



17th November 2017

Autumn Term Edition 10

Just short message from me this week! All staff in school have undertaken some mental health and wellbeing awareness training this week and you will see a banner outside school promoting the importance of this. We plan to look at how we support and teach children about mental health and wellbeing to ensure they develop strategies they can use when needed.

I have also met with the School Council this week who have some excellent ideas for developing aspects of the school that are particularly important to them and I look forward to allowing them the opportunity to share their plans with you in the near future.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pearson

**PETER PAN A MUSICAL ADVENTURE** As we are sure everyone is aware, we are hoping to take all children from Reception through to Year 6 inclusive to The Winter Gardens, Blackpool on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December to experience a live musical theatre production of Peter Pan alongside their friends. In order to avoid this trip being CANCELLED please return consent forms to the School Office ASAP. Thank you.

**CHILDREN IN NEED** Thank you to all those children (and parents) who took part in the school's fundraising efforts for Children in Need. We will announce how much the school managed to raise in next week's Friday News.

**THE FRIENDS OF BENTHAM SCHOOL** To help raise even more funds for the school, and to encourage parents to have a good old 'early Spring Clean', the FOBS have also arranged for a Bag 2 School collection to take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017. If you have any unwanted, but good quality, adults' and children's clothing, paired shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft-toys, then please place these in the Bag 2 School collection bags sent home with children (extra bags are available at the School Reception), and leave them at school on the morning of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Unfortunately, bags cannot contain items such as bedding, curtains, towels, household linen, workwear, schoolwear or bric-a-brac.

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** Thank you to all those children, parents and families who took part in the Remembrance Service which took place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November on School Hill. It was lovely to have so much support and see so many faces from the school community paying their respects. The school managed to raise an amazing £149.40 for the Poppy Appeal – thank you to everyone for their kind donations.

#### **PARENTPAY/SCHOOL ARREARS PROCEDURES**

Following consideration at a recent Governors' Meeting the school have revised their current school arrears procedures. Please look out in children's book bags for more information about arrears, how the school can help and where to access support.

**THE FRIENDS OF BENTHAM SCHOOL'S** Christmas Market will be taking place in the School Hall on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 from 6.00pm until 8.30pm. Rumour has it that a visitor from the North Pole may just make a visit..... **if you are able to volunteer and help on the night it would be very much appreciated.** For more information, please contact a member of the FOBS. **Bentham and Beyond Calendar 2018** Copies of this locally produced Calendar are on sale at school reception priced at £7.50 each. These calendars make wonderful gifts for friends and relatives at Christmas and ALL PROCEEDS of sale go to The Friends of Bentham School, whose fundraising efforts continue support EVERY child in EVERY class in the school.

**ATTENDANCE** Can we just remind parents about the importance of children attending school regularly. Ideally, medical appointments should be made outside of the school day, although we do appreciate that this is not always possible. We would also like to remind parents to avoid taking holidays during term-time. If you are planning on going holiday during term-time, then please complete an 'Application for Leave of Absence'. These forms are available from Sally in the School Office. By way of a reminder, can parents do their up-most to ensure that their children are at school on the following dates:-  
May 2018 : Key Stage 1 Test Period  
Week Commencing 11/06/18 : Phonics Screening  
Week Commencing 14/05/18 : KS 2 Test Week  
Weeks Commencing 04/06/18 and 11/06/18 : Science Sampling Test Period (elected schools only).

**YEAR SIX visit to The Houses of Parliament** We are absolutely delighted to be once again planning an exciting, memorable and educational visit to the Houses of Parliament, having successfully secured one of the limited number of school tours and workshops available during 2018. This is a wonderful opportunity for children. Can parents please ensure that they make the deposit for this trip on Parentpay by no later than Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 17.

**HEALTHY EATING, HEALTHY LUNCHES...** After much deliberation, calculations and benchmarking exercises, the Governors of Bentham Community Primary School have agreed that as from January 2018 the price of school dinners for children in years 3,4,5 and 6 will increase to £2.30 per meal, and for children in Nursery to £1.80 per meal (this price increase is in line with many local schools and is the first increase for well over five years). As I am sure parents will all agree, school meals continue to offer EXCELLENT value for money even with this small increase. All meals are made from FRESH LOCALLY sourced produce and offer a balanced nutritious meal for children at lunch-times. It is lovely to see children sitting around tables at lunch-time eating a warm 'home-cooked' meal, developing meal-time socialisation skills and abilities. Naturally, if you have any concerns, or wish to discuss this price increase further, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN....** Can we encourage parents to check their children's book bags for minor injury letters, perhaps whilst checking for homework, on a daily basis? It is normal protocol that if a child sustains an injury at school they will receive a 'sticker' which clearly indicates to parents that an accident of a medical nature has taken place during the school day, however, on some occasions, these stickers have fallen off clothing. Following an incident at school which has involved First Aid, if, as a parent you have to take your child for further medical advice about an injury, can you please ensure that Sally in the School Office is made aware. In cases where follow-up treatment is required, there is a necessity for the school to report the injury to North Yorkshire County Council. Thank you.

**VACANCIES AT BENTHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL** Adverts for current job vacancies available at Bentham Community Primary School have now been placed on North Yorkshire County Council's website. If you are interested in any of the roles, including MSA roles, then please visit

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers> to find out more or to complete the application process. Thank you.

**SETTLE AREA SWIMMING POOL** Please remember that you can help raise all important funds for Settle Swimming Pool by taking part in the Aviva Community Grant Fund. Voting can be made via <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-4920> alternatively please contact Jen Hodgkinson, Pool Manager on 01729 8236269.

**SOCIAL MEDIA** Can we just take this opportunity to remind parents about the importance of not placing any inappropriate comments or posts about staff at the school or the school itself on social media. As we are sure everyone is aware, there are laws which are in place to protect 'users', but this can also mean that inappropriate comments can result in criminal charges being made. **Also, can parents please avoid** communicating with staff through social media sites, including services such as Facebook and Whatsapp. Please, if you have any concerns, problems, difficulties or queries, contact the school directly and in the first instance. Class teachers are always available as is Mrs Pearson. Please remember, if school are not aware of any problems then they cannot resolve them. Thank you for everyone's continued support.

**FINALLY.....(and once again) CAN YOU HELP?** Mrs Harrison and Miss Thwaite are busy collecting glass jars..... these can be any shape or size, but are URGENTLY needed.

***Tom and Erika. who laid the wreath and Molly who read a poem at the Remembrance Service.***

