



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Spring Term Edition 4

This week has really shown how caring and compassionate our school community is and I would like to thank all those parents, (and children), who have expressed their concern for Mr White and his family. As I am sure parents will have heard from their children and from snippets of conversations in the local community, Mr White and his family were involved in a major house fire last weekend which has unfortunately caused significant damage to their family home. Fortunately, no one sustained any injuries, including the White's pet cat. I am sure you will all join me in offering Mr White and his family both support and empathy during this extremely difficult and traumatic time.

I would also like to officially congratulate Mr and Mrs Harrison. Mrs Harrison, Class 5 teacher, has recently announced that she is expecting her second baby. Baby Harrison number 2 is due in July. We will inform parents of teaching arrangements in Class 5 in due course.

This week has also seen the first of our 'Stay and Learn' sessions. Thank you to all those parents of children in Class 2 who were able to come along and take part in the 'Stay and Learn' session held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. We hope that you enjoyed your time back in the classroom finding out what children get up to at school! Other classes will be arranging 'Stay and Learn' sessions in the near future - we will let you know dates and times.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Pearson

**Parent Contact Details** As we are sure everyone will be aware, there has been great emphasis in the Press this week, about the number of contact details that schools hold on record. This is due to the unfortunate and tragic incident involving two sisters who spent 24 hours with the body of their father following his sudden death as a result of the children's school not following up their unexplained absence from school. The Government have suggested that schools in England consider making 'extra checks' in incidences of absences. This may mean that, in future, staff visit a child's home address if they do not register at

school, parents cannot be contacted, and the school is not notified of a reason for their absence. Schools have also been advised to record additional 'contact' numbers for friends and relatives.

Can we once again remind parents and reiterate the importance of ensuring that contact details the school holds are current and up-to-date? Again, this week there have been occasions when the school have been unable to contact parents, family members and other 'emergency' contacts due to numbers that are now 'out of service'. Thank you.

**Social Media** Can we once again please remind parents about the dangers of posting inappropriate comments on sites such as Facebook. If, as a parent, you have any concerns whatsoever, or even a complaint about any aspect of school, then please speak to Class Teachers in the first instance. Alternatively, appointments can be secured with Mrs Pearson. If school are not aware of issues then it cannot address and resolve them. Unfortunately, on occasions in the past, social media has escalated comments out of all proportion and control, which has necessitated the school having to contact the Police. This can make situations both very difficult and uncomfortable for all parties involved. Furthermore, please can we ask again, that parents do not contact members of staff through facebook. Thanking you in anticipation for considering future posts.

**Brainbuilder Club** This term, Mrs Hodgson continues to run Brainbuilder Club, on a Thursday lunchtime. The club is for any children who wish to complete their homework in school, or for any child who needs to complete their homework in school to ensure it is completed! Remember Brainbuilder homework is designed to let children choose their level of challenge and we would encourage parents to support their child in completing this learning at home.

**Reminder : Parents' Evening** Please return your reply slip to your child's class teacher by no later than Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Thank you to all those parents who have already returned appointment requests. Due to the large volume of requests, appointments are now in the process of being collated; this means that the remaining time-slots will now be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. By way of information, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 is nearly full to capacity, there are however slots still available on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you.

**The Friends of Bentham School** are busy planning a Disco which will take place on the evening of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Information about how to secure a ticket to this exciting event has been sent home via children's book bags. There will also be a Friday afternoon Tuck Shop on the 9<sup>th</sup> February.....more information to follow.

**Reminder** School Uniform is now available from Tesco on-line, this includes book bags. For more information, please visit:-

<https://www.tesco.com/direct/ues/>

**Parent Governor Vacancy** As from 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. The school are particularly seeking applicants with experience in health and safety, finances, premises, human resources and/or specific curriculum areas. Further details about how to nominate yourself for this exciting opportunity have been sent home via children's book bags. Naturally, 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 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018** at 09.00am.

**Basketball** Following the wonderful success of the school's After School Basketball Club which is run by England qualified Coach Mark Gunn, we are pleased to be in a position to announce that we have secured further afterschool Basketball sessions for children in years 3,4,5 and 6 starting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 from 3.30pm to 4.20pm for the duration of six weeks. The price of the course per child is £16.00 (the school are subsidising the full cost to parents). If your child is interested in taking part, then please complete and return the reply slip provided on Coach Mark Gunn's letter (sent home in Bookbags), and return the same to the School Office together with payment as quickly as possible. Places will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

**North Craven Inter-Primary School Swimming Gala** On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, children from Bentham Community Primary School took part in a Swimming Gala hosted by the Settle Area Swimming Pool. Well done to all those children who represented the school, Tom, Reuben, Tom, Amber, Emily, Ruby,

Aimee, Tom, Eddie, Ethan, Charlie, Tommy, Abigail, Caitlin, Macy and Alma. Our children are always excellent ambassadors for the school and the local community. We will let parents know how the school performed when we receive confirmation of results early next week. Well done everyone.

**North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service** We have recently been contacted by Mr Richard Blackwell, who is based at Bentham Fire Station in connection with current career opportunities within North Yorkshire's Fire and Rescue Service. Fire Crew based at Bentham have, already, attended 6 incidents this year, including house fires and Road Traffic Collisions. Bentham Fire Station are currently looking for members to join their team; if you could provide availability during the day between 8.00am and 6.00pm then why not consider joining the Fire Service? As part of the team, you will receive a Retainer of up to £2,316 per annum. In addition there is an hourly rate paid for training and fire calls. For more information about this exciting and rewarding opportunity, then please contact Mr Richard Blackwell on 07769 952828 or e-mail [Richard.blackwell@northyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.blackwell@northyorksfire.gov.uk). Mr Blackwell is waiting to hear from you, even if you've ever thought about it and for whatever reason thought you couldn't – WE BET YOU COULD.

**Allergies** Can we just take this opportunity to remind parents to notify the school if their child develops any allergies, particularly to any kind of food. As part of the school's curriculum, children very often take part in cookery sessions, where they are encouraged to taste various ingredients. Thank you.

**Wacky Wrayces : Soap Box Derby – Calling all fearless, fun loving and foolhardy colleges!!!** On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Wray's Original Scarecrow Festival and Fair will be hosting a Soap Box Derby. This will be a timed race for home-built carts , powered only by gravity, over a set course (.... Downhill.....). Worzel has invited Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and adults (individuals over 16 years of age) to take part in the Soap Box Derby. The fastest competitor in each category will be awarded with a hand-crafted trophy. There will also be prizes for the most imaginative cart and the best dressed team! Entry fees vary; For more details and information about build specifications, please e-mail Worzel at [wray scarecrows@gmail.com](mailto:wray scarecrows@gmail.com) or contact Simon Carruthers on 07976 238802. Please note, whilst entries can be made on the day, numbers are limited to early entry is encouraged.