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Friday 21st June 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Summer Holiday Building Works and Changes to Training Days

When we moved into our brand new school building over 4 years ago, we immediately identified a problem with the large sliding doors in every classroom. Although they look nice, they are not very practical when it comes to teaching and young children being able to operate them. As a school, we were also not happy that the classrooms have no windows that can be opened and closed - this has led to issues around ventilation. Both myself and the Governing Body have been working hard with North Yorkshire County Council to rectify these issues, and I am very pleased to say that a significant remedial building project will now be undertaken over the Summer holidays. The project will involve the large sliding doors being removed and replaced with a single door that will open outwards, three windows that will all open and a fixed glass panel. This design is exactly as we have requested and we are very pleased that the work will be carried out over the summer holiday period, causing minimum disruption. I would like to assure parents that this building work comes at NO COST to the school and, therefore, our budget and finances will not be affected in any way as a result of this change.

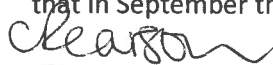
Alongside the above work, all of the classrooms, corridors and the school hall will be painted during the holidays and some additional work will be completed with the lighting and the heating system. This will hopefully rectify some of the long standing issues we have had since we moved into the school in 2015.

Because of the above work, the school needs to be 'packed away' to enable the builders, painters, electricians and heating engineers to complete their work. Therefore, on **Friday 19th July the school will close at 1.30pm**. The Leaver's Assembly scheduled for the afternoon will now take place at 9.30am. Children will have lunch as normal but all children will need to be **collected from school at 1.30pm**. This will allow teaching staff to move furniture, take down displays and pack many items away into boxes!

Normally, over the holiday period, teachers come into school to get their classroom ready for September. Staff will not be able to do this due to the building works taking place. Therefore, **Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd AND Wednesday 4th September** will be training days with school open to STAFF ONLY. Wednesday 4th September is an additional day which is needed to get the school ready for the return of children, alongside ensuring we can continue with our planned staff training.

I realise that we have a 6 week Summer holiday but the work that needs to be completed is extensive and, therefore, we will not be able to gain access to school during this time. We are also very keen to ensure children walk back into a 'normal' school in September, ready for learning. The additional day is important to ensure this can all happen. We would like to thank parents in advance for their support and cooperation.

As a staff, we are very excited about the changes, they are long awaited, much needed and are the result of many meetings and discussions. The children of Bentham deserve a school that is 100% fit for purpose and I am confident that in September this will be the case.


Mrs C Pearson
Headteacher

