Message from Mr Hiley

Firstly, I would just like to take the opportunity of thanking everyone for their continued support over the past few weeks, particularly when taking into account the recent 'outbreak' of Covid cases that we have just endured here at the school.

I am sure readers would like to join me in thanking staff for ensuring school can continue to be open and classes not closed by providing invaluable cover and being so flexible in their roles. Even though confirmed cases of Covid appear to have reduced slightly towards the end of this week, I would strongly recommend that parents/carers consider continuing to test children daily. If children are poorly, then please think of others, and keep children at home. Please remember that if staff are unable to come into school due to illness then this may trigger a partial or full closure.

We do understand and sympathise that, for some, having to take daily tests is uncomfortable and time-consuming. However, if we all work together, we can hopefully get things back to 'normal' again sooner rather than later and avoid any class/school closures.

As we have only had two more confirmed positive cases of Covid in school since Tuesday this week we can now start to think about lifting some of the restrictions currently in place. As long as there is no more evidence of any significant in-school transmission on Monday next week (31st), school will return to usual routines on Tuesday 1st February. As mentioned above, we would advise everyone to keep testing their children daily up to and including Tuesday 1st February and then return to the usual pattern of regular testing to, hopefully, catch any other positive cases and prevent any further outbreaks in school.

Earlier this week Coach Mark Gunn sent home information about his latest Multi-Sports Camp and Activity Day that will be taking place at Bentham School on Tuesday 22nd February 2022. If you would like to secure a place for your child at this Activity Day, please complete and return booking forms to the School Office as quickly as possible. More information is available from Coach Mark Gunn: coachmarkgunn@gmail.com (07912 178917).

To help raise some all-important funds for the NSPCC, on Friday 4th February Mrs Harrison has once again been busy organising a 'Number Day' that all children in school can get involved in! More information has been sent home with children, including details of how you can help raise funds and potentially win a cash prize just by taking part in 'Guess the Smallest Number'. Entries need to be returned to school by no later than 9.00am on Friday 4th February 2022. On the day, children are also being encouraged to 'Dress up for Digits' in return for a voluntary contribution of £1.00.

On Thursday 3rd February we will be celebrating Chinese New Year (Year of the Tiger). All children in all classes are invited to join in with an extra special celebratory lunch! There is no need to pre-order meals can be ordered on the morning during registration. Please note that this celebration will mean an amendment to previously published meal choices.

Please remember, that as a school we do still offer Fun Day Friday at mealtimes! This is an opportunity for those children who do not usually take a school meal to try one on a Friday! Again, there is no need to preorder, meals can be ordered during morning registration. Don't forget, meals are FREE of charge for ALL children in Reception, years 1 and 2, £2.55 per meal for children in years 3,4,5 and 6 (free if families are entitled to Free School Meals) and £2.10 per meal for children in Nursery. Payment for school meals should be made in advance via Parentpay.

Unfortunately, there are a number of accounts (64) on Parentpay currently showing an outstanding balance. Can I please ask that parents check that all payments are up-to-date. Please remember if you have any queries regarding these arrears or if you have difficulty making payment, contact the school office sooner rather than later to discuss this further. In some cases a mutually agreeable repayment plan can be put in place with the school. Failure to make payment towards outstanding debts may result in the arrear being referred to North Yorkshire County Council's Legal Team.

Our final After School Cookery Club has now taken place. I hope that all those children that have taken part in these sessions have thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they got creative in the kitchen. Thank you once again to Mrs Reid and Mrs Askew for running this popular activity. Moving forwards, we are looking at running other themed 'after-school' activity sessions — more information very available soon!

Finally, on Wednesday 16th February children will be taking part in a 'World Religion Afternoon'. Mrs McGregor has been busy securing and organising speakers, representing different world religions to visit the school and work with children in their house groups. This is a wonderful way to celebrate cultural diversity and learn about the world's different religions.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr T Hiley

Interim Headteacher

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/

Chinese New Year Celebratory Lunch : Thursday 4th February 2022

On the menu

Sweet and Sour Chicken

Sticky Garlic and Honey Pieces of Quorn with Oriental Vegetables

Jacket Potato

Sachima (Rice-Crispie Cake)

Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

Car Parking

Can we remind parents about using the school's car park safely. Please do not double park, block other cars in, park in the gateway or abandon vehicles. Perhaps consider walking to school, or alternatively, if distance is the issue, driving only part of the journey to school, parking up in a safe and legal place and walking the remainder of the

journey to school. Likewise, please do not block driveways or highways, please consider that these actions might have a significant impact should an emergency vehicle need access.

Return of Baby and Toddler Group

We are absolutely delighted to confirm that the Friends of Bentham School are once again offering a @Covid secure' Baby and Toddler Group session, every Friday, term-time only in the School Hall. The next session will be on Friday 4th February 2022 from 9.30am until 11.00am. If you have a pre-school aged child, then please do pop along to this friendly informal group – we look forward to seeing you!

PE Days

Nursery: Thursday (AM)

Class 1: Tuesday/Friday: PM (including Nursery

children who stay for afternoon sessions)

Class 2 : Tuesday/Wednesday

Class 3 : Monday/Tuesday
Class 4 : Monday/Tuesday
Class 5 : Monday/Tuesday

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 FIVE hours per week, term-time only (12 noon – 1.00pm). 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 contact Sally in the School Office (admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) 015242 61412.

REMINDER Breakfast Club and After School Club

Breakfast Club runs EVERY weekday morning from 8.00am to 9.00am and is available for children in Reception to Year 6 inclusive. Full sessions run from 8.00am to 9.00am and are priced at £4.00 per child, per day, including breakfast and refreshments. Half sessions run from 8.20am to 9.00am and are priced at £2.00 per day per child, including refreshments.

After School Club runs Monday to Thursday, term-time only from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and is priced at £3.00 per session, per child. Places at both clubs need to be prebooked via the School Office.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 31st January 2022

Pasta Bolognaise Loaded Potato Skins Jacket Potato

Tuesday 1st February 2022

Chicken and Vegetable Pie
Veggie Pasta in Tomato Sauce

3.30pm - 4.20pm After School Basketball Club

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

Roast Pork
Red Dragon Pie
Jacket Potato

8.30am- 9.00am Maths Drop In (Year 6)

Thursday 3rd February 2022: MENU CHANGE

Sweet and Sour Chicken
Sticky Garlic and Honey Pieces of Quorn with Oriental
Vegetables

Jacket Potato

Sachima (Rice-Crispie Cake), Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

3.30pm - 4.30pm Cookery Club 3 of 3

3.30pm - 4.15pm Maths Drop In (Year 6)

Friday 4th February 2022

NSPCC Number Day (remember to return Guess the Smallest Number)

Cheese and Tomato Pizza Vegetable Wrap with Rice Jacket Potato

9.30am – 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group in the School Hall

