

18th March 2022

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mrs McGregor

Thankfully, this week, I was able to re-open all classes here at the school. I am pleased to report that there appears to have been a dip in the number of new Covid cases being reported. This along with staff being able to return after recovering from Covid has meant that we have been able to have school functioning at full capacity for most of this week. Due to the trend of lower cases, I am happy to announce that bubbles will cease from Monday. This will allow children to enjoy whole class assemblies again with more freedoms and mixing during playtimes and lunchtime. Our children truly are resilient and take all these changes in their stride.

Once again, I would like to encourage parents/carers to continue to regularly LFD test children and other family members if they are showing any signs of Covid, this includes coughs, colds, runny noses, sore throats, fatigue, temperatures, sickness and diarrhoea. Please consider not sending children into school when they are poorly – there have been instances where individuals have tested negative for Covid first thing in the morning only to test positive later in the day.

On Monday 21st both our Breakfast and After School club provisions will once again be running. Apologies for any inconvenience the closure of these clubs has caused over the previous week. I know this can be a real challenge for parents and carers.

I really appreciate that the decision not to send children to school can have an impact on attendance and is a difficult decision for parents/carers to make. As a school, if a child's attendance drops below 95% parents/carers are advised to be contacted about attendance concerns in line with Local Authority policy. In most cases this is in the form of a letter, telephone conversation or meeting. I would like to reassure parents/carers that in the current environment, illnesses relating to Covid and possible infection can be both justified and accounted for when the school's attendance is scrutinised by the Local Authority.

By way of a reminder, and to help support good attendance, I would ask that parents/carers try where they can to make non-urgent medical appointments, for example dental check-ups or eye tests outside of school hours. Not only does this small action help with attendance, but it also ensures children do not miss important learning time. Likewise, as I am sure everyone

will agree, the impact of Covid and school closures on education has been massive. As a school we are working extremely hard to ensure that every child catches up as much as possible and can achieve their very best. Every member of staff at the school is dedicated and invested in ensuring all our children have the very best education and opportunities that they can. With this in mind, can I please ask that parents/carers please consider not taking holidays during term-time. Thank you.

If as a parent/carer you are struggling with your child's attendance, or struggling to get children to school on time, then please remember that Mrs Duckett our Family Support Assistant is always available to help. If you would like to make an appointment with Mrs Duckett then please contact the school, alternatively, if you would just like an informal chat, then please catch Mrs Duckett when she is on the playground both before and after school.

Recently, there have been some adjustments to staff timetabling, meaning that members of staff need to be able to access their vehicles and leave school at anytime of the day. Can I please, therefore, remind parents to use the school's car park both safely and considerately. Please do not block in any staff vehicles and ensure that exit and entry points are also not blocked.

This year, children in Year 6 will once again be taking SATs tests. Tests will take place during the week commencing the 9th May 2022. I would like to encourage parents/carers to ensure that children are in school during this week and to avoid taking time off unless ABSOLUTELY necessary. Whilst SATS can be a worrying time for children, I would like to reassure parents/carers that school are doing everything they can to support children and ensure that they are ready for these national tests. Teaching staff are working hard to ensure children are ready for the tests, at the same time ensuring that mental and emotional wellbeing are supported. If you do have any concerns about SATs week, then please get in touch with the school.

Today school helped raise all important funds for Comic Relief! It was absolutely amazing to see so many children come to school dressed as a Super Hero. It bought a smile to my face as I saw you all on the playground this morning eager to show off your costumes to friends and teachers. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthy cause. We do still have a few Red Noses left to purchase, so if you want to

18th March 2022

FRIDAY NEWS

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sport a red 'beak' over the weekend in support of Comic Relief, please pop into School Reception at close of school today and grab yourself a Red Nose!

Last week letters were sent home to parents/carers about this term's Parent Interviews. These are scheduled to take place on the evenings of Tuesday 29th March and Wednesday 30th March. If you have not already done so, please ensure that reply slips requesting appointments are returned to the School Office by no later than 9.00am on Monday 21st March. For those parents/carers who are unable to come into school on these dates, or would prefer a virtual consultation, details confirming alternative dates and times for telephone consultations will be sent home with children shortly.

If you are interested in one of the TWO Parent Governor vacancies we currently have available here at the school, please remember that completed Nomination Papers need to be returned to school by no later than 9.00am on the 21st March. Unfortunately, any nominations received after this time/date will not be accepted.

Whilst recently I have had to make the unfortunate decision to cancel our popular Baby and Toddler Group due to the surge in Covid cases, I am hopeful that next Friday, 25th March, we will once again be able to welcome younger families back into our School Hall.

On Monday 21st March school will be encouraging everyone to help support 'Rock your Socks Day' in support of World Down Syndrome Day. We are asking for families and children to help celebrate this special day and raise awareness about Down Syndrome by coming to school wearing the brightest, craziest pairs or odd socks in return for a voluntary contribution of £1.00. Come on guys – Rock those SOCKS!

Finally, with the weather forecast looking absolutely glorious over the next few days and the weekend, I hope that everyone manages to get outside and enjoy some Sunshine! I know I can't wait to spend some time by the river or walking in the Dales with my children.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs A McGregor
Acting Interim Headteacher.

