



Friday 29th January 2021

Spring Term : Edition 3

Dear Bentham Families

Firstly, I would once again like to thank parents and carers for their continued support and understanding. I speak regularly with other Headteachers and teaching colleagues in other schools and I feel very grateful that we have such supportive parents but also such hardworking staff. I am very proud of everyone in our school community for the 'can do' attitude and the combined efforts to 'just get on with it'.

I know that home schooling is hard and the continued media coverage and speculation as to when schools will return to being fully open (we are not closed!) does not help. What I do want parents to know is that we do not know any more than you. We have no date for full return and we have no information about returning to school after half term. What I can tell you though is that we want the children all back in school as soon as possible, when it is safer to do so.

I am aware that I have sent quite a few letters home this week; I hope that you haven't felt overwhelmed. It is always a tricky balance between keeping you up to date with communications and giving you too much information.

This week we have received some laptops for distribution to families who are struggling to access online learning. If you are struggling and have not yet been contacted by the school, please do get in touch. We have a few spare laptops, provided by the DfE.

Earlier today, I e-mailed a letter to parents about the appointment of the school's new Interim Headteacher, Mr Tim Hiley, who will be covering my Headship whilst I take maternity leave later this year. Hopefully, a virtual 'introduction' can be arranged prior to Mr Hiley starting at the school in April 2021. It is an exciting chapter that lies ahead for the school and I am looking forward to working with Mr Hiley before my maternity leave starts.

As you will be aware from previous correspondence, next week staff at the school can choose to take part in Lateral Flow Testing for Covid 19. As outlined in my letter this could have implications for parents of

children who are attending school should a member of staff test positive. I would once again like to encourage parents to have a plan in place should their child's bubble have to close at short notice.

To help families with financial planning, I am pleased to confirm that school will, once again, be providing parents of children on Free School Meals with a £15.00 food voucher to help cover the cost of purchasing food over the February half-term. Vouchers will be posted to families. By way of a reminder, if your circumstances have recently changed and you think you may now be entitled to Free School Meals, then please contact Sally in the School Office. Please be reassured that all enquiries will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

On Tuesday this week, parents may have seen or heard along the 'grape-vine' about the emergency services having to attend the school on a number of occasions. During the day on Tuesday three Fire Engines were dispatched to attend the school following the activation of a Fire Alarm. Fortunately, it was a false alarm. Both staff and children on site at the time of the activation were evacuated as per the school's emergency policies and procedures. I would like to thank the Fire and Rescue Service for their prompt attendance and support.

Finally, some lovely news to share with you. On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, Mrs Hodgson gave birth to a baby son, both baby and Mum are doing well. I am sure everyone will join me in congratulating Mr and Mrs Hodgson on their new arrival.

Have a lovely weekend, stay safe at home.

Mrs C Pearson  
Headteacher

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION February Half Term (15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021)** The Department for Education (DfE) have recently confirmed that schools will be **CLOSED** to **ALL** children, including those identified as vulnerable and those children of critical workers over the February half-term holidays.

**Lunch Parcels/Vouchers** The DfE have also confirmed with schools that they do not have to provide lunch parcels or food vouchers to cover the cost of meals over the half-term holidays. However, for those children in receipt of Free School Meals at Bentham Community Primary School, families whose children are in receipt of free school meals will receive £15.00

worth of vouchers, per child to help purchase food. Funding has been secured from NYCC's Covid Winter Grant Scheme.

**Contact Tracing over the February Half-Term** Whilst school might not be open it is still imperative that everyone plays their part in stopping the spread of this terrible virus. Therefore, if your child tests positive for COVID 19, or develops any symptoms during the holidays, then you MUST still let school know as quickly as possible by using the [parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) e-mail address. Many thanks to everyone to date who has helped support the fight against Covid.

**Pupil Voice Questionnaire** In order to get some feedback from children and collect their 'pupil voice' about the home learning activities school are providing, Miss Richardson has created an online survey for children in classes 2,3,4 and 5 to complete. The survey is very short and will not take long to complete. Please can parents encourage children to complete this survey, which will help staff see home learning from a child's perspective. The deadline for completing the survey is **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**. Thank you.

Class 2 : <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5YZQJ6F>

Class 3 : <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/52DTST3>

Class 4 : <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/52SYC7D>

Class 5 : <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/52GQQBY>

Thank you.

**Advice for Parents During Coronavirus** The Safeguarding Partnership have recently published some useful information for parents which they have asked school to share, including details of what a parent should do if they are concerned about a child and/or what actions to take if they suspect their child(ren) has become infected with Covid 19. Please visit :

[NYSP Latest News – Advice for Parents during Lockdown 3](#)

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/news/advice-for-parents-during-lockdown-3/>

[https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/covid19\\_advice\\_for\\_parents\\_when\\_child\\_unwell\\_or\\_injured\\_poster.pdf](https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/covid19_advice_for_parents_when_child_unwell_or_injured_poster.pdf)

**World Book Day** This year we will, once again, be celebrating World Book Day, albeit in an alternative format! Miss Richardson is currently busy planning activities that children can take part in from home on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to help celebrate this special day. More information to follow.....

## Library Service

If you are currently not a member of a library and would like to join, please visit

<https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/northyorkshire/join>

In addition to loaning books, the library also offers a printing service. If you do not have access to a printer, documents for printing can be forwarded to the library and arrangements made for collection.

There is a small charge of 10p per sheet for black and white prints).

For further information about your local library and the services available please visit :

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/library-and-record-office-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

**North Yorkshire County Council**

## Download our new libraries app

- Search the catalogue for books, audio books and DVDs
- Reserve and renew items
- Access FREE digital content including e-books, e-audio books, and digital newspapers, magazines and comics
- Search for 'North Yorkshire Libraries' on

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Download on the App Store

**Library Books – reminder** Please do not return Bentham Library books to school as we are currently not visiting the library. Books should be returned directly to the Library which is located at The Looking Well. Thank you.

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/>

### Class e-mail addresses:

[nursery@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) (Mrs Milner)

[class1@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class1@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) (Mrs Chapman)

[class2@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class2@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) (Miss Richardson)

[class3@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class3@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) (Mrs Harrison/Mrs Cryer)

[class4@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class4@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) (Miss Hayward)

[class5@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class5@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) (Mrs Harvey)