



Friday 13th December 2019

Autumn Term : Edition 13

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, thank you to everyone who supported this year's Christmas Fair. The Friends of Bentham School, with your help, managed to raise just over £800 for the school – which is a remarkable achievement. All money raised will go on to support activities in school. The first purchase will be some new football goals which has been requested by the children and which FOBS agreed to fund.

It would be fair to say that today has been rather busy at school, with children joining in with 'Christmas Jumper' day and taking part in a fundraising Elf Run, not to mention enjoying a 'festive feast' at lunch time! Thank you to all those parents/carers who supported children with their fundraising efforts. All monies raised will be split between 'Save the Children' and St John's Hospice. Can I also say a massive thank you to our School Cook, Mrs Leak and Assistant Cook, Miss Price who, today, have produced over 100 delicious Christmas Dinners for children and staff to enjoy. Thank you.

On Wednesday 11th December, construction of our new outdoor stage started (which is a miracle when you consider what was happening with the weather on Tuesday)! The stage is looking fantastic and the addition of some musical instruments to our playground will provide lots more activities for the children at playtimes. Please can parents/carers ensure that children have a suitable coat for the weather with them at school together with hats, gloves and scarves? On rainy days it would also be an idea to have a pair of wellies at school. Unfortunately, school shoes, children and puddles are not an ideal mix and we aim to get outside as much as possible.

Despite the heavy wind and rain over the weekend, children in Year 6 still managed to get out and get involved in a caving experience, just not at the Long Churn Caves as organised! Thank you to Olly Roberts for persevering and rising to the challenge of sourcing an alternative destination at such short notice and well done to the children for embracing the opportunity...another part of their John Muir Award ticked off!

Our Christmas Crafts evening on Tuesday 10th

December was, as ever, a resounding success. Thank you to all members of staff for giving up their time and supporting this event. I am sure parents of those children who took part will all agree the festive creations made by children were absolutely fantastic.

Finally, can I just remind parents/carers that if they have not already done so, can they please consider making a voluntary contribution of £2.50 on their child's Parentpay account towards the cost of this year's Pantomime experience, which will be taking place in the School Hall on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Mrs Pearson

ChristMATHS Day! On Wednesday 18th December the whole school will be taking part in a day FULL of Christmas and Maths activities! Maths is everywhere and we are going to explore how it links to Christmas in some fun and creative ways! Parents/Carers, please be aware that our new calculations policy is on the school website - which will help you to help your child with their learning at home over the year – MERRY CHRISTMATHS!

Christmas Advent Trail On Tuesday 17th December, children in Class 3 have been invited to join children from Clapham School on a Christmas Advent Trail around the village of Clapham. This lovely festive activity is FREE of charge. Children will be accompanied by members of staff from both schools. On the day, children will be collected by coach from school at 1.15pm returning to school by no later than 3.30pm. Can parents please ensure that children bring with them a suitable warm winter coat for the weather, a water bottle, hat and gloves. Thank you.

'Save the Children' and be in with a chance of winning a delicious box of biscuits! Can you guess 'What is Coach Christmas asking Santa for this Year'? For a donation of £1.00 you can have a go and be in with a chance of winning! Enter at the School Office.

Spring Menu Choices The new menu for the Spring Term has been sent home in children's book bags. There are lots of lovely warming lunches to enjoy on a cold Winter's day, including Roast Chicken, Glamorgan Sausage, Jam Roly Poly, Fruit Crumble and much more! If your child will be taking a school meal when we return to school in January, can parents/carers please complete meal choices, and return these to the School Office by **Monday 16th December 2019**. By

way of information, our Fun Day Friday option will continue in the new term. Meal prices will continue to be charged 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. In some instances you may be eligible for Free School Meals or additional Pupil Premium funding. For more information, please see Sally in the School Office.

PARENTPAY Can we please remind parents/carers to regularly check their child's Parentpay account. At the time of writing there are **68** accounts showing as having outstanding balances 😞. Please remember, if you are having difficulty meeting any payment, then please do not hesitate to contact the school. In some circumstances, a payment plan or financial support could be put in place. Please be reassured that all discussions will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Failure to contact the school about outstanding accounts may result in the debt being referred to NYCC Legal Services.

