



Friday 25th October 2019

Autumn Term : Edition 7

Dear Parents/Carers

The first half of the Autumn Term seems to have literally flown by, although I think it would be fair to say that everyone is looking forward to their half term holiday next week and a well-earned rest before the countdown to Christmas! As I am sure everyone will already be aware, school re-opens on Monday 4th November.

I am increasingly taking phone calls, emails and comments from parents about the school car park at the beginning and end of the school day. We are very lucky as a school to have a school car park, especially one that is as large as ours. We are also one of very few primary schools in North Yorkshire that allows parents to park in the car park. No other primary school in North Craven allows this. A significant number of parents drive to school every day when they live within a very reasonable walking distance to school. I therefore would encourage parents to a) walk from home if they are able to b) drive so far and walk the remainder of the distance to school c) use the car park safely and considerately. If I continue to receive complaints about the car park then I will have no alternative other than to close the gates again to prevent an accident happening on the school grounds. I have mentioned this several times in previous newsletters and this will be my next step as I will not jeopardise the safety of the children on school property. Nor will I continue to spend valuable teaching and learning time on car park related complaints.

When we return to school, we have lots of exciting activities planned for children, including a Willow Tunnel Workshop on Monday 4th November which will involve all children in all classes. In addition, we will be starting an after school Girls Pilates Class – more information about this activity to following in children's book bags.

Please encourage your child to take part in our 'Find a Book' half term project. All around Bentham and other local villages there are a number of reading books waiting to be found. These can be taken home, shared, put on your bookshelf or re positioned for someone else to find. Please send any pictures of

where your child found the book or your child reading the book to parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk

Finally, thank you to all those parents who took the time to complete a Questionnaire at this week's Parent Evenings. We hope that those parents who were able to attend were pleased with the efforts their children are making at school.

Have a wonderful half-term.

Mrs Pearson

Bag2School As we reluctantly put away our summer clothes until next year, what better opportunity could there be to have a wardrobe refresh!?! If you, or anyone you know, has any unwanted items of clothing that they would like to donate to help raise funds for the school these would be very much appreciated! Please look out for Bag2School collection bags in children's book bags. Collection bags should be dropped off at the school's Main Reception on the morning of Thursday 28th November 2019. Thank you.

Ofsted Parent View Following on from parent evening questionnaires, we are encouraging parents/carers to go on-line and complete a short Parent View Questionnaire. Parent View gives parents/carers an opportunity to tell Ofsted what they think about their child's school, including how happy children are and how the school supports children. For more information, and to complete a Parent View questionnaire, please visit <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Baby and Toddler Group Every Friday morning, term-time only, the Friends of Bentham School hold a Baby and Toddler Group in the School Hall from 9.00am until 10.30am. This is a lovely informal group activity aimed at pre-school aged children. As is always the case, the FOBs are looking for more parents/carers to get involved with their activities. If you are free on a Friday morning, why not pop along to the School Hall and help with this lovely group? There is no need to commit to every week, or a whole morning – just as and when available would really help the FOBs. Thank you.

Youth Club Bentham Youth Club are holding a fundraising Coffee Morning on Saturday 30th November 2019 at the Town Hall. The youth club is accessible to children of all ages, with lots of children from the school now regularly going along to the club

and enjoying the wide range of activities on offer. To help support fundraising efforts for this important community provision, Bentham Youth Club are asking for donations for their prize raffle at the Coffee Morning. Any donations would be gratefully received and can be handed into Sally at the School Office. Thank you.

CAVING TRIP On Thursday 24th October our re-arranged caving trip to Thistle and Runscar Caves finally took place! Thomas, Freyja, Ellie-May, Josh, Seth, Theo and Alfie all thoroughly enjoyed exploring underground and experiencing the magic of one of this areas caving systems. Thank you to Mark Leather, one of our Governors, for willingly agreeing to take part in this visit and also to Miss Tierney and Mrs Pearson for accompanying the children. Mrs Pearson's husband, Olly, kindly gave his time and caving expertise for the morning so thank you to him too.

Halton Gill Residential Visit By way of a reminder, children in Years 2 and 3 will take part in their two day, one night residential visit to Halton Gill on Wednesday 6th November to Thursday 7th November. Final details about this visit, including a kit list have been sent home in book bags.

Nasty Nits! Unfortunately, we have received a number of reports from parents about children having to be treated for head-lice! It appears that these itchy little problems are once again doing the rounds! Can we please encourage parents/carers to regularly check their children's hair for any signs of infestation. For more information about prevention and treatment please speak to a pharmacist. Alternatively, advice is available at www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits.

