



22nd December 2017

Autumn Term Edition 15

Wow, what a hectic week it has been! This time of year in school is always busy, but we do seem to have packed a lot in over the last few weeks! Thank you to everyone for their support and for also getting children to school early on the day of the theatre trip – thank you also for collecting children from the Auction Mart on Wednesday. It is very much appreciated, as both the theatre and the Carol Service were lovely events for the children to take part in. Thank you to the Auction Mart and Reverend Anne for inviting us along to the Carol Service, and thank you to those parents who came along and joined in with the singing!

I am delighted to be able to inform parents, that we have successfully recruited a new teacher who will be joining us in January. Miss Denby will be teaching Nursery children every morning and is already looking forward to meeting the nursery children again and also their parents. We had a high number of very strong applications for the position and Miss Denby excelled in the interview process. Miss Denby brings with her a wealth of experience and Early Years knowledge. We look forward to welcoming Miss Denby to our school in the New Year. By way of information, Nursery children start school on the 9th January 2018, the same time as all the other children - the 30 hour provision also begins on the 9th. We are also looking forward to welcoming some new Nursery children in January.

In other staffing news, Miss Lydia Bennett (Henry and Mia's mum) has also been appointed as a new Midday Supervisor and will be looking after our children on a lunchtime every day from January.

We still have a vacancy for a midday supervisor, 3 days a week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), 12.00-1.00pm on a maternity contract until Miss Boocock returns to school. If you are interested, please speak to me in school.

Yesterday we held interviews for a General Teaching Assistant position in school, this is to support children in various classes. Mrs Lauren Green (Cheska, Casper, Toby and James' mum) was successful in being

offered the post and we look forward to working with Lauren in January.

Today we said goodbye and good luck to Mrs Steele, Mrs Sedgwick, Miss Harrison and Caroline who are all moving on to pastures new. We held a special leaving assembly for them all and children presented them with cards and flowers. We wish them all the very best for the future.

All that leaves for me to say, on behalf of all the staff in school, is Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all in January 2018!

Mrs Pearson

Thank you to all those parents, grandparents, families and friends who came along and watched children perform in their various performances. I am sure everyone will agree they were truly MAGNIFICANT. Thank you also to everyone who donated some money at the end of the performances, it is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU to Mrs Leak and Miss Price who on Wednesday 20th December 2017 cooked a truly wonderful Christmas Lunch for over 130 individuals. There were carols, crackers, treats and a festive feast all to enjoy.

Thank you to Mrs Nelson for organising this year's Christmas Jumper Day. The school managed to raise £105.79 for 'Save the Children'. Thank you also to everyone who donated a prize for the raffle, including local businesses; Booths, B and C E Armstrong, and The Vue in Lancaster.

Well done to all of Mrs Brennan's musicians who performed in Assembly this week. Ellie-May, Stanley, Joe, Liam, Tom and Alma. They all played the keyboard or flute beautifully and it was lovely to hear them perform to an audience.

The Senior Citizens Christmas Performance was attended by over 35 members of our local community. It was lovely to welcome them all into our school. Year 6 did a fantastic job of serving refreshments at the end of the performance. This performance is something we hope to repeat every year and establish it as a tradition of our school.

THE FRIENDS OF BENTHAM SCHOOL Remember if you are busy making last minute online purchases - you can help raise further funds for the school when shopping on-line. For more information please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for Friends of

Bentham School. Every purchase made via the scheme helps raise all important funds for the school.

Coffee Morning The FOBS are holding a fundraising Coffee Morning at the Town Hall on **Saturday 13th**

January 2018 from 10.00am until 12.00 m/d, in addition to donations for the tombola, cake stall and jumble, they are looking for volunteers to help at this event. If you think you can help, please contact a member of the FOBS. More details about collection and drop-off points for donations in the New Year!

Finally, the FOBS will be meeting again on **16th January 2018 – everyone is welcome.**

REMINDER Can we just remind parents that children should be in their classrooms in readiness for registration by 9.00am. Arriving late into class can mean that children miss out on instructions for the day or important announcements. Can we just remind parents that if they are finding it difficult to deal with everyday issues, or if they feel that they need some additional support from the school, then we do have a Home School Link Worker. For more information, please contact the School Office. Please be reassured that all conversations will be treated in the STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE.

MESSY CHURCH It's fun, it's FREE and it's for ALL ages. Messy Church will be taking place on **SATURDAY 6TH JANUARY 2018** at Bentham Methodist Church. Messy Church is an opportunity for families to get together, enjoy being together, make things together, eat a meal together and celebrate together. There is no charge for Messy Church, however there will be an opportunity to make a donation towards craft resources and catering costs. Everyone welcome.

End of Term Can we just remind parents about the importance of ensuring that their child's Parentpay account is up-to-date. Recently, the school have revised their Arrears Policy to include details about how parents can access financial assistance for meals, or how payment plans can be agreed with the school where parents are genuinely struggling to meet outstanding debts. If you have any concerns whatever about meeting payments, then please make an appointment to see Mrs Pearson sooner rather than later.

REMINDER The new Menu for Spring 2018 is available on the School's website. As from January 2018 school meals will be priced at £2.30 per child per day in years 3,4,5 and 6, FREE for children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 and £1.80 per day per child

in Nursery. I am sure everyone will agree school meals continue to offer excellent value for money.

North Yorkshire County Council's Children and Families Prevention Service have a number of events taking place in the area throughout January to March 2018. If you would like a copy of the schedule, please ask Sally in the School Office for a copy. Alternatively a copy is available on the school's website.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE START OF NEW TERM NURSERY AND CLASS 1

Can parents/carers of children in Nursery and Class 1 please note that as from January 2018 children should be brought into school via the school playground. Access to the classrooms will be through the wooden gate in the Early Years play area. This is line with the rest of the school and will, hopefully, make it easier and more convenient for parents dropping of younger children and older siblings. A member of staff will be outside to meet parents and children on the morning of Tuesday 9th January 2018. Thank you.

Christmas Holidays As you will be aware school closes for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 22nd December. School will re-open on Tuesday 9th January 2018. All that remains is to wish everyone **A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.**