

28th February 2025

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mrs Pearson

Welcome back to school after the half-term holidays!

Firstly, I would like to share some lovely news that needs celebrating and following a recent monitoring visit by our Local Authority School Improvement Advisor. The purpose of the visit was to focus on writing at the school. After speaking with children and staff and looking at children's work across school, the feedback we received was that our children's work is of a very high standard. As a school we are very proud of children's achievements in writing. We have even been encouraged to share our children's work across cluster schools as an example of good practice. This is wonderful news and thanks to the whole staff team for working so hard on improving the teaching of writing for our children.

Earlier in the week, parents/carers were invited into school to meet with class teachers to discuss children's learning and progress and also to have the opportunity to look at children's books. We hope that we have some very proud parents/carers who enjoyed hearing about children's learning and achievements.

As a quick reminder, our Year 6 children will be hosting a fundraising 'Coffee Morning' at Bentham Town Hall on Saturday 1st March from 10.00am to 12.00 midday. Children are trying to raise money to put towards this year's Leavers' Sweatshirts. To help with their efforts, it would be really appreciated if parents/carers could donate a cake, home-bakes, tombola prizes, help children serve at the event, or simply turn-up and enjoy a slice and a brew! All donations will be gratefully received and can be either dropped off at school later today or at Bentham Town Hall for 9.45am on Saturday. Thank you.

At a recent Governors' Meeting a number of statutory school polices were renewed and officially adopted. These are now available on our school website if any parents/carers wish to take a look at them.

Also at the meeting, Governors discussed the school's current level of charges for Breakfast Club, After School Club and Nursery additional hours (non-funded). After deliberation, it was unanimously agreed, that after Easter and from Monday 22nd April 2025 a small price increase will come into effect for all of these provisions. More information has been sent home in a separate letter, but to help parents/carers to budget for these changes, prices are set out below :

Breakfast Club	Full Session	£5.00
Breakfast Club	Half Session	£2.75
After School Club	Full Session (please book before 12.00 m/d)	£4.50
Nursery (non-funded)	3.00pm – 3.30pm	£2.75
Nursery (non-funded)	12.00m/d- 3.00pm	£16.50
Nursery (non-funded)	12.00m/d - 3.30pm	£19.25

We do still have a vacancy for a Co-opted Governor. Whilst this vacancy cannot be filled by a parent of a child at the school, if you do know of anyone who you think might be interested in filling this position, please do ask them to get in touch with the School Office. One area of expertise that has been identified as having a 'gap' on our Board is that of an individual with knowledge and experience around premises and buildings, so please do point any suitable and willing candidates for this position our way!

Next week, every Tuesday after school until the end of term, we are inviting children in **Years 2-6** to join our KANGA After School Club FREE of charge. If your child would like to join in with this club, please e-mail the school office (admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk). If your child is already attending, and you have paid for sessions, you will receive a refund for this half term.

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Whilst on the subject of finances, can I please remind all parents/carers to check their child's Parentpay account and ensure that all payments are up-to-date. Once again, I would encourage parents/carers, if you have not already done so, to reconsider making a voluntary contribution towards swimming lessons and trips. Unfortunately, and with current financial constraints with school finances, we will have to start cancelling trips and reducing the number of swimming lessons provided to children if not enough parents/carers are willing to contribute. If you are unable to access Parentpay, cash can be handed into the School Office.

Next week on Wednesday 5th March, children in Nursery and Year 1 will be engaging in a wonderful 'Little City' experience here in our School Hall! I am sure our younger children will thoroughly enjoy exploring and engaging in role play whilst immersing themselves in a 'little city' environment made up of supermarkets, fire stations, hairdressers a post office and much more! On the day, all children in school who take a school dinner will be provided with a 'Snack Bag' instead of a meal, which will be enjoyed with friends in classrooms. This is to enable our hall to be used for the Little City experience.

On the 6th March we will once again be celebrating 'World Book Day'. We are not asking children to dress up, instead our focus will be on reading based activities planned for children throughout the day, including an opportunity to join in with a very special celebration lunch! There is no need to pre-order meals can be ordered during registration.

Magic Meatballs
Hufflepuff
Slytherin topped spuds
Ollivander's Wands
Ravenclaw Slaw

Goodwin's Chocolate Extravaganza

Jacket Potatoes and a selection of fresh fruit will also be available.

During the week commencing the 17th March, Miss Hards has arranged for a Scholastic Book Fair to visit the school. There will be books for all ages and to suit all budgets. More information about the fair, opening times and competitions will be sent home in a separate letter.

I am sure parents/carers will be aware, as a whole school we have a strong focus on mental health and wellbeing. On Wednesday 19th March, Mrs Naylor, our lead for Mental Health and Wellbeing, is very excited about having secured an opportunity for families to join in with a Yoga and Sound Bath Session in the school hall from 4.45pm to 5.45pm. The session will be led by Lauren from Fellbeing and will be a wonderful opportunity for families to bond and relax! More details on how to secure a place at this lovely activity will follow soon. We are anticipating a small charge of £12.00 per family to take part. Mrs Naylor has also asked me to encourage parents/carers to complete a quick online questionnaire about mental health and wellbeing which can be accessed via the below link : <https://forms.office.com/e/BpCH1bBHZ1>

It seems there might have been some confusion around swimming lessons next term. With apologies for any mis-communication, I would just like to clarify that lessons after the Easter holidays will be for **YEAR 4 CHILDREN ONLY** that are in Badger Class.