Return of Baby and Toddler Group

We are absolutely delighted to confirm that the Friends of Bentham School are once again offering a 'Covid secure' Baby and Toddler Group session, every Friday, term-time only in the School Hall. With sincere apologies for having to cancel the previous two sessions, we are hopeful that next week's session on Friday 25th March will go ahead from 9.30am to 11.00am in the School Hall.

FOBS Unfortunately, due to the partial School Closure the FOBS AGM scheduled to take place on Tuesday 15th March had to be cancelled.

Pop-Up Pantry The Pop-up Pantry in Bentham is open at the Methodist Church every Wednesday 10.00am to 12.00 mid/day. Please bring any food items you might have spare, and take away any food items you might require! If you are struggling for groceries, then there is no need to 'bring' any food, but you are welcome to collect some provisions. Everyone is welcome, deliveries of food parcels can be arranged in special circumstances, text or call 07942 364606.

PE Days

Nursery:	Thursday (AM)
Class 1 :	Tuesday/Friday : PM (including Nursery children who stay for afternoon sessions)
Class 2 :	Tuesday/Wednesday
Class 3 :	Tuesday/Friday
Class 4 :	Monday/Tuesday
Class 5 :	Monday/Tuesday

Dates for your Diary

Monday 21st March 2022

Rock your Socks Day

Pasta Bolognaise
Loaded Potato Skins
Jacket Potato

Tuesday 22nd March 2022

Chicken and Vegetable Pie
Veggies in Pasta with Tomato Sauce
Jacket Potato

Guitar Lessons (Mr S Redfern)

3.30pm – 4.20pm After School Basketball Club

18th March 2022

FRIDAY NEWS

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Wednesday 23rd March 2022

Roast Pork
Red Dragon Pie
Jacket Potato

Thursday 24th March 2022

Crunchy Breaded Salmon
Cheese and Leek Roll
Jacket Potato

Friday 25th March 2022

Cheese and Tomato Pizza
Vegetable Wrap with Rice
Jacket Potato

9.30am – 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group in the
School Hall

REMEMBER

Return Parental Agreements – Nursery Parents
4th April 2022
Return Parent Interview Requests – ALL CLASSES
Monday 21st March 2022
Return Nomination Papers for Parent Governor
vacancies – Monday 21st March 2022
Return Bentham Easter Holidays 2022 Multi Sports Camp
and Activity Days reply ASAP.

Easter Holiday Activity Sessions

Have you ever fancied a go at Abseiling, Caving or a Walk on the 'Wild Side' – then this Easter why not give it a go! Olly Roberts Outdoors, who has worked with the school previously, is offering a number of sessions over the East Holidays. For more information, please see the attached leaflet.

Useful Addresses

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers>

admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk



CLIMBING TASTERS

APRIL 2022

DATES:
SATURDAY 2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD
WEDNESDAY 6TH, 13TH, 20TH

SESSION TIMES:
11:00-12:00
12:30-13:30
14:00-15:00
15:30-16:30

BOOK NOW!
£12 PER SESSION

WWW.INGLETONCLIMBINGWALL.COM INFO@INGLETONCLIMBINGWALL.COM CALL: 03330 124 207



CHILDREN'S CLIMBING SESSIONS

Learn to climb, Meet new friends,
Make great memories.

Taster sessions available!

E-mail info@ingletonclimbingwall.com
for more information and pricing

Monday	Wednesday	Monday
6-9 years old	6-9 years old	10-15 years old
17:00-18:30	17:00-18:30	19:00-20:30

18th March 2022

FRIDAY NEWS

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Bentham Community
Primary School



Easter Holiday Activity Sessions

ABSEILING AT STORRS COMMON, INGLETON

THURSDAY 14th APRIL 2022	Evening session 6:00-7:30pm	Ages 8+	£15 per place or two places for £25
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This is an open session for children and adults to have a go at a variety of abseils around Storrs Common. This is a really progressive session as there are a number of abseils at differing heights.

FAMILY CAVING SESSIONS

SATURDAY 16th APRIL 2022	9.30am-12.00 or 1.00-3.30pm	Age 6+ Children must be accompanied by at least 1 participating adult (18+)	£20.00 per person
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Thistle and Runscar, Ribblesdale Viaduct 1/2 day Caving
A great introduction to caving with optional challenges along the way.

SATURDAY 23rd APRIL 2022	9.00am-12.30pm or 1.30-5.00pm	Age 10+ Children must be accompanied by at least 1 participating adult (18+)	£25.00 per person
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Long Churn, Selside, near Horton in Ribblesdale 1/2 day Caving
Another great introduction to caving with some climbs along the way.

INGLEBOROUGH SUNRISE WALK

EASTER MONDAY 18th APRIL	4am meet in Ingleton for a 6:15am sunrise. Aiming to be back down for 9:30am.	Age 10+ Children must be accompanied by at least 1 participating adult (18+)	£25 per person
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Start and finishing in Ingleton, we'll make our way to Ingleborough summit for sunrise followed by an explore of the wild side and one of the quietest limestone pavements in the Yorkshire Dales on our descent.

HOW TO BOOK...

Please email ollyrobertsoutdoors@gmail.com to book a place, stating which activity you would like to book.

A booking form will be sent to you and your place will be confirmed once payment has been received.