

16th April 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mr Hiley

Dear Bentham Families

Firstly, welcome back. I hope that everyone had a lovely relaxing Easter Break. As I am sure you will all agree, the weather was absolutely glorious, hopefully allowing families to get out and about, explore the great outdoors and enjoy some sunshine.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for welcoming me as Interim Headteacher at Bentham Community Primary School. It has been an absolute pleasure to informally meet with a number of parents and carers on the school playground if you haven't yet had a chance to say hello look out for me at the beginning or end of the day. As the newly appointed Headteacher, I would like to reassure parents that I am looking forward to the carrying on the excellent work led by Mrs Pearson and I am already finding out how committed all the staff are in ensuring the very best for the children. My 'door is always open', and if you do have any questions, or concerns, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Likewise, children have welcomed me into their school, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the past few days as I have started to get to know children.

Now for some exciting news! Earlier this week, Mrs Pearson and her husband Mr Roberts welcomed their baby daughter, Florence Beatrice into the world. I am sure everyone will want to join me in sending their best wishes and congratulations.

Also earlier this week, information was sent home to parents about a new After School Cookery Club. The response the school have had to this invitation has been absolutely remarkable, and it is wonderful that so many children want to join in with the new incentive. Unfortunately, there were not enough places for all those children who wanted to join in with this activity, so, Mrs Harrison has confirmed that there will be a further After School Cookery Club taking place later in the year. This means that if your child has not managed to secure a place at the sessions being held in April/May, then please be reassured that they will have

another opportunity to attend the Cooking Club later in the year.

Children in Class 5 have been given the opportunity to join in with an After School Tennis Club on Tuesday evenings. This club is FREE of charge and is an excellent opportunity for children to actively engage in a fun sporting activity alongside a professional tennis coach. Later on in the year, there will be another after school Tennis Club for children in other year groups – more information will follow shortly.

Miss Downham has also re-started Jigsaw Club on Wednesday evenings for invited children. As children have unfortunately missed a lot of social interaction whilst school has been partially closed due to Covid, Jigsaw Club activities focus on rebuilding teamwork, and engaging in art and craft projects.

With Covid still a threat to us all, can I please remind parents that if their child/ren are poorly and are showing any Covid related symptoms, then please do keep them at home and consider carrying out a Covid Test. Lateral Flow Tests are available via the following link :

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

If you are struggling to secure a Lateral Flow Test, then please get in touch with the School Office as it may be the case that school will be able to supply a Lateral Flow Test kit for use at home.

It goes without saying that it is as imperative as ever that everyone plays their part in stopping the spread of this terrible virus. Therefore, by way of a reminder, if your child tests positive for COVID 19, or develops any symptoms during the evening or over a weekend then you MUST still let school know as quickly as possible by using the parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk e-mail address.

Finally, I think that all that is left to say, is have a lovely weekend, enjoy the slightly more relaxed lockdown rules and stay safe.

Mr Tim Hiley

Headteacher.

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Beginning and end of day drop off and collection. - Since returning to school following the lockdown, we have had an increasing number of children who have been arriving at school either too early or late. It is really important that children arrive at school in line with their staggered time to ensure we can continue to build on the excellent work in containing the Covid virus and to also ensure our registers are completed accurately. We appreciate that this can sometimes be difficult, but it is so important that we remain very careful over the coming weeks. We would also like to remind you that the two gates into the playground will be locked at 9.00am prompt. If you arrive after this time, please go around to the main entrance where children will be signed into school.

Similarly, at the end of the day we have had an increasing number of children being collected late. The moment the children leave school, work continues for staff who either have meetings with other colleagues, need to attend whole school meetings, or are involved in preparation and planning and/or a whole host of other things. If staff are having to supervise children during this time it can cause significant problems for them. We do understand that there are times when you may be unavoidably delayed and all we ask in these situations is that you make school aware as soon as possible so we can plan cover effectively. It is always a good idea to have a back up collection plan in place for these situations and to ensure that school is aware of it as we cannot let any child leave school with an adult unless we have specific permission from parents, no matter how familiar they may be to us or the children.

Borrowed Laptops - Unfortunately, despite several reminders, there are still a number of families who borrowed a laptop from school during lockdown that have not returned these devices. Can you please ensure that these are returned by either 3.30pm today, or on **MONDAY 19th April 2021 at the very latest.** Miss Hayward is working hard to improve our computing provision in school and these devices will be part of that.

School lunches are available to all children. If your child is not in receipt of Free School Meals, meals are

priced at £2.10 per day for children in Nursery, FREE of charge for all children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 and £2.55 per day for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. I would ask that parents please make payment for meals via ParentPay and ensure that accounts are kept in credit. There are still several **PARENTPAY** accounts that have outstanding balances.

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.

Afterschool Club - As from Monday 19th April 2021 After School Club will only be running on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening and will no longer be available on a Friday. Sessions start at 3.20/3.30pm until 4.30pm and are priced at £3.00 per child, per session. If you would like your child to attend either Breakfast Club or After School Club, then can you please pre-book places by contacting Sally in the School Office. admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk. Again, can parents please ensure that all sessions are paid for, ideally in advance, via Parentpay. Thank you.

A few important pieces of information for week beginning 12th April:

PE Days have now changed for all classes with most classes having TWO PE days. We are very excited to have Tennis and Cricket coaches in school throughout the Summer term providing some expert coaching. Children should continue to come to school dressed in their PE kits on their PE days, except for children in Nursery and Reception who need to bring their PE kits to school and leave them in the classroom.

Nursery - Tuesday

Class 1 – Friday

Class 2 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Class 3 – Monday and Tuesday

Class 4 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Class 5 – Tuesday and Thursday