



Friday 16th October 2020

Autumn Term : Edition 5

Dear Parents/Carers

This week, I thought I would bring you some staffing news before attempting to up-date parents/carers on any updates about Covid;

The good news is, Mrs Harvey has agreed to continue teaching Class 5 until Mrs Cadman returns from maternity leave. Thank you to Mrs Harvey for agreeing to stay and continue teaching children. Mrs Harvey has settled well into our school and children will continue to benefit from her teaching experience and knowledge.

Following half-term, I will no longer be teaching children in Class 5 on Fridays. Mrs Hammond, a teacher with extensive experience teaching primary aged children, will be taking over my teaching commitment up until Christmas. As much as I enjoy my time in class engaging with children, at a recent Governors meeting, it was agreed that due to the additional workload created by Covid, it is not viable for me to continue with my teaching commitment over the coming months.

Mrs Cryer has agreed to continue covering for Mrs Hodgson who is still unwell. Mrs Cryer will also be covering Mrs Hodgson's maternity leave. As I am sure everyone will agree it is lovely to have Mrs Cryer back at school.

Moving forwards, Miss Mulligan will be supporting children in Class 3 for three mornings a week instead of Class 2. This is because Class 2 currently have additional support from a final year teaching student.

Now some sad news, Helena our Assistant Cook will be leaving us at the end of this half term. Due to less children taking a school lunch, County Caterers have made the decision to reduce staffing hours in the school kitchen. Helena has worked at the school for many years and will be greatly missed. I am sure everyone would like to wish Helena the very best for the future.

This week, as a school, we ventured into our very first 'virtual' Parent Interviews. Thank you to everyone for

their patience and understanding – this was a new concept for everyone! We hope that there are some very proud parents.

Apologies to parents/carers of children in Class 2, whose Parent Interviews were postponed to Wednesday 21st October. Unfortunately, Miss Richardson has not been very well (non-covid related). We all hope that Miss Richardson makes a speedy recovery.

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.

For those parents/carers of children who are in receipt of Free School Meals (not to be confused with Universal Free School Meals), then if your child has to isolate and not attend school due to Covid, you are still eligible for a free school meal every week-day, term-time only. During your child's non-attendance, a packed lunch will be delivered daily to your door. If you do not require a lunch to be delivered, please let Sally in the School Office now ASAP.

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.

As the country enters a new phase in the fight against Covid, and following the recent implementation of three-tier restrictions, all that is left to say is, have a lovely weekend, follow guidance and let's keep everyone safe.

Mrs Pearson

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.

Friends of Bentham School (FOBS) The FOBS will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 21st October 2020 at 2.00pm via ZOOM. This friendly group would like to invite any parents who would be interested in helping to raise all important funds for the school, or share some fundraising ideas, to the meeting! Please remember that ALL monies raised benefit ALL children in ALL classes. The meeting link will be e-mailed.

Stone Age to Iron Age As reported in last week's Friday News, this term, children have been learning all about their ancestors, particularly from the Stone Age! School have managed to bring a little bit of history into its own grounds, and organise authentic hands-on prehistoric workshops, linked to the KS2 curriculum for ALL children in classes 3,4 and 5. On Tuesday 12th October, children in Class 3 all took part in their hands-on Stone Age day, unfortunately, the weather was not on side, but despite it being wet and windy everyone had a wonderful time. Please see our school website for pictures. Can parents of children in Class 4, please remember that children will be taking part in their Workshop on 19th October 2020. On the day, children should come to school wearing their PE kit, ensuring they also have a warm/waterproof coat, wellies, waterproof trousers, a hat and a pair of gloves.

URGENT (Parents of children in Nursery) Applying for a place in Reception at Bentham C P School

If you are the parent of a Nursery child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 then you MUST apply for a Primary School Place for your child to start Reception in September 2021. You must apply for a school place even if your Nursery aged child has an older sibling that attends the school, or if your child currently attends the Nursery provision. The deadline for applying for a place is **15th January 2021**. More information about how to apply has been sent home with children. Alternatively, please visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions or [telephone 01609 533679](tel:01609533679).

If you are unable to make an application on-line, or would like to complete a paper application, please contact Sally in the School Office.

URGENT REMINDER (Parents of Children in

R,1,2,3,4,5 and 6).

Protecting your Child against Influenza (Flu) and

Complications This year, ALL children in Reception, Years 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 will be given an opportunity to receive a FREE nasal influenza vaccination at the school on Thursday 22nd October 2020. In order for your child to receive this vaccination, consent needs to be given by parents/carers, as follows:

Go to : <https://www.hdft.nhs.uk/fluconsent/>

Enter the School Code **121380** and click **Find School**

Complete the form

Click the **GREEN, SUBMIT** button.

If you have any questions about this vaccination programme, or are unable to register consent on line, then please contact the Childhood Immunisation Team on 01423 542360.

URGENT REMINDER (Parents of children in Year 6)

Applying for a Secondary School Place

Parents of children in Year 6 have been sent home information about how to apply for a secondary school place for their child in September 2021.

Applications need to be submitted **before 31st**

October 2020.

URGENT REMINDER (all parents) Christmas Cards

Dare we say the 'C' word yet? Inevitably it is that time of year again when all of us (well some of us), might start thinking about ordering Christmas Cards. This year, school are once again working with Arts Projects for Schools with their Christmas Card Project. This project helps to raise all important funds for the school.

Children will soon be bringing home a Christmas Card that they have exclusively designed. This design will have a unique sticker on the back of it. If you would like to order Christmas Cards and/or other Christmas products incorporating your child's design then please following instructions provided alongside your child's artwork.

Please remember original artwork MUST BE returned to school by no later than **Monday 19th October**, with orders for products being placed on line by no later than **Tuesday 20th October**. For more information, please see the letter sent home with children. Thank you to Mrs Chapman for organising this fundraising activity.

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/>