



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Spring Term Edition 1

## **Welcome back to school and Happy New Year!**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members of staff, Miss Denby (Nursery Teacher) Mrs Green (Teaching Assistant) and Ms Bennett (MSA). Please do say hello to the new members of our team. During this month, Mrs Bigmore will be working in Class 1 on a Thursday and Friday as a Teaching Assistant. Mrs Bigmore has enjoyed meeting our Reception children this week. This term, Miss Brown is also back in Class 1, undertaking her teaching placement as part of her teaching degree at Leeds Trinity University. It is wonderful to have new staff with new ideas and initiatives in school, continuing to build on the opportunities and experiences we are able to offer our children.

This week has also seen some new children start in school. I would like to welcome Noah, Freddie, Katie, Teresa and Lola, (and their families), who have all started in our Nursery this week. This week also saw the school starting to offer parents a Nursery provision during the afternoons. We have been overwhelmed by how popular this provision has been. I have had the pleasure of eating lunch with those nursery children who are staying for afternoon sessions, and I have been very impressed with how independent and mature they have been in 'The Lunch Box', our dining room. I am exploring options of how we can increase the number of places we have available, as I am very much aware that some parents are disappointed that there are currently no spaces available for their child during an afternoon.

Thank you to all of our parents for cooperating with our new system at the start and end of the day when dropping off and collecting children. I appreciate that the design of the building is not exactly perfect but this is out of our control. However, it has been lovely to hear the many supportive comments from parents who appreciate the much easier system accessing all classrooms, including Nursery, from the playground when you have children in different classes. Ultimately the decision to have all children accessing classes from the playground and asking parents to leave via the playground is to ensure the safety of our children in school. Thank you for your cooperation with this decision and thank you for the many

supportive and positive comments from parents and grandparents. I am actively trying to secure the installation of a pedestrian gate-way between the car park and playground and hope to have this provision in place as soon as possible. This will make access from the car park into the playground easier (and quicker!). Please bear with me as this will not happen overnight!

This week has seen the start of two sporting clubs for children. Wednesday lunchtime PE Club for children in Classes 2 – 5 and afterschool Basketball Club for children in KS2. It was been lovely to see LOTS of children taking part in these opportunities; both of which have been either fully or partly funded by the PE and Sport Premium funding which the school receives.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Coffee morning in Bentham Town Hall tomorrow; events such as this are vital to raising much needed funds for the school. Please do come along to support the FOBS.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pearson and all the staff

**Job Opportunities** We still have two vacancies at the school; both vacancies are on a temporary contract, to cover maternity leave. We are seeking enthusiastic, well-motivated and approachable individuals. If you think you would like to apply for either the Teaching Assistant Vacancy or Mid-day Supervisory post then either please speak to Sally in the School Office or visit North Yorkshire County Council's recruitment page at : <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/jobs>.

**The Friends of Bentham School** will be holding a fundraising Coffee Morning at the Town Hall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Any donations for the tombola, cake stall or jumble would be very much appreciated! Can any donations please be taken to the Town Hall at 9.30am on the 13<sup>th</sup> January. The FOBS are also looking for volunteers to help at this event. If you are free, and would like to get involved with the Coffee Morning, then please contact a member of the FOBS. The next meeting of **The Friends of Bentham School** will be taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the school – everyone is welcome. Remember, EVERY child in EVERY class benefits from the fundraising efforts of the FOBS. There is a rumour that plans are currently in hand for a Valentine's Disco on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February and a Friday night Tuck

Shop on the 9<sup>th</sup> February.....more information to follow. Thank you.

**Class Four Swimming** Can we just remind parents that children in Class 4 will start their swimming lessons at Settle Pool on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. If you have not already done so, can contributions towards the cost of these lessons please be made via Parentpay. Can parents please also ensure that children have their swimming kit at school on Monday morning. Thank you also to The Friends of Settle Pool for their ongoing and continued support. Parents can help Settle Pool raise funds, by bringing cardboard for recycling to the School's Reception on Friday afternoons.

**PARENTS' EVENING** This term we will be holding Parents' Evenings on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Letters have been sent home to parents today giving more details. Can parents please ensure that if they would like an appointment with their child's class teacher then they complete and return the reply slip provided to their child's Class Teacher as quickly as possible.

**REMINDER** Children should be in their classrooms in readiness for registration by 9.00am. Arriving late into class can mean that children miss out on instructions for the day or important announcements. If parents are finding it difficult to deal with everyday issues, or if they feel that they need some additional support from the school, then we do have a Home School Link Worker, Angela Tierney who is here to help. For more information, please contact the School Office. Please be reassured that all conversations will be treated in the STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE.

**Parentpay** Just a quick reminder to parents to ensure that their child's Parentpay accounts are kept up-to-date. In line with the school's Arrears Policy, failure to make payment could result in outstanding balances being referred to North Yorkshire County Council's Welfare Team. If you think you might be eligible for financial support towards the cost of School Meals and/or trips, then please see Sally in the School Office. Applications will be made in the STRICTEST of confidence. Please remember that if your application for Free School Meals is approved then you will receive a one-off £50.00 uniform voucher (redeemable at the School Office via the Tesco Uniform Service).... What is there to lose?

**REMINDER** The new Menu for Spring 2018 is available on the School's website. As from January

2018 school meals will be priced at £2.30 per child per day in years 3,4,5 and 6, FREE for children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 and £1.80 per day per child in Nursery. I am sure everyone will agree school meals continue to offer excellent value for money.

**North Yorkshire County Council's Children and Families Prevention Service** have a number of events taking place in the area throughout January to March 2018. If you would like a copy of the schedule, please ask Sally in the School Office for a copy.

**PE Kits** A number of children have not had the correct PE kit in school this week and this has delayed the start of PE lessons whilst teachers try to source a PE kit or has meant that some children have not taken part in their PE lesson. The school PE Kit is as follows:

- Plain **dark** shorts (black or blue)
- Plain **White** T-Shirt or Polo Shirt
- Black Pumps (indoor PE)
- Trainers (outdoor PE)
- Plain, warm jumper
- Plain, **dark coloured** jogging bottoms

PE Kits should be brought to school at the start of each half term and left in school until the end of half term when teachers will send them home to be washed. If a PE kit needs a wash before the end of half term, teachers will send them home earlier.

We have a very limited supply of spare PE kits in school and we have very few PE pumps and trainers so we cannot always lend children a PE kit, it is much better for them to have their own. Thank you for your support with this.

**Run, Bike, Run – Off Road Fun** On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January Run Bike Fun will be hosting an Off Road event at Giggleswick Junior School Pavilion, Mill Hill Lane, BD24 0DG. There will be three races, each with different distances involved. Entry is £10 per child up to 16 years of age and £15 per multiple sibling/family team entries. Registration takes place at 1.00pm with racing starting at 2.00pm. It is compulsory that all participants walk the course at 1.30pm. For more information please contact either Jill Eccleston on 07955 342 344 ([info@runbikefun.co.uk](mailto:info@runbikefun.co.uk)) or Andy Mouncey on 07799 063 115 ([andy@doingbigandscary.com](mailto:andy@doingbigandscary.com)).

**JAMMIE DODGERS** Unfortunately there will be NO Jammie Dodgers on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. The next session will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Apologies for any inconvenience.

