

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



## *Message from Mrs Pearson*

Dear Bentham Families

Welcome back from the half-term break! I hope that everyone managed to spend some quality time together.

As I am sure everyone will be aware, earlier this week it was announced by the Prime Minister that schools would be re-opening to all children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. More information about the logistics of how this will work can be found in the separate letter which will be sent home to parents on Monday. We are thrilled that we can get the children back to school and look forward to a school full of smiles, laughter and learning again.

Hopefully, this week, parents will have been contacted by their child's Class Teacher and given the opportunity to discuss any concerns or raise any questions around home learning or, indeed, wellbeing. Thank you to everyone for their positive and encouraging engagement with teaching staff. Apologies to any parents who were either 'cut off' during a telephone conversation, or contacted slightly later than scheduled – this was due to a technical fault with the school's telephone systems.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new School Cook, Malai, who many will know as Summer's mum, also to John Watkinson, our new Assistant Cook and dad to Abi and Ella. Thank you also to Belinda, who has been our relief cook over the past few months.

As a school, we very much hope that everyone is enjoying their 'Wellbeing Wednesday' afternoon and taking a much-needed break from computer screens!

Recently, we have purchased EVERY child in school a DT project box. Please can parents arrange to collect their child's DT box from school from this Friday (26<sup>th</sup> February) onwards. We will leave boxes in the entrance way where the Home Learning packs have been collected from. Please choose a 'design' and take one box home per child before getting creative!

**Children in Nursery and Reception have a slightly different pack to collect**, so please be mindful of this when collecting your child's box. Needless to say, please also remember to follow Social Distancing Guidelines when collecting.

We hope that you will all enjoy making these DT projects at home – please do not forget to send a photograph of your creations to class teachers.

'DT in a Box' is a brilliant way to allow your child to be creative. Each box contains all components to make your chosen project. Images of 'created items' are for guidance only – your child is in total control of what their personal final product will look like!

Each kit contains all materials, design sheets and instructions to ensure your child can complete their project to a high standard. Kits also contain top tips as well as fun facts throughout to help encourage and instil a love of learning.

We have a new teacher starting in our school very soon. Mr Hogg is a newly qualified teacher and will be teaching children Class 2 for the remainder of the school year. He will be coming into school next week to find his feet and start to get to know the children who are in school. We are hoping that he will be able to start on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March when the children return. Mr Hogg will cover Miss Richardson whilst she begins her maternity leave. We look forward to welcoming Mr Hogg to our school.

Finally, I would also like to welcome our two new families who joined our school after the half-term holiday. I am sure new friendships will quickly be established when everyone returns to school.

Have a wonderful weekend, take care and stay safe.

Mrs C Pearson  
Headteacher

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**REMINDER : Nursery** We are starting to plan for April and September when we have new intakes of children into our Nursery. If you know of a local family who have not yet contacted us with their details, then please do encourage them to give us a ring or send an e-mail with their child's details. This means that, in due course, we can then ensure families receive the necessary information for their child.

**FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHER SCHEME** For those families in receipt of Free School Meals and whose children are not attending school, vouchers totalling £30.00 per child, and covering the period 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 to the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 have been posted out earlier this week. It is anticipated that these will be the last of the vouchers, as children will, once again, be able to access a school meal when school re-opens on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.

**Contact Tracing** It goes without saying that it is as imperative as ever that everyone plays their part in stopping the spread of this terrible virus. Therefore, if your child tests positive for COVID 19, or develops any symptoms during the evening or over a weekend then you **MUST** still let school know as quickly as possible by using the [parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) e-mail address. Many thanks to everyone to date who has helped support the fight against Covid.

**World Book Day** This year we will, once again, be celebrating World Book Day, albeit in an alternative format! Information will be included in the Home Learning email from your child's class teacher.

**RED NOSE DAY** We are pleased to confirm that Miss Downham has successfully secured a shipment of **RED NOSES!** Noses will be on sale, at school, from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March priced at £1.50 each. There are ten different 'styles' of noses with one very rare 'Golden Tommy' just waiting to be found! Please support this worthy cause and arrange to purchase a Red Nose from School!

***A few important pieces of information for week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March:***

### **Book Amnesty**

Please return any reading books that you have at home. It doesn't matter how many you have, please bring them back to school and place them in the boxes outside your child's classroom. We are thrilled that so much reading has taken place during this lockdown but we would really like our books back for others to read.

### **Brainbuilder Books**

If your child has their Yellow Brainbuilder Homework book at home, please return this to school so that we can get them ready for Summer term. There will be no homework sent home before Easter...I am sure you will be pleased to hear this!

### **Home Learning**

Please can you bring back to school any home learning that you have completed over the past few weeks. The CGP Maths and English books, exercise books, worksheets etc. Whatever you have done and still have, please bring it into school.

### **Week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Your child will need to come to school every day with their polo shirt and green Bentham jumper. They then need to wear PE jogging bottoms and trainers. Please can they also bring an extra jumper to keep warm. This is every day. The first week back, we will be getting outside as much as possible so we would like children to come to school dressed ready for this each day. This includes Nursery and Reception children all the way up to Year 6. Please ensure your child has their coat and if it is chilly a hat and gloves.

More updates and information will follow in a letter to all parents on Monday.