



Friday 18th December 2020

Autumn Term : Edition 13

Dear Parents/Carers

We finally made it to the end of the Autumn 2020 term! It may have been a bumpy ride and a steep learning curve for many of us, but I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their continued support and understanding.

This week during Christmas Lunch the Christmas Hamper Prize draw, organised by the Friends of Bentham School, took place. Well done to all those lucky winners of prize hampers, and thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket and helped support fundraising efforts here at the school.

Christmas lunch was, as ever, a great success with children all thoroughly enjoying their festive feast! Thank you to Belinda, our supply cook, for rising to the challenge of 100 plus plates of food!

Mrs McGregor's Run to Lapland event was also a fabulous success story, with children (and staff) successfully accumulating a total of 145 miles. A special mention must go to children (and staff) in Classes 4 and 5 who simply got on with the task in hand and ran in rainy weather on Wednesday 16th December both without complaint and with big smiles on their faces – well done.

Earlier this week, it was an absolute treat to see so many children (and staff) coming to school either dressed as a Christmas Elf or wearing festive clothing in support of Mrs Nelson's Elf Day. With your support, Mrs Nelson managed to raise £170.70 for The Alzheimer's Society.

After much intense negotiation, we did finally manage to secure a visit from Santa. Santa managed to visit all children in all classes, all whilst socially distancing. Every child in every class also received early Christmas gifts. Thank you to The Friends of Bentham School for helping Santa with his special packages!

Finally, as a reminder, please can I ask that if your child tests positive for Covid19 during the school holidays that you contact myself immediately using the parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk. Please do not phone the school during the Christmas holidays as there will be no answer and no one will be monitoring the answerphone. Please do not use class emails or the admin email as these will also not be monitored

over the holidays. I will check the above email address twice a day up to and including Christmas Eve and take any necessary action to contact families if there is a need for any child to subsequently self-isolate. I sincerely hope this will not happen but this system will be in place to help keep us all safe.

If your child will not be returning to school in January due to illness or self-isolation, please contact school on the first day back, Tuesday 5th January 2021 as normal on **015242 61412** or admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk. Thank you.

I think all that is left to say, is Happy Christmas and New Year. Stay safe, enjoy and we will see everyone back at school on Tuesday 5th January 2021 when we are also looking forward to welcoming more new families to the school both in our new Nursery Class and other year groups.

Mrs C Pearson
Headteacher

Financial Assistance over the Christmas Holiday : VOUCHERS If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, then an envelope containing £40.00 of Co-op vouchers (£20.00 per week per child) has been sent home with children today (Friday 18/12/20). We hope that these vouchers go a little way to ensuring that families are not struggling to purchase **food and other essential items for their children** over the Christmas Holidays. By way of a reminder, if your circumstances have recently changed, then you may be eligible for additional financial support. For more information, please contact Sally in the School Office. Please be reassured that all enquiries will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Exciting News : Return of our After School Club We are in the process of planning the re-launch of our After School Club provision. More information to follow in a separate letter.

Breakfast Club As from January 2021 Breakfast Club will continue to run every weekday morning (term-time only) but will be moving back to the school's **COMMUNITY ROOM** (adjacent to the car park entrance). Parents/carers can press the door buzzer to let staff know that they have arrived. Breakfast Club is available for children in Reception, years 1,2,3 4,5 and 6. Unfortunately, at the present time, we are unable to accommodate children in Nursery at our Breakfast Club. Full sessions at Breakfast Club, including breakfast, refreshments and activities run from 8.00am until 9.00am and are priced at £4.00 per child per day. Half sessions are also available and are priced at £2.00 per

child per day, including refreshments and activities. Please ensure you pre-book your child's place by emailing admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk

Reminder : letters have previously been sent home to parents/carers of children in Classes 2,3, 4 and 5 about a series of Outdoor Wellbeing Days that have been organised to take place at Ingleborough Hall during January 2021. If your child is in either Class 3,4 or 5 then please ensure that completed consent forms are returned to school by **Tuesday 5th January 2021** at the VERY LATEST. There are still a number of forms that have not been returned. If your child is in Class 2, there is no requirement to complete a form. Similarly, could I once again please encourage parents/carers to consider making a contribution towards the cost of this activity. Payment can be made via Parentpay. Thank you.

REMINDER Christmas Craft Activities If you have not already done so, can parents/carers please consider making a contribution of £4.00 towards the cost of materials and resources for children's Christmas Craft Activities. Payment should be made via Parentpay. Thank you.

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.

NYCC SEND Provision If your child has been identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities then NYCC and PCV are striving to work more closely with parents in local areas to ensure services are working for children, young people and their families. Parents are invited to join local parent/carer virtual meetings where information will be shared about the new SEND Hub structures and discussions will take place about services moving forwards. Craven's ZOOM meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 10th December 2020 from 10.00am until 11.00am. To find out more, or to book a place please visit the events page on the Parent Carer Voice website www.Parentcarervoiceuk.org/events. Further information

is also available via e-mail at info@parentcarervoiceuk.org.

Parentpay Can we please remind parents/carers to regularly check their child's Parentpay Account. Unfortunately, there are still 43 accounts with outstanding debts.

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.