MSA Vacancy Children at school are looking for an enthusiastic, friendly and approachable person to join the MSA Team at school. This post is for TWO hours per week, term-time only (12 noon – 1.00pm on Thursdays and Fridays). The post-holder will help with the supervision of children over the lunchtime break both in the School Hall and playground helping to provide a safe and caring environment. An enhanced DBS Disclosure is required for appointment to this post which the school will undertake for any successful applicant. For more information and an application form, please see Sally in the School Office.

Please remember that when we return to school on

Monday 4th November after the Half Term holidays there will NO LONGER be grab bags available on the menu. School will still be continuing to offer children who do not usually take a school meal an opportunity to join in with 'Fun Day Friday'. Every Friday a warm school meal can be ordered by children during registration. School meals are excellent value for money, and are priced at ONLY £2.10 per meal for children in Nursery, FREE of CHARGE FOR ALL children in reception, years 1 and 2 and £2.55 per child per day for children in years 3,4 and 5. Payment should be made via Parentpay.

BONFIRE LUNCH Remember, remember the 5th November! On Tuesday 5th November ALL children are all invited to join a special celebration 'Bonfire Lunch'. On the menu: Burger in a Bun, Chips, Sweetcorn, Peas and Tomato Sauce, Jacket Potatoes, Iced Buns, Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit. Please see above for information about meal prices.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS As a school we continually strive to achieve a 'whole' school attendance of 97% or above – but we need your help. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of good attendance at school. It has been proven that children who attend school both regularly and on time tend to achieve higher levels of attainment and maximise their chances at any future success. There is a significant amount of evidence supporting the importance of the link between attendance and attainment. Whole school attendance also has an impact on Ofsted outcomes – with schools showing poor attendance being heavily scrutinised and judgements affected. With this in mind, can we please ask parents/carers to take attendance, and the impact of the same, into consideration when planning for family holidays etc. and to try to avoid requesting time off during term-time?

As 'food for thought' attendance at the school for the previous week was **95.60%** with Class 3 having the highest level of attendance for the week. Well Done Class 3.

North Central Area Accordion and Music Championships On Saturday 16th November at The Bailey, Skipton Building Society, Skipton the Craven Accordion Orchestra will be hosting an 'Accordion and Music Championships' event. There will be classes for ALL ages and ALL abilities, including solos, duets, groups and orchestras. For more information, please contact Harry on 07401 768356 or Danny (school's

accordion teacher) on 07517 998790.

Tech-Makers Pioneer Projects in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council will be hosting a Tech-Makers session at Bentham Community Library from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Thursday 31st October 2019. Admission is FREE of charge for children of 8 years and over. There will be opportunities to explore Virtual Reality, Lego Mindstorms, Makey Makeys, Raspberry Pi, Micro-bits and much more! For further information, please contact 01609 534533 or visit library@pioneerprojects.org.uk.

How to Get the Best out of Family Life Skipton Children and Families Hub will be running a five week 2 hour workshop to help parents/carers understand, manage and support their children's behaviour. The first workshop takes place on Friday 15th November from 10.00am until 12.00 noon at the Skipton Children and Families Hub, Brougham Street, Skipton. Booking is essential. For more information please contact 01609 536 114.

Drop in Session with the Inclusive Education Service
On Wednesday 27th November from 12.30pm until 2.30pm at the Skipton Children and Families Hub a specialist teacher and practitioner will be offering FREE advice to child-minders, TAs, teachers and other professionals on subjects such as language and communication, social skills and understanding, peer interaction, emotional regulation and sensory processing. There is no need to book an appointment at this drop-in session.

What's on the first week back!

Monday 4th November 2019

Willow Tunnel Workshop
Lunchtime Knitting Club
Lunchtime Board Games Club
1.00pm Class 5 Swimming – last one
2.00pm Reading to Dogs

Tuesday 5th November 2019

Influenza Immunisation Day
Jordan's Lunchtime Football Club
Lunchtime Book Club
Afterschool Jigsaw Club (invited children)
5.00pm Governors' Meeting

Wednesday 6th November 2019

Music Lessons : Mrs Brennan (Flute/Keyboard)
Music Lessons : Mr Hinchcliffe (Accordion)
Residential Visit to Halton Gill (Years 2 and 3)
Class 5 Trip to the Power Station

Thursday 7th November 2019

PM Year 4 Football Competition (letter sent home)

Friday 8th November 2019

9.00am Baby and Toddler Group (School Hall)
3.00pm Praise Assembly

REMINDER Can parents/carers please ensure that they check their child's Parentpay account regularly to ensure that services are in credit? If you have any difficulty accessing Parentpay then please see Sally in the School Office. Please remember if you do not have access to the Internet, then payment can be taken manually either over the phone or at the office.