



Friday 20th November 2020

Autumn Term : Edition 9

Dear Parents/Carers

This week we have been busy starting to make plans for Christmas 2020. Whilst this year will be different, with children unable to perform Nativities to a captive audience, and join in with Carol Singing Services at the Auction Mart, here at the school we are as determined as ever to make the festive season jolly, full of celebration and bring smiles to children's faces.

As some of you may have seen on Facebook, I recently put out a plea for the donation of a giant Christmas Tree, and festive decorations, this with the aim of bringing our very own 'Trafalgar Square' feel to our School Hall! Thank you to everyone who has very kindly made a donation and/or offered a Christmas tree; Thank you to Mr Blackburn for donating and agreeing to deliver our very own giant spruce this Saturday, thank you also to Mr Guy for his kind donation. We are still looking for baubles, lights, and tinsel galore to decorate our school with so if you have any of these items that are looking for a new home – please do get in touch. Together, we will transform our school into a children's magical winter wonderland and bring big smiles to everyone's faces.

As mentioned in last week's Friday News, and again in this edition, Christmas Lunch will be taking place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, this is the same day as Mrs Nelson's fundraising 'Elf Day' which this year is supporting The Alzheimer's Society.

As some of you may have seen, this week there has been an article in the local press, celebrating our wonderful school, and welcoming all our new starters! This year a bumper group of children have started at our school since the start of the academic year, some 35 children, and we are expecting a couple more families who are in the process of relocating to the area to be joining our school community shortly, not to mention some new Nursery children in January 2021. Thank you to everyone for making new members of our community feel so welcome, and to children for helping new friends to settle quickly.

This week Mrs Chapman sent home Parental Agreements to parents of children in our Nursery provision. We are currently in the process of finalising plans for our new Nursery Class in January 2021. As many of you will already know, Mrs Milner will be joining us in January as our new Nursery Class

teacher. We will continue to offer the 30-hour provision at the school, but places are limited, so can I please remind parents about the importance of returning completed Parental Agreements to the School Office by no later than close of school on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately, if agreements are not returned on time, then school may not be in a position to offer the hours that are required.

Finally, as is the case every week, I do have to once again mention Covid. 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](mailto:parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) e-mail address. The sooner we are advised the better. Many thanks to everyone to date who has helped support the fight against Covid.

Stay Safe and enjoy the weekend.

Mrs Pearson

The **FRIENDS OF BENTHAM SCHOOL** **NEED YOUR HELP** with fundraising at the school.....

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020, we are inviting ALL children in ALL classes to come into school wearing their own clothes, in exchange for the donation of an item that can be put in a Christmas Prize Hamper! Items can include non-perishable food, toiletries, vouchers, chocolate etc.

Can we just thank EVERYONE for their continued support with the school's fundraising efforts – particularly this year. Please remember that EVERY PENNY raised supports ALL children in ALL classes. THANK YOU.

**SETTLE SWIMMING POOL** This year, to help fundraise for Settle Pool, Bentham Town Council have agreed to donate any profits from the sale of its annual calendar to the pool. The calendar contains some lovely pictures that have been taken around the local area, not just Bentham.

I am sure everyone will agree Settle Pool is a wonderful leisure facility, with many of our children learning to swim there, and many of us visiting and enjoying family, relaxing and fitness swimming. Unfortunately, the pool has had to close its doors due to Covid, which will inevitably greatly impact its financial stability. Please help to fundraise and support our local pool by purchasing a calendar. Calendars will be on sale via Settle Pool's website, details of the link to follow shortly. 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](mailto: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.

### **Free School Meals Eligibility**

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.

**ALL CHILDREN : Christmas Lunch and Elf Day!** This year, Christmas Dinner, with all the trimmings, will be taking place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. All children in all classes are invited to join in with this festive feast and enjoy celebrating Christmas alongside their friends in the School Hall. There is no need to pre-order, Christmas Dinners can be ordered at Registration time in class on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. Payment is, as usual, via Parentpay. **Also** on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, Mrs Nelson has been busy organising an 'Elf Day', to help raise all important funds for the [Alzheimer's Society](#). This terrible disease can affect anybody, and not only affects the patient, but family and friends as well. Children are invited to come to school, dressed as Christmas Elves or sporting a seasonal Christmas themed Jumper or festive item of clothing in return for a voluntary contribution. All funds raised will go to the [Alzheimer's Society](#) to help support their continued excellent work.

**UNIFORM AND LEISURE COMPANY** We have been notified by the Uniform and Leisure Company that their Lancaster Shop will be closed for business due to national lockdown until Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. However, school uniform will still be available to purchase via [www.ualonline.com](http://www.ualonline.com). If you have any queries, or are unable to make an online order, then orders can be placed via 01524 388355. Thank you.

**Breakfast Club** Can we remind parents/carers about our wonderful Breakfast Club. 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](mailto:admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) to pre-book a session. Thank you.

**Christingle** Whilst the 'C' word may seem a long time off, December will soon be upon us, as will that magical time of year known as Advent. This year Rev Anne Russell and her team will be distributing Christingle Kits to all children. Kits will be delivered to school during the first week in December. To help celebrate this magical time of year, there will be an online festive service on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020 that everyone is welcome to access and take part in. More details about this to follow nearer the time.

**QES Admissions** We have been advised by QES, that they are making a film for parents of prospective students to access and that this will be ready shortly. Usually the school gives extensive tours and holds two Open Evenings, but this year this is not possible. The school have also up-dated their website, and more information can be found under **admissions2021**. Under this section of the website, there is a prospectus, a question and answer section and information about how you can contact the school's admissions team etc. If you are unable to access the website, please call 015242 71275. Thank you.

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/>

**Parentpay** Can we please remind parents/carers to regularly check their child's Parentpay Account. Unfortunately, this week, we still have 47 accounts showing as owing money for dinners, Breakfast Club and our Nursery provision. 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.