To help with financial planning, and by way of a reminder, children in years 4 and 5 will be taking part in their residential visit to Bewerley Park from the 4th May 2020 to the 7th May 2020. We are asking that parents secure their child's place on this residential by paying a deposit of £100.00 (non-refundable) by no later than 3rd February 2020. Similarly, children in Year 6 will be taking part in a residential to Whitby from the 13th July 2020 to the 16th July 2020. Again, in order to secure a place, a non-refundable deposit of £100.00 needs to be made by no later than 27th March 2020. To assist with the financial outlay, Parentpay has been set up to allow parents/carers to make smaller balance reducing payments at any one time.

Octopus for a Premie UK. The former Headteacher of Brougham Street Nursery School is collecting used postage stamps to help raise funds for 'Octopus for a Premie UK' this Christmas. This is a charity that provides a premature baby with a knitted or crocheted Octopus to have with them in the incubator. The tentacles replace the umbilical cord as a comfort to the baby, whilst also preventing them playing with and potentially removing the tubes that they may rely on for feeding, oxygen etc. **Here's how YOU can HELP.** Please collect any used postage stamps and hand them into the School Office. It really is that simple. Thank you.

Swimming : Class 4 Can we just remind parents of children in Class 4 that, if they have not already done so, then please return Consent forms

What's on next week?

Monday 16th December 2019

9.30 Senior Citizens Nativity Performance
Lunchtime Board Games Club
Music Lessons : Mrs Brennan (Flute/Keyboard)

Tuesday 17th December 2019

Jordan's Lunchtime Football Club
Lunchtime Book Club
1.30pm Christmas Advent Trail (Class 3)
6.00pm Nativity Performance

There will be no Jigsaw Club

Wednesday 18th December 2019

Music Lessons : Mr Hinchcliffe (Accordion)
Christmaths Day
2.30pm Auction Mart Carol Service (Please collect children from the Auction Mart at 3.30pm).

Thursday 19th December 2019

Christmas Party Day!
1.00pm School Council Meeting

Friday 20th December 2019

Baby and Toddler Group Christmas Party
LAST DAY OF TERM..... Here comes Santa!

Attendance for week commencing 02/12/19 : **93.98%**

Christmas in the Mart 2019 at Bentham Auction

On the 13th and 14th December Bentham Auction will be hosting a 'Christmas in the Mart' event. On the evening of Friday 13th December, there will be a family book launch of a new Nativity book that has been created by two local artists/writers. The new story will be read to an audience at 6.00pm in the Nativity area. Also on the 13th there will be a family Carol Concert with Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band, this will start at 7.00pm and is expected to last for one hour.

On Saturday 14th December, there will be an 'Open Book Team' presenting two stories from the Nativity – this will again take place in the children's Nativity area in the company of a real life set, including donkeys and sheep.

During the morning of Saturday 14th Paul Curwen will also be in the top ring, sharing the Christmas Story by using balloons!

Can we also remind parents/carers that there will be a

selection of children's festive artwork exhibited at the event. There will be lanterns, hanging angels, pom pom angels, nativity jars and many more crafty creative festive artworks that have all been created by children at school. Please do go along and take a look.

Festive Dates for your Dairy!

Nativity Performance On Monday 16th December at 9.30am children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 will perform their Nativity to an audience of Senior Citizens and Key Stage 2 children.

Christmas Advent Trail On Tuesday 17th December children in Class 3 have been given an opportunity to join children from Clapham School on a Christmas Advent Trail around the village of Clapham.

Nativity Performance On Tuesday 17th December at 6.00pm children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 will perform their Nativity to parents/carers.

ChristMATHS Day! A whole day of Christmas and Maths activities that the whole school will be taking part in.

Auction Mart Carol Service On Wednesday 18th December children in all classes will be taking part in the Auction Mart's Carol Service from 2.30pm. Parents/carers are asked to make arrangements to collect children from the Auction Mart at 3.30pm. By way of information, the School Bus will be collecting children who use this service from the Auction Mart and transporting them home.

CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY On Thursday 19th December we will all be enjoying Christmas Party Celebrations! There have been whisperings that a certain Mr Claus may travel from the North Pole to join in with the fun! Children can come to school wearing their best party clothes!