



Thursday 29th March 2018

Spring Term Edition 11

Dear Parents

Firstly, welcome to the Friday News... on a Thursday!

I am pleased to now be in a position to be able to confirm some staffing changes that will take place following the Easter holidays. Mrs Harrison will continue to teach our Nursery children every morning. The Nursery children have got to know Mrs Harrison very well and we would like to try and maintain continuity for Nursery as much as is possible.

Obviously, Mrs Harrison will be taking maternity leave towards the end of the Summer term, but I am sure that parents and children will be delighted that Mrs Harrison will continue teaching in Nursery for a little while longer. However, this does mean that there will be changes for children in Class 5 – these will be confirmed after the Easter holidays. As I am sure children will agree, there is some good news that can be confirmed, Mr White will be teaching a few more afternoons following Easter!

I appreciate parents' concerns when their children have changes to their class teacher. Please be reassured that as much as is possible we try to ensure continuity for our children but, occasionally, unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances take place. As is always the case, we ensure that children are getting the VERY BEST education from the VERY BEST teaching staff when considering staffing arrangements; it is always the children that are central to making any decisions.

If any parent would like to discuss any of the above or raise any questions, then please do not hesitate to come and see me or ring me in school.

I am sure everyone is looking forward to the Easter holiday. I have just enjoyed an Easter Egg hunt with the Nursery children and I am sure a few more chocolate eggs will be eaten by children (and parents!) over the next few days.

On behalf of all the school staff, I wish you a lovely restful and safe holiday.

Mrs Pearson

URGENT REMINDER : Child Tax Credits/Working Tax Credits/Universal Credits If you qualify for Universal

Credits then your child is ENTITLED to a Free School Meal. It is important that parents/carers apply NOW as new earning thresholds will be introduced by the Government as from 1st April 2018. If awarded Free School Meals these will continue to be provided until at least 2022 – regardless of any increase/amendment to earnings. **Applications need to be made by no later than 31/03/2018. For more information please now contact School Admissions on 01609 533679.**

Swimming Lessons Following on from a previous edition of the Friday News, we have been contacted by The Pool Manager at Settle Swimming Pool. Settle Pool currently have a number of places available for swimming lessons, after school, for children of ALL abilities and ALL ages. Lessons are currently priced at **£4.50 per child per lesson** (fees payable up-front termly). For more information, or to secure a place for your child, then please contact the pool directly on 01729 823 626. Thank you.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue have recently contacted North Yorkshire County Council and requested that they pass information onto parents about the dangers of fire.

Last year, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue saw a spike in DELIBERATE fires over the Easter Holidays and are actively campaigning to reduce this number this year. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue have asked for help from parents, this can be by simply checking on their children's plans and ensuring that matches and lighters are kept somewhere that isn't easily accessible. NY Fire and Rescue would like to remind parents that deliberately starting a fire is against the law, and even small fires can endanger lives. Fire spreads quickly and can be unpredictable.

If parents have any concerns that their child(ren) have a fascination with fire, they can make a CONFIDENTIAL referral to the Fire Service through a 'firesetter network', simply call 0800 074 0064 (Freephone) or e-mail safeguarding@northyorksfire.gov.uk. Thank you.

REMINDER : The Friends of Bentham School Thank you to all those children who took part in this week's Easter Bake-Off competition. Judging was, as it always is, very difficult. After much deliberation, first prizes were awarded to Alice, Lola, Teddy, Ellie and Luke. Well done and thank you to all those that took part.

'Wacky Walk' for Sport Relief 2018 Thank you to all those children, parents, families and members of

the local community who supported the school's Sports Relief Fundraising efforts by taking part, sponsoring and encouraging participation in the 'Wacky Walk' fundraiser! Pictures of children are available on the school's website, they have certainly 'brightened' up the school's newsfeed! Can all sponsorship monies please be collected and brought into school by Monday 16th April 2018? At the time of writing children have already raised an astounding £500.00 plus for Sports Relief. We will let everyone know what the final amount raised is as soon as we can.

Settle College Transfer Day We have been informed by Settle College that the Year 6 Transfer Day for pupils who will be starting at Settle from September 2018 will now take place on **11th July 2018**.

BREAKFAST CLUB Can we please remind parents about our wonderful Breakfast Club provision at the school. This runs every weekday morning from 8.00am until 8.50am. Prices are £4.00 per child for a full session (08.00am-8.50am), including a nutritious breakfast and refreshments and £2.00 per child for a half session (08.20am-08.50am), including refreshments.

Goodbye, Farewell Can we just say a fond farewell to Finn and Tor who will be leaving the school over the Easter holidays to start a new adventure in Ireland. Thank you also to Liz for all her kind donations of toys, building blocks, arts and crafts materials and much more. They are very much appreciated. We wish the family all the very best of luck in their new adventure – please come back to see us when next in England.

PARENTPAY Polite Reminder : There are still a number of payments outstanding on Parentpay. Can we please request that parents check accounts over the Easter Holiday to ensure that they are all up-to-date. At the time of writing there are 70 accounts with balances showing as outstanding. Thank you.

REMINDER Children in YEAR 3 will be starting their swimming lessons on Monday 16th April 2018. Please remember to come to school with swimming kits and a healthy snack to consume after the lesson. If parents have not already done so please return completed Consent Forms and make payment for lessons via Parentpay. Thank you.

Illness at School Unfortunately, as we approach the last few days of term, there have been a number of illnesses reported to members of staff, these include

sickness and diarrhoea, coughs and colds, Impetigo, Scarlet Fever, Slapped Cheek, Chicken Pox and Thrush. Can we please request that parents do not bring children back to school if they are still poorly. This helps to reduce the risk of cross-infection and helps a child to recover from an illness. If children are prescribed medicine and there is a need for this to be administered during school time, please ensure that necessary paperwork is completed and medication handed into the School Office. Where medical advice has been ascertained and it has been recommended to keep children away from school whilst they are infectious, please can parents adhere to this advice. Thanking everyone for their continued support.

Dates for your Diary

29/03/18 SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS

16/04/18 SCHOOL OPENS

07/05/18 School Closed : May Day

08/05/18 Bewerley Park Residential (Year 5)

18/05/18 Ingleborough Ascent

24/05/18 Class Photos

25/05/18 SCHOOL CLOSSES

Library Books Can we just ask parents to have a look for any library books that need returning. We have been informed that a number of books are now overdue at the Library. Thank you.

Sports Kit Can parents please check that they have returned borrowed school sports kits? Unfortunately, we only have a few T-shirts and hoodies left at school which means that when our children take part in cluster sporting events we no longer have enough kit to hand to all children. This can be very disappointing. Wearing our schools kit gives children a sense of belonging to a team and they are always worn with pride. Please check drawers, wardrobes and the never ending ironing pile over the Easter Holidays and hand any kit back into the School Office! Thank you.

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. Thank you.