Finally, before school closed for half term, on Thursday 13th February I had the pleasure of accompanying a small group of children, who had qualified to take part in the Craven Cross Country Finals, to Giggleswick School. Lola, Cheska, Bobby, Freddie, Henry, Jacob, Oscar, Teddy and Harry were all a credit to the school and ran amazingly. Congratulations to Bobby, Freddie, Teddy and Harry who have gone on to qualify to take part in the North Yorkshire Finals on the 20th March 2025. We will be cheering you all on. BE PROUD.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs C Pearson
Headteacher

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Monday 3rd March 2025

Battered Fish

Veggie Sausage Roll (v)

Jacket Potato (v)

Rabbit Class PE

Badger Class PE

Tuesday 4th March 2025

Pasta Bolognaise

Sweet Potato and Lentil Bake (v)

Jacket Potato

Fox Class PE

Owl Class PE

3.30pm to 4.30pm KANGA After School Club

Wednesday 5th February 2025

Picnic Snack Bags

(various sandwich fillings)

9.00am – 12.00 m/d Little City Event (Nursery/R)

1.00pm Year 1 (Hedgehog Class) Forest School

Rabbit Class PE

Butterfly Class and Hedgehog Reception : PE

3.30pm to 4.20pm Ambitions Gymnastics After School Club

Thursday 6th March 2025

World Book Day including Celebration Lunch

Magic Meatballs

Hufflepuff (v)

Jacket Potato (v)

10.45am – 11.45am Big Sing Workshop (Year 3/4)

1.00pm Forest School (Badger Class)

Hedgehog Class (Year 1) : PE

3.30pm Maths SATs Club (Invited children)

Friday 7th March 2025

Fun Day Friday – all children invited to join in and try a school lunch!

Pizza

Curried Topped Naan (v)

Jacket Potato

1.00pm Fox Class Swimming (including some Year 6 children)

Owl Class PE

1.00pm DT Workshop at Settle College (Year 6) CHECK WITH AC

3.00pm Celebration Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As a school we cannot emphasise enough the importance of good attendance.

Attendance at our school NEEDS TO IMPROVE. If you need any support with your child around either attendance, or lateness issues, please get in touch with the School.

REMINDER : Can we please encourage parents/carers to regularly check their child's hair for signs of head-lice. Treatment options can be discussed at a pharmacist's.

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Safeguarding Information – Keeping Children Safe

This Week, Wake-up-Wednesday is all about Marvel Rivals.

Prevent poisoning

“He thought it was a sweetie because it was bright and like a jelly so he gave it to Orla who bit into it.”

Mum talking about washing tabs/pods

Bright bottles of cleaning liquid, squidgy washing tablets, shiny packets of painkillers... Small children are curious and want to learn more by putting things in their mouth.

Unfortunately things that make our lives easier can be harmful to small children, as their bodies process poisons differently. Thank goodness it's easy to keep children safe.

- Laundry products** – small children can mistake brightly coloured products for sweets or toys, especially laundry capsules. But the concentrated chemicals can do serious damage to children's insides, skin and eyes.
 - It's tempting to keep products beside the washing machine. Move them to a high up or lockable cupboard
 - Watch out for fast little fingers! Don't leave a washing tablet on top of the washing
 - Put products away out of reach as soon as you've used them
 - When you're shopping, look out for products with a bittering agent like Bitrex - it tastes so horrible, children spit it out instead of swallowing, preventing accidental poisoning.

Everyday painkillers – the most common way for young children to be poisoned.

- Keep all medicines out of reach and sight of young children, ideally in a high up or lockable cupboard
- Watch out for painkillers left on the bedside table or in the handbag on the floor.

Cleaning products – helpful for you but they can be harmful for small children.

- What's lurking under your sink or next to your toilet? Move cleaning products to a high up or lockable cupboard
- Put them out of reach again as after use
- Don't rely on safety caps – they slow children down but they're not childproof
- Look out for products with a bittering agent like Bitrex when you're shopping
- Don't pour cleaning products into other bottles like drinks bottles. Children can get confused.



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child accident

www.capt.org.uk

Apply for free school meals online

If you would like to apply for free school meals for your child, simply login to your **Synergy Parent Portal** account and follow the process outlined below. If you have previously applied for school admissions or funding for your two year old you will most likely already have an account. If not, you can easily [create an account here](#).

- STEP 1**
Enter your National Insurance Number/National Asylum Support Service (NASS) number and date of birth.
- STEP 2**
Select the child(ren) you wish to apply for. If you have previously applied for a school place for your child they will already appear on the dropdown list. If your child does not appear automatically, they can easily be added by entering their forename, surname, date of birth and gender.
- STEP 3**
Attach any supporting documentation, if necessary, this could include documents such as a copy of your Universal Credit statement.
- STEP 4**
A message will then be displayed stating that we will be in touch with confirmation details. The school(s) at which your child(ren) attends will be notified as soon as the application has been fully processed by our team (5 working days). Your child(ren) can then begin enjoying free school meals once the school has received this notification.



If your application is unsuccessful you can then move to a further screen to find out why this may be the case.

If you need help or wish to discuss your application please contact us:
Phone: 01609 533 405
Email: schoolwelfare@northyorks.gov.uk

