



Friday 24th January 2020

Spring Term : Edition 3

Dear Parents/Carers

On Monday afternoon I had the pleasure of taking Class 5 to Keasden Head Farm to take part in some tree planting. It was lovely to watch as children enthusiastically engage in this activity which supports conservation, wildlife and links to Global Warming. Thank you to The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for providing this opportunity to children.

Many thanks to those parents who managed to make it to the Bewerley Park Information Evening, also on Monday 20th. It was a shame that more parents were not able to attend as important information was provided about the residential. If you were unable to attend, please look out in children's book bags for more information about this residential visit, including a kit list.

You may have noticed a familiar face around school this week. Unfortunately, Miss Mulligan is currently resting at home and therefore we are thrilled to have Miss Harrison back in school working in Class 4. You may have also noticed that Mrs Green is back – she is supporting children in Class 2 and Class 3. Welcome back Miss Mulligan and Miss Harrison!

Next week, we are welcoming a familiar face from the past to the school. Rebecca Abbott a former pupil of the school will be joining staff on Work Experience from Lancaster and Morecambe College. If you see Rebecca please do say hello.

The first of our 'Stay and Learn' sessions also takes place next week. On Tuesday 28th January parents of children in Class 2 are invited to join children, in class, **from 9.00am until 10.00am**. This is a lovely opportunity to join in with your child's learning and experience first-hand life in one of our classrooms. I promise Miss Richardson will not be handing out any spelling or maths tests!

Finally, despite several pleas on previous Friday News Publications, one-third of parents at the school felt that they could not contribute £2.50 towards their child's opportunity to watch 'Dick Whittington', this year's pantomime here at the school. The price of securing a production in our school hall was around £600.00. The Friends of Bentham School kindly

agreed to help subsidise the cost of the Pantomime by meeting the school half way with the cost, however, due to non-payments it has meant that we have had to subsidise the experience by a further £100. As I am sure everyone will be aware, school budgets are getting tighter and tighter. Unfortunately, this shortfall in parental contributions now means that additional resources that the school planned to purchase, for example sports equipment or a new bike for EYFS cannot not be purchased. Thank you to those parents who did make a contribution.

Finally, a few trainers are sneaking into school on the ends of children's feet. Please can you ensure your child wears dark school shoes and not dark trainers.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pearson

IMPORTANT DATES Can parents/carers please ensure that they do their very best to ensure that children are at school during May 2020 and avoid requesting any leave of absence. During May 2020 KS1 SATS will be taking place, with KS2 taking their SATs during the week commencing the 11th May 2020. This year phonics screening for children in Year 1 will take place during the week commencing 8th June 2020. For more information about statutory testing please visit www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-1-and-key-stage-2-test-dates. Thank you.

BBC Radio 2 : 500 Words Competition This year we are giving children in years 3-6 an opportunity, during lessons and a lunch-time writing club, to write their very own 500 word short story to submit to BBC Radio Two's 500 Words Competition. Children will be entered into different categories based on their age. For more information, please see the letter sent home in children's book bags. Please remember, that in order for your child's work to be submitted consent will need to be given to the school so please return consent slips to school as quickly as possible. Thank you to Miss Hayward for organising this opportunity for children.

Visit to St John the Baptist Church, Low Bentham Can parents of children in Reception and Year 1 please remember that children will be visiting St John the Baptist Church on Wednesday 29th January. Children need to be dropped off at the church between 9.00am and 9.15am. For more information, please see the letter sent home in children's book bags.

Spelling in School and at Home -Children in Yr 2- 6

This week a letter has been sent home to parents/carers of children in years 2-6 inclusive providing more information about how spelling is taught in school and how parents/carers can support children with their learning at home. If you want any more information, or advice on how to further support your child, then please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Hodgson.

Ingleton Climbing Wall On Tuesday 11th February children in Year 5 will be taking part in a visit to Ingleton Climbing Wall. More information about this exciting activity has been sent home in children's book bags.

School Library We are still looking for volunteers to help set up our new Integrated Library System – this will involve the labelling and indexing of books. If you have any spare time and would like to get involved with this project, please see Sally in the School Office. It is a really easy task and it will take minutes to learn what to do. Thank you so far to Donna, Fiona and Sarah for volunteering and making a start, it is very much appreciated.

Godly Play and Library Visits Over the coming weeks, children in all year groups will be given an opportunity to visit Bentham Library and/or take part in Godly Play sessions at Bentham Methodist Chapel. As is always the case, we are looking for volunteers to help walk children into Bentham whilst they either enjoy the Library or take part in Godly Play Sessions. Please find below a list of dates/times when visits will be taking place. To help class teachers with their planning, if you are able to help with any of the below visits, then please let the school know – any help really is appreciated.

Library Visits

Monday 27th January 2020 : Class 2 : 1.30pm
Wednesday 29th January 2020 : Class 3 : 1.30pm
Wednesday 5th February 2020 : Class 4 : 1.30pm
Friday 28th February 2020 : Class 5 : 1.30pm
Wednesday 11th March 2020: Class 3 : 1.30pm
Monday 16th March 2020: Class 2 : 1.30pm
Wednesday 25th March 2020 : Class 4 : 1.30pm

Godly Play

Wednesday 29th January 2020 : Class 4 : 1.30pm
Wednesday 5th February 2020 : R and Yr1 : 10.30am
Wednesday 18th March 2020 : Class 2 : 10.30am
Wednesday 18th March 2020 : Class 4 : 1.30pm

Monday 23rd March 2020 : Class 3 : 1.30pm
Monday 30th March 2020 : Class 5 : 1.30pm

Parent Coffee Meetings/SEND Parent Coffee Meetings

These informal meetings are a wonderful opportunity for parents/carers to meet with members of staff, including our SENCO, have a chat and natter with other parents over a cuppa and a slice of cake! Please do try and come along to one or all of our Coffee Meetings which are scheduled to take place :
Tuesday 21st January 2020 : 2.45pm
Wednesday 5th February 2020 : 2.45pm (focus SEND)
Friday 13th March 2020 : 2.15pm.

Parentpay Unfortunately, we still have a number of accounts showing outstanding balances. Can parents please ensure that their Parentpay account is up-to-date. 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.

Nasty Nits! Can we please remind parents to regularly check their child's hair for any signs of 'unwanted visitors'? For advice on treatment and prevention, please speak to a Pharmacist.

What's on Next Week?

Monday 27th January 2020

1.00pm Class 4 Swimming (inc Ben, Tommy & Charlie)
2.00pm Class 2 Library

Tuesday 28th January 2020

9.00am – 10.00am Stay and Play Class 2

Wednesday 29th January 2020

Music Lessons : Mr Hinchcliffe (Accordion)
Music Lessons : Mrs Brennan (Key-board/Flute)
9.00am Class 2 Visiting St John's Church
1.30pm Class 4 Godly Play
2.00pm Class 3 Library

Thursday 30th January 2020

Guitar Lessons
3.30pm Year 4-6 Fitness and Running Club (3rd session)

Friday 31st January 2020

Baby and Toddler Group : School Hall
9.30am Settle Swimming Gala
1.00pm School Council Meeting
3pm Praise Assembly