



Friday 27th November 2020

Autumn Term : Edition 10

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, thank you to everyone who helped support the FOBS with their Christmas Prize Hamper fundraiser! We now have lots of lovely items to place in Festive Hampers. Thank you.

Our wonderful huge Christmas Tree arrived safely on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November and, with thanks again to Mr Blackburn, is now firmly anchored in our School Hall awaiting decoration, although we are not quite sure how we are going to reach up to the top branches, let alone place a star on the top!

This week I have received confirmation from the Local Authority (NYCC) that they will be providing additional financial support for those families whose children are in receipt of Free School Meals over the Christmas Holidays. It is likely that support will be in the form of vouchers that can be exchanged for food at a local shop. In addition, consideration is being made as to providing some additional financial support to any family (not just those in receipt of free school meals) who is struggling to cover the cost of food and essential utilities over the festive period. If you are struggling, please do not suffer in silence, do get in touch with the school. As soon as I receive more information about the voucher scheme and what additional support will be available to families, I will pass the information onto parents/carers.

Earlier this week I sent a letter home to parents/carers which contained some up-dates about the current position at school in relation to Covid; I would, once again, like to express my thanks to our whole school community for being so supportive of the school this term.

Finally, 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](mailto:parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) e-mail address. The sooner we are advised the better. Many thanks to everyone to date who has helped support the fight against Covid.

Stay safe and enjoy the weekend.

Mrs Pearson

**SETTLE SWIMMING POOL** This year, to help fundraise for Settle Pool, Bentham Town Council have agreed to donate any profits from the sale of its annual calendar to the pool. The calendar contains some lovely pictures that have been taken around the local area, not just Bentham.

I am sure everyone will agree Settle Pool is a wonderful leisure facility, with many of our children learning to swim there, and many of us visiting and enjoying family, relaxing and fitness swimming. Unfortunately, the pool has had to close its doors due to Covid, which will inevitably greatly impact its financial stability. Please help to fundraise and support our local pool by purchasing a calendar. Calendars will be on sale via Settle Pool's website: <https://www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk/fundraising/how-can-i-help/>

**FUN DAY FRIDAY** Did you know, if your child does not regularly take a school meal, then we are once again offering the 'Fun Day Friday' option! This is an excellent opportunity for your child to try a delicious freshly prepared school meal – on a Friday! Meals can be secured by e-mailing [admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk). School Meals are FREE for ALL children in Reception, Years 1 and 2, FREE for children eligible for Free School Meals, £2.10 per meal for children in Nursery and £2.55 per meal for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. Friday Meal choices are either: Sausage in a Bun/Falafel Burger/Jacket Potato Fish Fingers/Loaded Potato Skin/Jacket Potato Beef Burger in a Bun/Sweet Potato and Lentil Curry/Jacket Potato  
Payment should be made via Parentpay.

**FINAL REMINDER Nursery Parents** Please complete and return Parental Agreements for the Spring Term to the School Office by no later than 9.00am on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Failure to return forms may result in your child losing their place. Thank you.

#### **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.

**ALL CHILDREN : Christmas Lunch and Elf Day!** This year, Christmas Dinner, with all the trimmings, will be

taking place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. All children in all classes are invited to join in with this festive feast and enjoy celebrating Christmas alongside their friends in the School Hall. There is no need to pre-order, Christmas Dinners can be ordered at Registration time in class on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. Payment is, as usual, via Parentpay. **Also** on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, Mrs Nelson has been busy organising an 'Elf Day', to help raise all important funds for the **Alzheimer's Society**. This terrible disease can affect anybody, and not only affects the patient, but family and friends as well. Children are invited to come to school, dressed as Christmas Elves or sporting a seasonal Christmas themed Jumper or festive item of clothing in return for a voluntary contribution. All funds raised will go to the **Alzheimer's Society** to help support their continued excellent work.

**Breakfast Club** Every weekday morning (term-time only) in the School Hall. 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](mailto:admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) to pre-book a session. Thank you.

**Childhood Immunisation Team** The Childhood Immunisation Team have set up a web link so that they can gain feedback following their recent visits to our School when they administered the flu vaccinations. They are hoping that as many families as possible complete the short survey which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/j5298JJ> By completing the survey, the team are hoping to gain more of an understanding of a child's experience about having their flu vaccination at school. Thank you.

**Christmas Activity Days** Jill Eccleston (who many of our children know from PE Lessons), in collaboration with RunBikeFun, the Yorkshire Dales Guides and Stick in the Wood has let school know about some Christmas Activity Days that will be taking place at Yorkshire Dales Guides in Stainforth, Settle. Sessions will be taking place from Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 11.00am to 6.00pm. Sessions are aimed at children aged 7 years and over, and include gift making and Christmas crafts. The charge per child is £50 to include all activities and craft materials. For more information, please e-mail [info@runbikefun.co.uk](mailto:info@runbikefun.co.uk)

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 **STILL** have 47 accounts showing as owing money for dinners, Breakfast Club and our Nursery provision.

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.