



Bentham Community
Primary School

Bentham C P School
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Dear Parents

Friday 15th September 2017

Last week school sent home lots of paperwork and forms to be filled in. Thank you to all those parents who have found 10 or 15 minutes to sit down and fill forms in. Please can those parents who haven't returned paperwork, please do so as quickly as possible so that school can ensure it holds up-to-date information about your child.

This week I have lots of exciting news to share with you about 'your' school. Firstly, as you will already know, the school have appointed two new members of teaching staff. **Miss Richardson** is our new Class 2 teacher, and will also form part of the leadership and management team. Miss Richardson will take responsibility for the **Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)**. Miss Richardson will also lead Maths and English in these year groups. Already Miss Richardson has introduced a new way of teaching phonics, it is lovely to see (and hear!) the children enjoying their phonics lessons. Miss Richardson will be hosting an evening for parents called '**Finding out about Phonics**' on **Wednesday 11th October from 6.00pm**. Please do try and come along. The session will be no longer than an hour and will be both fun and interactive. Children are welcome to come along as well and childcare will be provided for them whilst parents are busy learning about phonics, as will FREE refreshments! So that school have a rough indication of how many parents to expect at this session, can you please complete and return the attached slip indicating if you will be joining us.

Our other new member of teaching staff, **Mrs Hodgson**, also forms part of the schools leadership team. Mrs Hodgson teaches Class 3 and is the **Key Stage 2 (Year 3 – 6) lead teacher**. Mrs Hodgson will also lead Maths and English in these year groups. Mrs Hodgson will be running a session for parents called '**Spotlight on Spellings**'. This will take place on **Wednesday 18th October from 6.00pm**, again the session will last no more than an hour. This session aims to explain how spellings are taught, the difficulty of words children need to be able to spell at each age, and some top tips and techniques for helping your child to learn spellings at home. As with the phonics session, free refreshments will be available as will childcare. Please do not worry if you aren't very good at spelling, you won't be asked to spell anything in front of everyone else and will not be put in the 'spotlight'! Again, if you are interested in joining this session, please complete and return the attached slip.

Please do say 'hello' to Miss Richardson and Mrs Hodgson if you see them about the school. If you have any questions or concerns whatsoever, they both will be more than happy to talk to you if I am not available.

Moving onto **important dates!** As ever, school is a busy place and there is lots happening over the next few weeks and months. I am keen to try to further improve communication between home and school and to ensure that parents and carers all know what is happening and more importantly when. Attached to this letter are some key dates for the Autumn term (this is up to Christmas 2017). Please keep these dates safe, perhaps pin them to a noticeboard at home or pop them on your fridge? The school's website also shows a calendar of events. Included on the attached calendar are dates for Christmas performances, hopefully, this will help with forward planning and enable everyone to book these important performances into their diaries now!

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I would like to welcome all new parents and carers to the school, by way of information, and as a reminder to others, parents are welcome to speak to their child's class teacher at any time throughout the year. If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to talk to teachers. The beginning of the school day is not always the best time, so if you need longer, please ask to make an appointment or speak to teaching staff at the end of the school day. Appointments can also be made by contacting Sally in the School Office.

Parents' Evenings have been planned for November, for those new to joining the school, this is where parents are invited into school to discuss their child's progress. A further parents' evening is held in the Spring term. In the Summer term parents will receive an annual written school report. In addition to this report, parents/carers will also be able to ascertain how well their child is doing through **Effort Grade Letters**. These letters are sent home at the end of each term. They report on an individual child's personal effort in Reading, Writing, Maths and Science together with behaviour. Hopefully Effort Grade letters will keep parents/carers up-to-date and informed about their child's progress throughout their primary school career.

There are lots more opportunities being planned that will encourage parents to come into school this year; maybe to join in a lesson, take a tour around school, take a look at children's books or join children for lunch? More details about all these exciting opportunities will follow shortly.

Finally, whilst there is a lot of information in this letter, I hope that you find it both helpful and useful and that you will be able to join myself and teaching staff at one or both of the evening sessions for parents.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs C Pearson
Headteacher

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Name of Child: _____

Class: _____

Yes please I/we would like to attend the session 'Finding out about Phonics'

number of adults

Yes please I/we would like to attend the session 'Spotlight on Spellings'

number of adults

We will be bringing along our children for some FREE childcare

number of children

In the future it would be great if you could organise a session for parents that helps us find out more about:

(Please list any suggestions if you have any)

Signed : _____

