



**Friday News**  
**17<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**71 parents NOW have outstanding DEBTS at school.**

## **Building our future, step by step**

<http://www.benthamcpschool.org.uk>

**THE BIG DIG.....** THANK YOU to all the people that came along and got involved and supported 'The Big Dig' on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March. There was a great turn-out made up of children, parents, grandparents, members of the community and staff throughout the day. This all helped create a real buzz and atmosphere with everybody, quite literally, 'digging deep'.

It has been fantastic to finally get our outdoor project underway and, hopefully, over the next few terms we will see the patches of land outside the school transform before our eyes.

We had a keen group of people who joined our first 'Big Dig' event. Unfortunately the land was not the easiest with many stones and rocks being uncovered along the way, but everyone involved persevered. The area is beginning to take shape; we have the beginnings of a fire pit area with wooden seating in the top corner of the development, we just need to add woodchip. Thank you to those children who helped plant trees in the middle of the area - we will be adding some more trees very soon. Visitors to the school will now be able to see the start of the 'bog' area, which is being defined with gravel making it more of a feature. As can be seen, there is currently what appears to be a pile of earth, this will be used to add definition to the land. Sarah DeNurtcheylo, who we have been working with from 'Nature House' was present to delegate tasks on the day and designate the jobs. Sarah also shared her plans of the groundwork with everyone that made it to 'The Big Dig'. There is a copy of these plans on display in reception if you would like to have a look.

Children had the opportunity to get dirty and play in the mud. We even had children on worm patrol, making sure our garden friends were moved to a safe place. It was more than evident that children enjoyed taking part and doing exactly the same job as parents and adults including digging and moving soil. It was very exciting to see the children problem solving and working out how to move the big logs around and get them to their designated places. In the end children had great fun rolling the logs up the hill! Mr White and his right hand man, Tom Mouncey, were kept busy making the log seating. Tom made sure that they were placed correctly according to the plan. Fantastic work Tom. A big 'THANK YOU' to all those staff who helped make, provide and serve refreshments throughout the day – this quite literally kept everybody going and added a real sense of 'community' to our day, even if we did only get a few chances to catch our breath, stop and chat about the project!!

Can we just take this opportunity to remind everyone about our second 'Big Dig' date on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 11.00am until 3.00pm – we will once again be providing refreshments. This project cannot be completed without the help and support of the wider Bentham Community Primary School, community! We would love to see the same faces and some new faces at the next 'Big Dig' day as we make an impact on the land and the school environment. Please let grandparents, friends and colleagues know about this project, and see if this is something they would be keen to also get involved in.

So everyone is aware, all of the land at the side of the school has been sectioned off and allocated to different uses - as can be seen on the plan. However, the whole project will not be completely finished in twelve months, as funding from the lottery grant has already been designated to the initial development of the patch of land together with introductory Forest Schools sessions being run by Sarah in school. This will give children and teachers an insight into Forest Schools. Some of our more ambitious elements will have to be added at a later date when we, hopefully, raise more funds, such as a permanent shelter and a pond with a grate. We are also in the early stages of developing the front patch of land at the school to incorporate a 'food garden'. This supports part of our wider ongoing 'Outdoor Project'. Look out for more developments and opportunities to get involved with this project.

Finally, and once again, a MASSIVE THANK YOU to everybody who has already taken part in this project, by coming along to our 'Big Dig' event, making donations and offering support. THANK YOU.

For more information, or for ideas in ways you can get involved, please contact Mrs McGregor on 015242 61412. The story in pictures so far can be seen on the school's website, [www.benthamcpschool.org.uk](http://www.benthamcpschool.org.uk).

**RED NOSE DAY ...** This year we will be supporting Red Nose Day with a **'Wear Something Funny for Money'** theme. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March children are invited to come to school in whacky and wonderful attire..... all for the voluntary contribution of £1.00 per child, which will be donated to Comic Relief. REMEMBER that Mrs Leak will be cooking a special lunch ... meal prices are £2.10 per child in classes 3,4 and 5 FREE for children in Classes 1 and 2 and £1.60 for children in Nursery. There is no need to pre-order. Meals can be ordered on the day in class. Join in the fun and help raise all important funds for this wonderful charity.

**BACON BUTTY WEDNESDAY....** Mrs Leak has kindly agreed to make 'Bacon Butties' for breakfast on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. These will be priced at £1.50 each and will be available from 08.45am in the School Hall. Parents are also welcome to join in and purchase a Butty for Breakfast!

**STAMPS** Can YOU help .... Mrs Steele has asked if we can collect used stamps? These can be placed in the jar at Reception. The collection will help to raise all important funds for Bolton Hospice.

**SAVE A LIFE WORKSHOP** The Royal Life Saving Society will be running a 'Save a Baby or Child's Life ' workshop at Ingleton I Centre on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 09.30am to 1.30pm. The cost of this workshop is £15.00. For more information, or to book a place, please contact Cathy Tazzyman on 01729 823626 or e-mail admin@settleswimmingpool.co.uk.

**SPELLING ACTIVITY CARDS.....** Can we just remind parents about the importance of using the 'spelling activity cards' that were sent home with children in September. Every child from years 2 to 6 inclusive were provided with a laminated pack of activity cards, each giving practical suggestions about how to help children learn their spellings. Please help us to help you to help your child learn their spellings!

**WELL DONE** to Lauren from Class 5 who took part in the Craven Swimming Finals at Aireville on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. North Craven secured 4<sup>th</sup> place overall in the competition. WELL DONE.

**THANK YOU** to Parent Governor Aaron Robshaw, and his partner Marie Ammundson for kindly volunteering to put together the outside role-play provisions for Nursery.

**MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD.....** We are in the process of developing a 'Mud Kitchen' for our Early Years children.....

Mud kitchens encourage creative play and feed young imaginations. If you have any unwanted kitchen equipment, turkey basters, bottles with tops, plastic jugs, plastic bowls, non-rusting saucepans, trays, tins or whisks then Caroline from Nursery would love to take these off your hands! All donations gratefully received.

**REMINDER :** Meet your new Headteacher – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 from 6.00pm in the School Hall. It is anticipated that this event will last for approximately one hour. FREE childcare will be provided in classrooms in order that Miss Pearson can make a short informative presentation to parents and answer any questions parents may have without any 'little interruptions'. We look forward to seeing you.

**WONDERFUL WEBSITE .....** Please remember to take a look at the school's website. There are lots of news items and photographs about recent activities, events and learning in school.  
[www.benthamcpschool.org.uk](http://www.benthamcpschool.org.uk).