



15th December 2017

Autumn Term Edition 14

The run up to Christmas is always a busy one! There is a lot of important information in this newsletter, so please take the time to have a good read. We look forward to seeing you at one of the many events taking place next week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pearson

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR.

We hope that all those parents who were able to join Key Stage 1 for their Nativity performances earlier this week thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I am sure everyone will agree the children were absolutely amazing. Thank you to all those who made a donation to the school at these performances. Still to come this week.....

Monday 18/12/17	2.00pm	KS2 Senior Citizens Christmas Performance
Tuesday 19/12/17	ALL DAY	Peter Pan
Wednesday 20/12/17	6.00pm	KS2 Christmas Performance
Thursday 21/12/17	Various	Christmas Parties
Friday 22/12/17	3.30pm	SCHOOL CLOSES

Peter Pan : 19th December 2017 After months of planning, our whole school visit to The Winter Gardens, Blackpool to watch Peter Pan the Musical, will finally be taking place on Tuesday 19th December 2017. As you can imagine, children are very excited about this opportunity to experience a live musical performance of Peter Pan in the company of their friends. On the morning of the visit children should arrive at school at **8.00am**. Following the performance, children will be given the opportunity to eat their packed lunches before travelling back to the school. It is anticipated that the coach will leave Blackpool for the return journey at **1.30pm**, meaning we should be back at school in plenty of time for **3.30pm**. Can we just remind parents that on the day of the visit, children will need appropriate clothing, a

packed lunch, a water bottle and a healthy snack. Can parents please NOT pack boiled sweets, hot liquids, glass containers etc. On the day of the visit, if your child needs medication, then please ensure that you have completed a 'Request to Administer Medication' Form (these are available at the School Office). All medicines should be handed to your child's Class Teacher.

By way of a reminder, if your child is not taking part in this festive educational visit, then they will be expected to register at school on the 19th December. Failure to attend school may result in an unauthorised absence. An unauthorised absence can lead to a fine being made against parents by the Local Authority. We still have spare places for parents, if you would like to join us on this trip, please speak to Sally. Tickets are £10.00 each

Senior Citizens Christmas Performance We have room for a few more Senior Citizens at this performance, so please invite your neighbours and friends in the community. Guests need to arrive at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start. Refreshments will be served following the performance. Can parents please note that this afternoon performance is for senior citizens only, parents are welcome to come along for the Wednesday performance. Thank you.

KS2 Christmas Performance Please can children arrive at school at 5.30pm to get ready in their costume. The main entrance doors will open at 5.30pm.

Christmas Party Day - Thursday Children may come to school dressed in their party clothes all day.

Auction Mart Carol Service IMPORTANT As you may have seen in the Bentham News, the whole school will be taking part in the Christmas Carol Service at the Auction Mart in Bentham. This is a wonderful opportunity to really be part of our local community at Christmas. On Wednesday afternoon (after Christmas Lunch) the whole school will be walking to the Auction Mart for 3.00pm. The service is expected to last 45 minutes and, therefore, we would appreciate it if parents could collect children **FROM THE Auction Mart** at 3.45pm. Parents are more than welcome to walk with us from school (please arrive at school at 2.40pm) and join us for the service. We will also arrange for the school bus to collect children who usually catch the bus from the Auction Mart.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS SUE LEAK AND MISS HELENA PRICE On the 5th December 2017 the school's kitchens were inspected by an Environmental

Health Officer in order to check that they were compliant with food hygiene law. These checks have to take place by law at any establishment that serves food. Following the inspection, we are extremely proud to have been awarded with a Rating of 5. This is the HIGHEST level achievable. Thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff for their expert running of the school's kitchen and for providing wonderful meals to children on a daily basis.

The Children's Society CHRISTINGLE Can children who have been collecting money for The Children's Society in 'Christingle' please return these to the School Office by **Wednesday 20th December 2017.** Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DINNER This will take place on **Wednesday 20th December.** There is no need to pre-order, children should order meals in their classroom at registration time on the day. It would be absolutely wonderful if everyone could join in this festive meal (there will be a vegetarian option). Christmas Dinner is priced at £1.60 per Nursery child, FREE for children in Reception, years 1 and 2 and £2.10 per meal for children in years 3,4 and 5. Payment should be made via Parentpay. If you have difficulty in accessing your child's account please contact the School Office. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept cash payments.

ALSO taking place on Wednesday 20th December ***Go Festive; Go Full-On; Go Fluffy Pom Pom....*** and help raise all important funds for 'Save the Children'. Children are invited to come to school in their Christmas Jumpers or Festive Hats for a voluntary contribution of £1.00 each. Other school uniform should be worn – just a change in jumper. All proceeds will be donated to 'Save the Children'. Also in school's main entrance area is a 'Can you guess the Hidden Carol?' game. If you would like to try and win a box of chocolates by guessing the right carol then have a go! Carols are priced at £1.00 each. These will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis. Thank you to everyone in anticipation of their support.

THE FRIENDS OF BENTHAM SCHOOL Remember you can help raise further funds for the school when shopping on-line. For more information please visit 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 13th January 2018** from 10.00am until 12.00 m/d, in

addition to donations for the tombola, cake stall and jumble, they are looking for volunteers to help at this event. If you think you can help, please contact a member of the FOBS. More details about collection and drop-off points for donations in the New Year! **Finally**, the FOBS will be meeting again on **16th January 2018 – everyone is welcome.**

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. **For more information please contact the School Office on 015242 61412.**

REMINDER Can we just remind parents that 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. Can we just remind parents that if they 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. For more information, please contact the School Office. Please be reassured that all conversations will be treated in the STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE.

MESSY CHURCH It's fun, it's FREE and it's for ALL ages. Messy Church will be taking place on **SATURDAY 6TH JANUARY 2018** at Bentham Methodist Church. Messy Church is an opportunity for families to get together, enjoy being together, make things together, eat a meal together and celebrate together. There is no charge for Messy Church, however there will be an opportunity to make a donation towards craft resources and catering costs. Everyone welcome.

End of Term As the end of the term gets nearer, can we just remind parents about the importance of ensuring that their child's Parentpay account is up-to-date. Recently, the school have revised their Arrears Policy to include details about how parents can access financial assistance for meals, or how payment plans can be agreed with the school where parents are genuinely struggling to meet outstanding debts. If you have any concerns whatever about meeting payments, then please make an appointment to see Mrs Pearson sooner rather than later.

Christmas Holidays As you will be aware school closes for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 22nd December. School will re-open on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

