

5th March 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mrs Pearson

Dear Bentham Families

Following on from last week's Friday News, and as I am sure everyone will have seen, heard or discovered, Primary Schools are set to re-open fully to all children on Monday 8th March 2021. Whilst these are exciting times, and staff at school cannot wait to welcome children back and see our school once again lit up with children's smiles and filled with the sound of laughter there are, naturally, some anxieties for all concerned about coming back to school. Please be reassured, as a school, we will continue to put measures in place to limit the potential spread of the virus and continue to care for children the very best we can but, please remember, we also need your help as parents to help keep everyone safe. Please see some comments from school staff at the end of this letter and share them with your children before Monday!

Earlier this week, I sent out a letter outlining everything you might need to know about returning to school on Monday. If you did not receive this letter, please contact the School Office so that a duplicate can be sent to you. There are a few key reminders on the next page.

I'd like to quickly share with you our plan for teaching over the next three weeks. We will not be returning to a 'normal' timetable as we feel that the children need an opportunity to settle back into school life and to re-establish friendships and routines. Our plan for the next three weeks is **Reconnect – Be Together**. Children throughout school will be studying the book 'Here we Are' by Oliver Jeffers. We want to encourage a sense of community across the entire school, to reflect on the last few months and also help the whole school look forward to the future in a positive way. This book will be support this. Next week during the afternoon class teachers will be aiming to get the children outside as much as possible; PE, gardening, team games, trim trail, team building etc. Let's hope for sunny weather. In Week 2, some classes will be continuing with Here We Are but also children will be completing some Maths, Reading and Phonics assessments.

These are not formal tests but they will give us an indication of where children are academically, and what we need to focus on moving forwards. We have limited the number of assessments that the children need to complete to the absolute minimum and we will spread these out over Week 2 and Week 3. Some children will not even realise it is an assessment they are completing! On an afternoon in Week 2, children across school will spend some time focussing on 'Let's Count' a range of resources linked to the Census that we will all be completing this month. If you want to find out more, watch this short youtube video:

<https://youtu.be/BiZk2pnSM6w>

In Week 3, children will spend their afternoons focussing on Art. We are launching a new structure to teaching Art after Easter and this will begin with a focus on children showcasing their skills in new Sketch books. Week 3 will be an opportunity for children to take part in a range of art opportunities within their classroom.

Weaved into all of the above will be time spent focussing on children's mental health and wellbeing so that children have an opportunity to reflect on the past few weeks but also focus on moving forwards.

We hope that the above highlights how we have planned a careful reintroduction back into school where the focus is on discovering the children's current academic ability but also on ensuring the children reconnect with each other and school so that they feel safe and happy.

"When I return to school please start with where I am and not where you think I should be. I don't want to catch up. I want to see my teachers and my friends. I want to feel safe and secure while I try to make sense of the 'new normal'."

Finally, we welcome Mr Hogg, our new teacher who will be teaching children in Class 2. We hope he enjoys his first day at our school as much as we know the children will enjoy their first day back! Have a wonderful weekend and don't forget to have an early night on Sunday ready for Monday morning!

Mrs C Pearson

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School lunches will be available to all children. If your child is not in receipt of Free School Meals, meals are priced at £2.10 per day for children in Nursery, FREE of charge for all children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 and £2.55 per day for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. I would ask that parents please make payment for meals via Parentpay and ensure that accounts are kept in credit. Thank you.

Changing the Name of our School? At a recent Governors meeting, discussions took place about changing our school name to '**Bentham Community Primary and Nursery School**'. The Leadership and Management team at school feel that this title more accurately represents our school community by the inclusion of the word **Nursery**. We are very much looking for your opinion on this proposal. Please have your say by e-mailing admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk.

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 8th 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!

Support for Young Carers Harrogate and Craven Young Carers are a support group for young carers and their families. The service provides 1:1 support, an opportunity to meet with other young carers, activities, trips, residentials and much more. Young carers may be helping a parent, grandparent or sibling with cleaning, cooking, washing, household chores, personal care, shopping and other day to day activities. For more information about support services on offer please visit <https://services.actionforchildren.org.uk/harrogate-and-selby-young-carers/> or www.actionforchildren.org.uk. Contact number : 07702 512771.

DT Box Please remember if you have not yet collected your child's DT box, these are still available for collection from the car park entrance. I hope that everyone that has managed to collect their kit has enjoyed completing their project. Thank you for all the lovely photographs.

A few important pieces of information for week beginning 8th March:

From Monday 8th March for 1 week only, ALL children will need to come to school every day wearing their polo shirt and green Bentham Jumper with **PE Jogging Bottoms and trainers**, this includes Nursery, Reception, years 1 to 6 inclusive. Please also provide an extra jumper that children can wear if they feel cold.

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.

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We have missed you and can't wait to have you all back with us on Monday!

We are looking forward to:



Hearing the classrooms full of laughter and learning with children back together again- **Mrs Pearson**

Seeing every class together again and being able to play and learn as a team. It's not been the same in school without you all!- **Miss Hayward**

Seeing all your gorgeous smiling faces back in school- **Mrs Nelson**

Knowing that you are all back together and hopefully seeing your faces soon. I can't wait to introduce you all to Elsie- **Mrs Cadman**

Seeing all your faces in a morning when I greet you ready for the school day, and hearing all the excitement in the playground during break times- **Miss Downham**

Seeing all the children excited, smiling faces first thing in a morning as they enter the classroom- **Miss Richardson**

I am looking forward to having actual face to face conversations and not having to wait for someone to unmute themselves before giving an answer to my question! I am also looking forward to seeing the children talk to each other in person and enjoying each others company- **Mrs Harrison**

I started as the Nursery Teacher after Christmas and the classroom has been strangely quiet. I've loved meeting some of you in school and quite a few on Zoom, but I'm looking forward to meeting you all properly on Monday and hearing your lovely voices and seeing your smiley faces in school- **Mrs Milner**

Seeing a playground full of happy children laughing and playing with their friends- **Mrs Cryer**

Seeing everyone excited to be back at school and meeting my new class- **Mr Hogg**

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I cannot wait to see all our children reunited in school- hearing conversations and seeing their smiles again will be wonderful- *Mrs Green*

I am so excited to be able to spend time with you all in our school outdoor area, planting new things and learning outdoors- *Mrs McGregor*

We know that there's 7 colours in a rainbow, 7 days make a week, most importantly 7 beautiful letters in **FRIENDS**. Can't wait for you to see your friends, laughing on the playground and your smiling faces after such a long time- *Mrs Askew*

Seeing your smiley faces, hearing your cheeky laughs and watching you playing with your friends- *Miss Boocock*

To hear the laughter of playing in the playground at lunchtime- *Miss Harrison*

I am looking forward to seeing everyone back with their friends and meeting the rest of Class 5- *Mr Edmondson*

Listening to the buzz of the children enjoying being back in their classrooms with their friends, learning and laughing- *Mrs Harvey*

Can't wait for the classroom to be bustling with children having fun, learning, playing and laughing again- *Mrs Chapman*

Looking forward to the chatter of children rekindling their friendships - *Mrs Horton*

I cannot wait until summer, when we can sit outside, having our picnic lunches, and to hear you all giggling and enjoying your childhood- *Miss Mulligan*

Looking forward to the hustle and bustle during lunchtime and all your happy faces- *Mrs Johnson*

Can't wait to hear and feel the school alive with all our lovely children! - *Mrs Reid*

March 8th, a special day. Let's learn, let's laugh, have fun and play. All back together-Welcome!- *Mrs Barlow*