like to focus on children's wellbeing, both socially, emotionally and academically. At our Governors' Meeting which was held on Tuesday 10th November, there was a strong focus on this topic, together with discussions around the whole school communities wellbeing – particularly during these difficult and unprecedented times.

If you are struggling, or if you feel that your child/ren are being impacted detrimentally in anyway, be it emotionally, financially, physically or anxiously, then please do get in touch with school. We have a whole team of staff who are ready to help with providing support. Miss Amy Downham is always available to provide Family Support, please do not feel you have to suffer in silence.

Please remember, that Rev Anne Russell and her wonderful Ingleborough Team are also available to contact on either 015242 61609 or via e-mail revanne.ingleborough@gmail.com.

To help encourage children's engagement in PE and to introduce a little bit of 'normality' back into the school day, children have been engaging in coached sports sessions! This term, children in Classes 1 and 2 are thoroughly enjoying Gymnastics sessions, whilst children in Classes 3 are enjoying multi-skills sessions with Jill Eccleston. Class 4, and 5 are enjoying Basketball sessions with a familiar face at the school, Coach March Gunn.

On Wednesday 11th November 2020, Mrs Kim Barlow accompanied by two of our Year 6 children, laid a Poppy Wreath on behalf of the school at the Remembrance Service which took place at School Hill. At the same time, all children in all classes also showed their respect by honouring a two-minute silence during a special Remembrance Assembly led by Miss Richardson in the School playground. Well done to Harley and Joe in Year 6 who represented our school on School Hill!

At the time of writing, there is a school full of smiley faces, all dressed in non-uniform and enjoying fundraising activities for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who helped to raise funds for Children in Need. Thank you also to Mrs Harrison for organising

this year's 'alternative' support for Pudsey Bear!

Finally, I do have to once again mention Covid. Please remember that if children develop Covid symptoms during the evening, or over the weekend then you must let school know as quickly as possible using the parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk e-mail address. The sooner we are advised the better. Many thanks to all those parents who have been very proactive in notifying school of any Covid-related self-isolation or the results of Covid tests.

Stay Safe and enjoy the weekend.

Mrs Pearson

FUN DAY FRIDAY Did you know, if your child does not regularly take a school meal, then we are once again offering the 'Fun Day Friday' option! This is an excellent opportunity for your child to try a delicious freshly prepared school meal – on a Friday! Meals can be secured by e-mailing admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk. School Meals are FREE for ALL children in Reception, Years 1 and 2, FREE for children eligible for Free School Meals, £2.10 per meal for children in Nursery and £2.55 per meal for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. Friday Meal choices are either:
Sausage in a Bun/Falafel Burger/Jacket Potato
Fish Fingers/Loaded Potato Skin/Jacket Potato
Beef Burger in a Bun/Sweet Potato and Lentil Curry/Jacket Potato

Payment should be made via Parentpay.

Free School Meals Eligibility

As personal circumstances continue to change, some families are, unfortunately, finding it harder and harder to make ends meet. It may be that if income has recently reduced your child/ren may now be eligible for a Free School Meal (FSM). For those children in Reception, years 1 and 2 FSM eligibility is in addition to the Universal Free School Meal provided on a daily basis. For more information, or an application form, please contact the School Office. Please be reassured that all enquiries will be treated in the STRICTEST of confidence.

Friends of Bentham School (FOBS) We would like to take this opportunity to thank the FOBs for all their continued fundraising efforts. Recently, monies raised by the FOBS has purchased a Tuff Tray and Stand, some Magnifying Glasses, an outdoor workstation and some rubber construction bricks for children to let their imagination run wild with! All these items will enhance the EYFS outdoor learning provision and benefit children for years to come – THANK YOU.

ALL CHILDREN : Christmas Lunch and Elf Day! This year, Christmas Dinner, with all the trimmings, will be taking place on Tuesday 15th December. All children in all classes are invited to join in with this festive feast and enjoy celebrating Christmas alongside their friends in the School Hall. There is no need to pre-order, Christmas Dinners can be ordered at Registration time in class on **Tuesday 15th December 2020**. Payment is, as usual, via Parentpay. **Also** on the 15th December, Mrs Nelson has been busy organising an 'Elf Day', to help raise all important funds for the **Alzheimers Society**. This terrible disease can affect anybody, and not only affects the patient, but family and friends as well. Children are invited to come to school, dressed as Christmas Elves or sporting a seasonal Christmas themed Jumper or festive item of clothing in return for a voluntary contribution. All funds raised will go to the **Alzheimers Society** to help support their continued excellent work.

UNIFORM AND LEISURE COMPANY We have been notified by the Uniform and Leisure Company that their Lancaster Shop will be closed for business due to national lockdown until Wednesday 2nd December. However, school uniform will still be available to purchase via www.ualonline.com. If you have any queries, or are unable to make an online order, then orders can be placed via 01524 388355. Thank you.

Breakfast Club Can we remind parents/carers that our wonderful Breakfast Club is once again fully operational! Children can be dropped off at the School Hall from 8.00am onwards. Full sessions, including activities, breakfast and refreshments run from 8.00am until 9.00am and are priced at £4.00 per child per day. Half sessions are also available, priced at £2.00 per child per day including activities and refreshments. If you would like your child to join our Breakfast Club provision, please e-mail admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk to pre-book a session. Thank you.

Christingle Whilst the 'C' word may seem a long time off, December will soon be upon us, as will that magical time of year known as Advent. This year Rev Anne Russell and her team will be distributing Christingle Kits to all children. Kits will be delivered to school during the first week in December. To help celebrate this magical time of year, there will be an online festive service on 13th December 2020 that everyone is welcome to access and take part in. More details about this to follow nearer the time.

QES Admissions We have been advised by QES, that they are making a film for parents of prospective students to access and that this will be ready shortly. Usually the school gives extensive tours and holds two Open Evenings, but this year this is not possible. The school have also up-dated their website, and more information can be found under **admissions2021**. Under this section of the website, there is a prospectus, a question and answer section and information about how you can contact the school's admissions team etc. If you are unable to access the website, please call 015242 71275. Thank you.

Protecting your Child against Influenza (Flu) and Complications 19th November 2020

If your child was not at school on the 22nd October 2020 and you wished for them to have the Flu Vaccination, then this can either now be obtained by contacting your GP, or alternatively, on **19th November 2020** when the Childhood Immunisation Team will be re-visiting the school.

If you have any questions about this vaccination programme, then please contact the Childhood Immunisation Team on 01423 542360.

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/>

Parentpay Can we please remind parents/carers to regularly check their child's Parentpay Account. Unfortunately, this week, we still have 47 accounts showing as owing money.

Please remember, if you are financially struggling and are unable to pay off an outstanding Parentpay debt then please contact the school. There are options available, including making small weekly contributions. Failure to contact the school about an outstanding balance may result in a referral being made to NYCC's Legal Team.