



Friday 23rd October 2020

Autumn Term : Edition 6

Dear Parents/Carers

As parents will know from previous correspondence, unfortunately, this week, we have had a confirmed case of Covid at the School. All of the planning that has been taking place behind the scenes proved to be useful and the process went smoothly following the protocols set out by the DfE and PHE. Thank you to all those parents who came and collected their children, for understanding the complexities and concerns surrounding an identified case at the school and for supporting the school with its actions. These are difficult times for all of us. A huge thank you to Mrs Harvey who is managing the home learning for Class 5. Mrs Harvey is testing our systems - well done to Class 5 who are being very mature in coping with the situation.

Once again, apologies to parents/carers of children in Class 2. Unfortunately, Miss Richardson is still unwell (non-covid related), which meant that postponed parent interviews had to, once again, be rescheduled. Hopefully, these will now take place on the 4th November 2020.

Please 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 e-mail address. The sooner we are advised the better.

Finally, as school closes for the half-term holiday, I would like to thank parents and carers for working with the school in its fight against Covid. To have the support and knowledge that the whole school community is working together as a whole and following guidelines which helps to protect our loved ones and those who are vulnerable is very reassuring. Enjoy the break, stay safe and remember that school re-opens on Monday 2nd November 2020.

Mrs Pearson

Breakfast Club Can we remind parents/carers that our wonderful Breakfast Club is once again fully operational! 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 to pre-book a session. Thank you.

Drop off and Collection of Children at School

Can we please remind parents/carers NOT to let children play with any of the school's playtime equipment, including balls, rackets, climbing frames, and fixed structures on both the playground and field at the start and the end of the school day. Equipment has been designated to specific classes within the school, and if children touch the equipment without it being cleaned and/or quarantined this does not support the prevention of any potential Covid outbreak. Whilst it seems very alien not to encourage children to engage in play, I am sure parents/carers will agree it is very important we all follow the rules and help to prevent the potential spread of Covid. Thank you.

Trick or Treat Warning We have been advised by Police that they have received multiple reports of children being 'intoxicated' by Cannabis Sweets. These sweets are both dangerous and illegal. Whilst a number of packets of sweets have been seized by the Police, there are still some in circulation. Sweets are wrapped in packets that are designed to look like real children's sweets, but unfortunately the content has a high THC level. There have been reports in the press that sweets are being marketed in packages that look very similar to well-known sweet brands, e.g. Haribo. Amongst the 'illegal' edibles are sweets such as Gummie Bears, Cherry Candy, Watermelon Rings, Stoney Patch, Nerds Rope Bites and Peach Rings. If you have any concerns, or would like more information, please contact North Yorkshire Police.

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.

Friends of Bentham School (FOBS)

Thank you to all those parents who joined the FOBS virtual AGM on Wednesday 21st October 2020. More information and news will follow.

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.

URGENT (Parents of children in Nursery) Applying for a place in Reception at Bentham C P School

If you are the parent of a Nursery child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 then you MUST apply for a Primary School Place for your child to start Reception in September 2021. You must apply for a school place even if your Nursery aged child has an older sibling that attends the school, or if your child currently attends the Nursery provision. The deadline for applying for a place is **15th January 2021**. More information about how to apply has been sent home with children. Alternatively, please visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions or telephone 01609 533679.

If you are unable to make an application on-line, or would like to complete a paper application, please contact Sally in the School Office.

Protecting your Child against Influenza (Flu) and Complications 19th November 2020

If your child was not at school on the 22nd October 2020 and you wished for them to have the Flu Vaccination, then this can either now be obtained by contacting your GP, or alternatively, on **19th November 2020** when the Childhood Immunisation Team will be re-visiting the school.

If you have any questions about this vaccination programme, then please contact the Childhood Immunisation Team on 01423 542360.

URGENT REMINDER (Parents of children in Year 6) Applying for a Secondary School Place

Parents of children in Year 6 have been sent home

information about how to apply for a secondary school place for their child in September 2021. Applications need to be submitted **before 31st October 2020**.

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 have 47 accounts showing as owing money.

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.