

19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



## *Message from Mrs Pearson*

Dear Bentham Families

This week I thoroughly enjoyed walking down the corridor and peering into the classrooms. From the buzz of learning in provision in the Nursery to the obvious concentration in Class 5 during a maths lesson, all the children were thoroughly engaged in their learning. The atmosphere in the Reception classroom was calm and quiet as all children were focussed on their phonics lesson whilst further up school, Miss Hayward's class were busy engaging in their learning linked to our whole school book 'Here We Are'. It was very heart-warming to walk through school and see how well the children have settled back into routine and into learning.

Over the past week, children have continued with opportunities to engage in outdoor learning and there are some lovely class displays being put up linked to our focus book. I will make sure some photos are added to Facebook for you to see. Children have also learnt about the Census through a project called 'Let's Count'.

Whilst in the wildlife garden, children have helped plant some seeds and plants. Imaginations have also been running wild during the creation of 'small worlds for dinosaurs' (Jurassic Park watch out)! Dens and hideouts have been constructed and enjoyed.

On Wednesday, children in Classes 4 and 5 took part in some orienteering around the school grounds with Mr Roberts as part of PE Lessons. Thank you to both Mr Roberts and the weather, which was, thankfully perfect for outdoor adventures. Another week of orienteering is planned next week for these year groups.

As mentioned in last week's Friday News, during our most recent Lockdown, some families borrowed a laptop from school. Unfortunately, not all of these devices have been returned, so could I please remind parents that if they have a loaned device at home, then please return it to school as quickly as possible – thank you.

This week I have put the school's updated Positive Behaviour Policy onto our website. This is available for all parents to read at [www.benthamcpschool.org.uk](http://www.benthamcpschool.org.uk). I would like to emphasise that whilst, as a school, we are not responsible for children's behaviour outside of school, if any issues are brought to our attention, we will address these in an appropriate way. When wearing our school uniform, children are representing our school and therefore their behaviour to and from school should mirror what we expect within school.

This week, I have received confirmation from North Yorkshire County Council that those families either in receipt of Free School Meals or eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium Funding will receive some financial support over the Easter Holidays from the Covid Winter Grant scheme. Eligible families will each receive a further letter and voucher in the coming days. Can I just remind parents that if their financial circumstances have recently changed, then they might also be eligible for Free School Meals. For more information, please contact the School Office.

Finally, I would like to welcome Mr Andy Scott to our Board of Governors. Mr Scott is based at the Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation and has been appointed as a Local Authority Governor. Mr Scott brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of education.

Have a wonderful weekend, stay safe.

Mrs Pearson

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**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 a number of **PARENTPAY** accounts that have outstanding balances.

**SUMMER 2021 MENU** Our new Summer 2021 menu has been sent home with children so that meal choices can be selected prior to the start of the Summer Term. If your child will be having a school lunch as from April 2021 can you please ensure that completed order forms are returned to the School Office before Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021? Thank you.

**PARENTAL AGREEMENTS – Nursery** As parents of children in Nursery will be aware, we have recently sent out Parental Agreements for the Summer Term. Can I once again remind parents that these forms need completing and returning to school by no later than 3.30pm today, the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. **Failure to return paperwork may result in your child losing their place.**

**NURSERY CHARGES** Can I just remind parents of children in Nursery, who are not eligible for 30 hours free childcare and access paid afternoon sessions in Nursery, that there will be a small increase in charges, in line with Local Authority funding rates, as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. By way of a reminder, sessions from 12.00 midday to 3.00pm will now be charged at £12.45 per day/per child. From 12.00 midday to 3.30pm will be priced at £14.55 per day/per child and extended sessions from 3.00pm to 3.30pm £2.10 per session/per child.

**Contact Tracing** 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, 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](mailto:parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) e-mail address.

***A few important pieces of information for week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> March:***

### **PE Lessons and PE Kits**

For children in Classes 2,3 4 and 5 PE lessons will take place outside as much as possible on a set day. Children in **Classes 4 and 5 will have PE on a Wednesday** with children in **Classes 2 and 3 having PE on Friday**. Can parents please ensure that on the day of PE lessons, children come to school wearing their PE kit. We are asking that parents of children in Nursery and Class 1 (Reception) ensure that children have their PE kit at school, at all times - PE kits should include jogging bottoms and a jumper and should be left at school.

### **TUESDAY After School Club.**

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March there will be no Afterschool club, this is due to essential staff training which all school staff need to attend. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.