

21st May 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mr Hiley

Dear Bentham Families,

On Monday this week, I joined children in Class 5 when they visited Keasden Head Farm. I have to say it was absolutely wonderful to spend a school day where a little bit of normality returned to school life! During the visit, children dissected a bluebell, identifying and learning about all its different parts, including plant pollination.

Later in the day a scientific exploration of a beck took place, where children searched for flora and fauna, identifying the many different life forms; back to dry land, and a comprehensive search of plant and insect varieties took place in one of Keasden Head Farm's fields.

Finally, before leaving the farm, children were treated to a visit of the farm's 'Nursery' cowshed where they looked at newly born calves, some of which were only one day old.

On behalf of the school, thank you to the Mason family for letting children visit their lovely farm, and thank you also to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for fully funding this marvellous educational opportunity. Thank you also to school staff for supporting this visit and, of course, the children who were excellent ambassadors for their school.

On Thursday, Children in Class 2 all thoroughly enjoyed Forest School activities which included building sukkot (Jewish temporary shelters), using bow saws and getting creative with some outdoor painting! Interestingly, Thursday was also 'Outdoor Classroom Day', if only the weather had supported this national initiative during the afternoon!

In Class 3, children have been busy getting creative with clay, and been busy making replica ancient Greek pots.

Parents may have noticed a couple of new faces around school recently; Mr Edmundson, who is based in Class 5, is on his final teaching placement from the

University of Cumbria. Mr Edmundson is supporting children's learning, particularly in Maths and English.

Whilst in Nursery, Miss Luther joins our already excellent team of Nursery staff, as a Teaching Assistant. Miss Luther will be providing some additional support with learning over the remainder of the Summer Term.

Rumour has it that Mrs Harrison is busy organising a trip for children in years 2 and 3 to Cleatop Wood in Settle later in June. This trip will once again support children's learning in the classroom. More details to follow.

By way of a reminder, next week, families of children in receipt of Free School Meals or Early Years Pupil Premium will be provided with a £15.00 voucher, per child, to help with the cost of purchasing ESSENTIAL household items and FOOD over the summer half-term holidays. Vouchers will be sent home with children by no later than Wednesday 26th May.

Earlier this week, 'Bentham's Blooming' kindly donated a £75.00 voucher to the school to spend in a local gardening shop. Monies will go towards re-stocking flower beds at the front of the school – helping support local initiatives and shops – thank you for this kind donation.

Finally, the Department for Education have requested that schools emphasise to parents/carers the importance of testing and reporting Covid, they have produced a blog 'why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test', which features further guidance, including details on financial support available to parents whose children are asked to self-isolate after contact with a positive case of 'Covid'. <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/04/23/heres-why-reporting-your-test-result-is-as-important-as-taking-a-test>

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr T Hiley

Interim Headteacher

Facebook As I am sure most parents will be aware the school does have a Facebook Page, which regularly

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shares news and activities that have taken place here at the school. Whilst Facebook is a wonderful medium for sharing, can I please, once again, remind parents/carers not to message members of staff via messenger with school related comments and/or questions. As a parent, if you do want to contact the school, the please either contact the school office and request a phone call or use the class e-mail addresses, by way of a reminder :

Nursery@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class1@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class2@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class3@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class4@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk
class5@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk

School Dinners Can we please, once again, remind parents/carers that, unfortunately, children **cannot change between taking a school meal and bringing a packed lunch to school on a daily basis**. As a school, we do ask that parents/carers commit to ordering school meals on a half-termly basis. Naturally, there are exceptions when a child who usually brings a packed lunch will need to order a meal in an emergency situation, and this can be accommodated. Likewise, if your child would like to try a school meal, or take a meal once per week, then they are welcome to join in with Fun Day Friday which is available EVERY Friday at school. Meals can be ordered during registration. On the menu next week, Friday 28th May, Margherita Pizza, Vegetable Chilli and Rice or Jacket Potato and, for dessert, Rice Pudding with Peaches, Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit. By way of a reminder school meals are priced at £2.10 per day for children in Nursery, FREE of charge for ALL children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and £2.55 per day for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. If your circumstances have recently changed, please remember that you might be eligible for Free School Meals or some pupil premium funding. Children in ALL year groups are eligible to apply. For more information, please contact Sally in the School Office.

Lateral Flow Tests Lateral Flow Tests for regular and routine testing are now available to everyone and have

proven to help in the fight against Covid. Tests can be ordered at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. If you are struggling to secure an LFD kit, then please get in touch with the school as we may be able to help.

Face Coverings As I am sure everyone will appreciate, Covid is still very much a threat. With this in mind, school would **encourage parents/carers to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting children from the school**. Thank you.

Reminder With the weather proving to be what can only be described as 'unpredictable' at this moment in time, can I please remind parents/carers to ensure that children come to school with appropriate clothing for the day, e.g. waterproof coat, hats, sunhats etc. Thank you.

Did you know.... Music lessons are once again available for children at school. For more information, please contact the Music Service. <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-music-service> 01609 534795

A few important pieces of information for week beginning 17th May 2021

PE

Nursery – Tuesday
Class 1 – Friday
Class 2 – Tuesday and Friday
Class 3 – Monday and Tuesday
Class 4 – Tuesday and Wednesday
Class 5 – Tuesday and Thursday

Monday 24th May 2021

Tuesday 25th May 2021

3.30pm – 4.30pm After School Tennis Club (pre-booked Class 5)

Wednesday 26th May 2021

3.30pm – 4.30pm Jigsaw Club for invited children

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Thursday 27th May 2021

3.30pm to 4.30pm After School Cooking Club
(week 3 of 3). Pre-booked children.

Friday 28th May 2021

Last day of half term. School re-opens Monday
7th June 2021.