



Friday 2nd March 2018

Spring Term Edition 7

Firstly, apologies for any inconvenience caused by the cancellation of various activities on Wednesday 28th February 2018, including Parents' Evening. Also, please accept my apologies for having to close school on Thursday 1st March, the safety of staff, children and parents is paramount – not attendance data! I would like to thank all members of staff who went to great efforts in order to get into school ready for a 9.00am start on Wednesday. Thank you also to all those parents who ensured that children came to school and were dressed appropriately for playtimes in the snow!

If you did not receive a text on Thursday or Friday then please contact the school office ASAP to update your contact details. We can only send to the numbers that we have been provided with and I am aware that some parents may have changed their mobile number recently and therefore did not receive the texts.

Unfortunately, Miss Denby our Nursery Teacher is currently absent from school. We are unsure when Miss Denby will return at this moment in time. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Chapman, Mrs McGregor and Mrs Harrison who have all agreed to take on additional teaching hours in order to ensure that our Nursery children are taught by an adult already familiar to them, as opposed to a supply teacher. Having spent some time in Nursery myself over the last week, I know that our youngest children are being very well looked after and are thoroughly enjoying the wonderful learning opportunities they are experiencing. Mrs McGregor has been planting 'magic beans', Mrs Chapman has been making the most of our wonderful outdoor area and Mrs Harrison has been developing the children's knowledge of phonics. If any parent has any questions about the school's Nursery provision, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Next week the diary is very busy, Year 6 are going to London for the day with Mr White and Mrs Barlow, Mrs Harrison is organising cooking activities based on a Fairtrade theme and Year 6 are beginning their 'John Muir' award with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. We also have a visit by Andy Seed, the author,

scheduled to take place on Friday. Lots to look forward to.

Have a lovely weekend, let's hope the weather returns to 'normal' by Monday!

Mrs Pearson

Parents' Evenings Thank you to those parents who completed a questionnaire based on 'Communication' at the Parents' Evening held on Monday 26th February 2018. Again, apologies to those parents who made appointments on the evening of Wednesday 28th February 2018. It was very unfortunate that the weather caused the evening to be cancelled. The evening has been re-scheduled to take place on **7th March 2018**. Upon arrival at the main entrance, it would be very much appreciated if parents could take the time to complete our questionnaire, the findings of which will, hopefully, enable the school to further enhance channels of communication with parents and the community. We look forward to seeing you on the 7th!

Friday News Please remember if you want to continue receiving a paper copy of the Friday News, then please let Sally in the School Office know. Thank you.

LAST CALL!! Parent Governor Vacancy As from 2nd March 2018 there will be a vacancy on the School's Board of Governors for a Parent Governor. This is a demanding role that requires commitment, dedication and the willingness to take part in training and development over the course of an academic year. At the same time, being a Governor is also very rewarding. If you would like to discuss this opportunity, or require further details about the role of a Parent Governor, then please do not hesitate to contact the school. Please note the deadline for nominations is **Friday 16th March 2018** at 09.00am.

National Science and Engineering Week Children in Year 5 have been invited by the Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale to take part in a lecture by Artic Explorer Nick Cox celebrating exploration and discovery on Tuesday 6th March 2018. This is a wonderful opportunity for children. Can we please remind parents to complete and return Consent Forms for this visit, together with making payment towards the cost of transport via Parentpay, by no later than 5th March 2018.

Reminder Can we please remind parents of children in Year 6 who are taking part in the visit and tour of The Houses of Parliament on Monday 5th March 2018 to **SET THEIR ALARM CLOCKS!!** Children need to be at **Lancaster Station** by no later than 08.15am on the morning of the visit.

Crucial Crew 2018 Children in Year 6 have once again been given the opportunity to take part in the Crucial Crew event organised and hosted by North Yorkshire Police on the 14th March 2018. Crucial Crew is educationally vital in supporting and encouraging good citizenship, aiming to reduce accidents, injury, crime and help to protect young individuals through education and awareness. Children will take part in a series of workshops alongside children from other cluster schools. Can parents please ensure that they return Consent Forms and make payment via Parentpay for this activity by no later than **Monday 5th March 2018**.

Visit to Gillgarth With Spring supposedly 'just around the corner', children in Class 2 have once again been invited by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to take part in an educational visit to Gillgarth Farm, Selside on Tuesday 27th March 2018. During the visit children will be given the opportunity to experience first-hand a working farm, engaging with newly born Spring lambs in a lamb nursery, collecting freshly laid chicken eggs and visiting a cowshed. This is a wonderful educational experience, and we would just like to thank the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for funding this visit in its entirety. Can we please remind parents to return consent forms for this visit to school by no later than **Tuesday 20th March 2018**.

Rewind to Easter Can we just remind parents of children in Year 5 that they will be taking part in the Rewind to Easter event hosted by churches from across the local area on Tuesday 13th March 2018. The presentation will be held at Bentham Methodist Church from 10.00am to 11.30am. Can parents please ensure that children come to school with appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing for the walk to the church, together with a water bottle and healthy snack. Thank you.

Trips.... Whilst on the subject of trips, can we please remind parents about the importance of making contributions towards the costs of trips and visits. All excursions from school are heavily subsidised and/or supported by external sources of funding, for example The Friends of Settle Pool, the Yorkshire Dales

Millennium Trust. Visits are an essential part of the curriculum and support learning in classrooms. Recently Key Stage 2 children were fortunate enough to take part in an educational visit to the Interfaith Education Centre and The Science and Media Museum in Bradford. This visit enabled children to gain a vast knowledge and first-hand experience of the multi-cultural and diverse society in the United Kingdom whilst, at the same time, supporting the school's Science and RE curriculum. Unfortunately, there are still 11 parents whose children went on the visit who have still not made payment. If payment is not made, this will mean that the school will have to further subsidise the cost of the visit by £143.00. This additional expenditure of school funds ultimately means that monies will have to be spent out of budgets that have been secured for the purchase of further teaching resources, experiences and activities. Whilst we appreciate that this might be an over-sight on the part of parents, we would encourage those who have not yet made payment to do so as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Newsflash..... Have you seen the wonderful Information Boards that have recently been installed between Class 1 and Nursery?

These boards are up-dated on a weekly basis and include information about activities taking place in Class 1 and Nursery, together with school dinner menus, Brainbuilders, planning, pictures of children on visits and much, much more. Please go along and take a look.

Nursery Do you know a child who might be wanting to start in our Nursery from September 2018? If so, please encourage their parents to contact school and place their names on the waiting list. We are currently in the process of planning our classes and provision for the next academic year; it would be really useful to know how many 3 year old children there are currently living in Bentham and surrounding catchment areas, whose parents are intending to send them to our Nursery. By way of information, our Nursery provision will be FULL at Easter for this academic year (2017/2018). It really is essential that we plan for the correct number of children wishing to join Bentham Community Primary School as from September 2018. By way of a reminder, children can start in Nursery the term after they are 3 years of age, with places available for 'intake' during the months of September, January and April. Thank you.