

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



## Message from Mrs Pearson

Dear Bentham Families

Where to start? As I am sure you will all be aware, this will be my last Friday News for a while as I start my maternity leave very soon. I will be sad to leave the day-to-day life of school, but also extremely excited about starting a new chapter in my life. I realised this week that I have never left 'school' since I started in Reception myself at the age of 5! Every year in a school is challenging, but this year I think has been the exception and I am ready for a slightly different challenge! I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support, understanding and resilience. I look forward to returning in a year but for now I will pass the leadership of our school to Mr Hiley.

Earlier this term, I received a lovely email from a parent, and I would very much like to share with readers some of the kind words that were written:

*"I just wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you. Not only for everything you have already done, but also for the effort and thought that has been put into the children's return. It is lovely to see that their mental health and wellbeing has really been considered, and a lot of thought has gone into what is truly best for them, to help them settle back into a routine".*

This really means a lot to all the staff at the school; appreciation of all the hard work and dedication that we as a school deliver to our children and wider community makes it all worthwhile. The smiles on children's faces and the sound of laughter speak volumes.

This week there has been a strong focus on Art, with all children in all classes getting messy and creative! When children were asked about what they had missed at school, there was a resounding theme that they had missed Art and we are pleased that we have taken some time out from the usual timetable to allow children to embrace some lovely opportunities this week.

Onto some exciting news, on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March, Miss Richardson gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Lily Rose. Congratulations to Miss Richardson and her partner Mr Gardner.

I have been working with Mr Hiley over the past few weeks to support him with being prepared for starting as our Headteacher after the Easter Holidays. I have very much enjoyed working with Mr Hiley and I know you will welcome him to our school in the same way you have welcomed other new staff. Please do say hello to him in the playground and, as always, he will be available to speak to parents about any concerns, questions or queries.

Finally, I think that all that is left to say, is have a lovey Easter and stay safe.

School re-opens on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Mrs Pearson  
Headteacher

**Nursery Charges** This week letters have been sent to Nursery parents who have opted to pay for afternoon sessions. Our school Charging and Remissions Policy states that fees have to be paid termly, in advance. This is no different to private childcare providers. In the past we have not had to enforce this but, unfortunately, too many parents are now in debt to the school and are not paying off fees that have been accrued. We are now in the position where we must enforce this policy and fees need to be paid in advance. Children will not be able to access additional Nursery hours without them being paid for in advance.

**School Lunches** Following on from the above, a letter has also been sent home regarding payment for school lunches in advance. Again, this is not something we have had to previously enforce but, as so many parents have not paid for school lunches, we are having to ensure parents pay for their child's school lunch in advance. Please read the letter carefully, it provides weekly, monthly, half termly and termly expenditure.

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**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 Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 a number of **PARENTPAY** accounts that have outstanding balances.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> April:***

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Guitar Lessons will start at school again.

PE Days are changing for all classes after Easter and most classes will have two PE days. We are very excited to have Tennis and Cricket coaches in school throughout Summer term providing some expert coaching. Children will continue to come to school dressed in their PE kits on their PE days, except for Nursery and Reception who need to bring their PE kits to school and leave them in the classrooms.

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

***More information to follow but after Easter there will be a few afterschool clubs, including: Jigsaw Club, Tennis Club and Cooking Club***