



Friday 20th December 2019

Autumn Term : Edition 14

Dear Parents/Carers

Goodness what a busy festive week it has been! I know that it has been reported in the media that some schools are no longer having Nativity Performances and Carol Services as there is a constant drive to improve exam results but I firmly believe that events and performances such as those that we have taken part in this week are very much part of growing up and being a child, they are so important to a child's all round education.

It was lovely on Monday to see so many senior citizens visit our school and watch our younger children perform their Nativity. Thank you to Year 6 children for helping serve refreshments, making our guests feel so welcome and for making home-made mince pies for our audience to enjoy.

The school hall was absolutely packed to bursting point on the evening of Tuesday 17th when children put on their second performance of their 'Wiggly Nativity' for parents, friends and family. Thank you to everyone who very kindly made a voluntary contribution to our fundraising efforts at both performances. For some of our younger children, it was the first time they performed in front of an audience and I am sure everyone will agree they were all amazing.

It was also lovely to see so many parents join children at the Auction Mart Carol Service on Wednesday – if this did not get you in the Christmas Spirit, then I am not sure what will!! Many thanks to Rev Anne for her support with this event and also to Stephen Dennis at Bentham Auction Mart for once again being such a welcome host. A fantastic venue for carol singing.

At the time of writing, I am sat in my office listening to lots of excited children who are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a very special guest, no other than Mr Claus himself, who kindly managed to squeeze in a little visit to our school before heading back to the North Pole in readiness for his busiest day of the year!

All that is left to say is that on behalf of myself, staff and Governors, we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. See everyone on the

7<sup>th</sup> January as we start a new term in the New Year!  
Mrs Pearson

**SPRING TERM 2020** Can we remind parents/carers that school re-opens at **9.00am** on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Can we please encourage parents to ensure that children arrive at school, on time. Unfortunately, the number of children arriving after 9.00am and registering late in class has been slowly increasing. Children should be ready, on the playground, to come into school at 9.00am when classroom doors open. Thank you.

**PARENTPAY** Can parents/carers please ensure that ALL Parentpay accounts, with the exception of Residential Visits, are at a **ZERO** balance by 3.30pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Moving forwards into the New Year, can parents/carers please ensure that school meals are paid for in advance? At the time of writing there are 71 accounts showing as having monies outstanding on Parentpay. Last week a reminder about a wonderful opportunity that school is providing to children was put in the Friday News. On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 all children in all classes have been given the opportunity to watch a LIVE performance of 'Dick Whittington' here at the school. The cost of bringing a theatre production company into school is quite significant, and whilst we would like to thank the Friends of Bentham School for meeting part of the costs involved, the school will still be heavily subsidising the Pantomime. We have asked that parents/carers consider making a voluntary contribution of £2.50 per child towards the cost of the activity, unfortunately only 60% of parents have, so far, made a contribution. This will mean that funds secured for other activities and visits will now have to be utilised and some plans for visits in the New Year cancelled. Can we once again ask that parents/carers reconsider making a small contribution of £2.50? Thanking everyone in advance.

To help with financial planning, and by way of a reminder, children in **years 4 and 5** will be taking part in their residential visit to **Bewerley Park** from the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020. We are asking that parents secure their child's place on this residential by paying a deposit of **£100.00** (non-refundable) by no later than **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**. Similarly, children in **Year 6** will be taking part in a residential to **Whitby** from the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Again, in order to secure a place, a non-refundable deposit of **£100.00** needs to be made by no later than **27<sup>th</sup>**

**March 2020.** To assist with the financial outlay, Parentpay has been set up to allow parents/carers to make smaller balance reducing payments at any one time.

On the Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, an educational visit for children in classes 4 and 5 to Manjushri Kadampa in Ulverston has been arranged for children in classes 4 and 5. This visit will support children's learning and understanding of worldwide religion, together with supporting knowledge of the diverse culture within the UK today. We are asking parents to consider making a voluntary contribution of £9.00 per child towards the cost of this visit, which the school are heavily subsidising. **Unfortunately, if not enough parents are willing to pay for this visit then the trip will be CANCELLED.**

Finally, and whilst on the subject of Parentpay, please remember, if you are having difficulty meeting any payment, then please do not hesitate to contact the school. In some circumstances, a payment plan or financial support could be put in place. Please be reassured that all discussions will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Failure to contact the school about outstanding accounts may result in the debt being referred to NYCC Legal Services.

**Parental Agreement : Nursery Children** Can we just remind parents of children in Nursery to ensure that they have completed and returned their child's Parental Agreement for the Spring 2020 term. **Failure to return the agreement could result in your child losing their place.** It also means that the school cannot plan ahead for staffing of its Nursery provision. If you would like a further copy of the Parental Agreement, or if you need any help completing the same, then please see Sally in the School Office.

**Octopus for a Premie UK.** The former Headteacher of Brougham Street Nursery School is collecting used postage stamps to help raise funds for 'Octopus for a Premie UK' this Christmas. This is a charity that provides a premature baby with a knitted or crocheted Octopus to have with them in the incubator. The tentacles replace the umbilical cord as a comfort to the baby, whilst also preventing them playing with and potentially removing the tubes that they may rely on for feeding, oxygen etc. **Here's how YOU can HELP.** Please collect any used postage stamps and hand them into the School Office. It really is that simple. Thank you.

**Swimming : Class 4** Can we just remind parents of children in Class 4 that, if they have not already done so, then please return completed Consent Forms for Swimming Lessons and make payment via Parentpay. By way of a reminder children in Class 4 will start their lessons on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for the duration of eight weeks.

**Finally, SCHOOL UNIFORM.** Can parents/carers please ensure that children come to school wearing suitable school shoes, not trainers. We are starting to notice a number of children coming into school wearing black trainers with white soles and stripes..... these are not school shoes and should only make an appearance during PE Lessons! There is also an increasing number of children coming to school wearing very jazzy, jewelled and elaborate 'decorative' headbands. Can we please remind parents that only plain headbands are suitable for everyday use at school and that consideration should be made as to saving 'fancy' hairbands for school discos and party days? Thank you.

#### **What's on the first week back!**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

School Closed to Children  
INSET DAY

Tuesday 7th January 2020

BACK TO SCHOOL : 9.00AM REGISTRATION

Jordan's Lunchtime Football Club

PM – 'Dick Whittington' Performance in the School  
Hall

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Music Lessons : Mr Hinchcliffe (Accordion)

Music Lessons : Mrs Brennan (Key-board/Flute)

Thursday 9th January 2020

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Baby and Toddler Group : School Hall

Class 5 Library

3pm Praise Assembly

Effort Grade Letters go home

#### **Lunchtime and Afterschool Clubs**

We have some exciting plans for lunchtime and afterschool clubs in January which we know the children will enjoy. Look out for a letter in the first week back!

