



1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Autumn Term Edition 12

This week has been assessment week in school. This is where teachers assess children so they can establish their current attainment and the progress they have made so far this year. Teachers will use assessment data in order to make informative planning for the future, and ensure that every child's next steps enable them to further their knowledge and understanding across reading, writing and maths.

Classes 4 and 5 have been to Godly Play this week, they also became evacuees for the day on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, travelling by train to Hellifield, and experiencing what it would have been like during war time in England. We are very grateful to the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust for providing this wonderful opportunity.

Children in Key Stage 2 have also taken part in their first 'Big Sing' workshop...more details about this exciting opportunity to come.

Last night a number of school staff attended the Lancaster Guardian Teaching Awards at Lancaster University. Miss Thwaite had been shortlisted for an Inspirational Teacher Award and although she didn't win we are incredibly proud of her, and all our teachers, for the incredible work they do with the children at Bentham CP School.

Finally, I would like to apologise for the school closure this week. Closing school is not something that we take lightly, and is always a last resort. However, the safety of the children is the most important consideration and in light of the gas leak and the knock on effect of no heating, unfortunately there was no alternative. I very much appreciate how swiftly parents collected children.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Pearson

**CANCELLED** Reminder KS2 Christmas Sleepover POSTPONED until the New Year.

**THE FRIENDS OF BENTHAM SCHOOL** Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Christmas Market on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. **The**

**Bentham and Beyond Calendar 2018** is still available to purchase from School Reception, priced at a very reasonable £7.50 each. Calendars make lovely gifts for friends and families at Christmas. All proceeds of sale are being donated to the Friends of Bentham School whose fundraising efforts continue to support **EVERY child in EVERY class.**

The **Mother and Toddler Group** hosted by the FOBS are holding a 'Santa's Christmas Party' for pre-school children, in the School Hall on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** from 9.30am to 11.00am. There is a small charge of £4.00 per child, snacks, refreshments, games and a mystery gift are all included..... for more information, or to pre-purchase a ticket, please contact a member of the FOBS.

**A MASSIVE thank you to everyone who supported the FOB's** with their community based fundraising in conjunction with the Co-op. This community based campaign has managed to raise an amazing £1,800 for the school. Thank you.

**Remember** you can also help raise further funds for the school when shopping on-line. For more information please visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for Friends of Bentham School. Every purchase made via the scheme helps raise all important funds for the school.

**Coffee Morning** The FOBS are holding a fundraising Coffee Morning at the Town Hall on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018** from 10.00am until 12.00 m/d. There will be a raffle, jumble, tombola and cake sale. All donations would be very gratefully received! More details about collection and drop-off points for donations in the New Year!

**Thank you to all those parents** who supported the FOB's non-uniform day. Children managed to raise £94.80, which has been divided between two local organisations, The Looking Well and Low Bentham Victoria Institute..... **Finally**, the FOBS will be meeting again on **16<sup>th</sup> January 2018** – everyone is welcome to come along and join the informal meeting. There is no need to commit to a membership, one-off support is just as much appreciated. The FOBS look forward to welcoming new faces.

**Nursery Provision** The school are pleased to be in a position to confirm that they WILL BE offering 30 hours childcare for parents of children in Nursery as from January 2018. Further details will follow in children's book bags. **Did you know** that the school now have three intakes for children of Nursery age? If you, or anyone you know, has a child who was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 then they are eligible to start at our wonderful Nursery during January 2018. For children born between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 we are able to offer a place from April 2018. For more information, or to place a child's name on the schools admissions list, please contact the School Office on 015242 61412.

**Drumming Lessons** We have been informed by Mr Hunter that he will no longer be in a position to offer drumming lessons at the school due to unforeseen circumstances.

North Yorkshire Music Service are able to provide drumming lessons at school. These are priced at £68.50 per term for group lessons, £134.00 per term for individual 20 minute lessons and £188.00 per term for individual 30 minute lessons. Parents who are eligible for Working Tax Credits will receive a 30% discount from North Yorkshire Music Service and those in receipt of Free School Meals may be eligible to FREE lessons. More information and registration forms for lessons can be accessed directly by parents at [www.northyorkshireremusicclub.co.uk](http://www.northyorkshireremusicclub.co.uk). Parents are encouraged to complete requests for lessons before **Friday 8th December 2018** so that drumming lessons can be arranged to commence in January 2018. Unfortunately if there is not enough interest the service will be unable to provide lessons. For more information please visit the website or telephone the Music Service directly on 01609 532783.

**Winter Weather** As Winter approaches and the weather turns 'a little chillier' can we just remind parents to make sure that their children have a warm coat, gloves, scarf and hat at school! Can parents please also encourage children not to 'slide' on ice or create 'ice-runs', these are particularly dangerous for many reasons, including injury! Should the need arise to shut the school for any reason, especially during the Winter months, parents will be notified as quickly as is possible via the school's texting service. Can we just remind parents, that if they have recently changed their mobile number, then please let the school office know ASAP so that records can be kept up-to-date. For more

information about potential school closures, please refer to the school's 'Snow Policy'. A copy of which is available on the website (for a paper copy please see Sally in the School Office). Thank you.

**KS2 After School Basketball Club** Can we please remind parents of children who are interested in taking part in the After School Basketball Club to return reply slips to the School Office ASAP. Coach Mark Gunn will be visiting the school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December during assembly, where he will give further details to children of what activities and training will take place at the club. Thank you.

**Christmas Crafts** On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 from 3.40pm to 5.00pm the annual Christmas Crafts evening will be taking place in the School Hall. Can parents please ensure that they COLLECT children from the School Hall at 5.00pm. No child will be allowed to walk home alone and unsupervised. Thank you.

**Rewind to Christmas** On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 children in Year 5 will be taking part in the 'Rewind to Christmas' event at Ingleton Methodist Chapel. There is no charge for this visit. Children will leave school at 9.30am and return in readiness for lunch-time. Can parents please ensure that children bring their water bottle and a healthy snack to school on the day. Thank you.

**Spring Term 2018** The new menu for the Spring Term 2018 has been launched! A copy of the menu has been sent home via children's book bags, it is also available on the school's website. There are lots of new, exciting, healthy and nutritious meals for children to choose from. Can we just remind parents that as from January 2018 the price of a school meal will increase to £2.30 per day for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. £1.80 for children in Nursery and continue to be FREE OF CHARGE for children in Reception, years 1 and 2. I am sure everyone will agree, school meals continue to offer excellent value for money.

**Reading – Letters and Sounds Scheme** Can parents of children in Classes 1 and 2 please check their children's book bags for more details about Miss Richardson's excellent Letters and Sounds scheme. This involves children learning sounds each letter or group of letters make and blending them to read words. The scheme supports the school's teaching of phonics. Thank you.

