



Friday News  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2016

79 parents NOW have  
outstanding DEBTS at school.

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**NO DOGS ALLOWED** It is regretful that we have to inform you that this week we have had a serious incident in school involving a dog. Although we have many times told parents via our Friday News publications that dogs are NOT ALLOWED on the school site, a little girl from Nursery coming through the main school gate on Monday morning was bitten on her arm by a dog that was tied up inside the school perimeter. Fortunately, the little girl was wearing both a cardigan and a thick coat otherwise her injuries would have been even more distressing and could have scarred her for life. One of the school's trained First Aiders cleaned the girl's wounds and her mum then took her to the Doctors Surgery for further assessment/treatment. We have taken this incident VERY SERIOUSLY and both the Health and Safety Team from North Yorkshire County Council and the Police were informed of the incident immediately. Our School Health and Safety Adviser visited the school on the same day as the incident to check signage and take photographs of where the incident took place. NO DOGS should be brought onto the school site AT ANY TIME, which includes the school Car Park. There is a very clear sign on the main school gates endorsing this. I urge ALL parents to be vigilant and report any dogs seen on our site immediately to Mrs Boocock or Miss Pearson who will talk to the dog's owner and make sure that this never happens again. This incident could have been a lot more serious, we do hope the little girl recovers quickly from her injuries and that she is also not left frightened of dogs. The Dogs Trust visit, which took place on the same day had nothing to do with the incident. Their visit on this date was a complete co-incidence and had been planned many months ago.

**AMAZING NEWS.....** Following lots of hard work and dedication from all those involved, Bentham Community Primary School have successfully secured a conditional grant offer of £9,950 from lottery funding. This money is to support the development of the school's outdoor project. We would also like to thank **Tim Wheildon, Bentham Auction Mart, Haworths and Craven Concrete Limited** for their kind donations. As a school we are so excited about launching this project, which ultimately will develop our outside areas and make them more accessible to both children and the community. If any parents would like to get involved with this project, then please contact Mrs Alison McGregor, or leave a message with Sally at the School Office.

**SCHOOL FIELD** Unfortunately, it is that time of year again when everywhere is damp and dismal. With this in mind, can we please request that parents do not let their children on the school field when they are waiting to collect children at the end of the school day. Unfortunately, this is damaging the grass and causing irreparable damage.

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS** Can parents please consider the importance of their child attending school. Can we also stress the importance of avoiding booking holidays during term-time. As at Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 our whole school attendance was 96.1%. This is extremely poor. The Local Authority recommend a minimum level of 96.26% for a WHOLE academic year. In order for a school to receive an 'Outstanding' judgement from Ofsted attendance needs to be at 97% and above. By way of information, one day of absence, is equivalent to two sessions. Current advice from the Department for Education, states that any child whose attendance falls below 90% will be subject to monitoring by the school, and potentially further home/school intervention procedures.

**Auction Mart Carol Service** On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, children from Class 2 will be taking part in the Auction Mart's Carol Service. Children will be dressed in Nativity costumes and will be leaving school at 2.30pm. All parents are welcome to attend this Service. Can children please be collected from the Auction Mart at 3.30pm/3.45pm. Thank you.

**CASH FREE** From January 2017, school will be unable to take ANY cash payments for lunches, breakfast club and trips. These services can be paid for via Parentpay. If parents are unable to access the internet, then Sally in the School Office can take card payments, either in person or via the telephone. Alternatively, if parents/carers do not have access to a bank card, then a Paypoint Card can be requested from the school. This allows parents to deposit money onto Parentpay at any shop which displays the Paypoint sign. Thanking everyone for their co-operation.

**LIBRARY BOOKS** Can parents please ensure that ALL Bentham Town Library books are returned to school by NO LATER than Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016. A blue box is outside School Reception for parents/children to place returned books into. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER** Thank you to Mrs Leak for providing an absolutely wonderful Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. I am sure everyone will agree the meal was absolutely delicious and everyone enjoyed taking part in the festive celebration. Thank you also to those members of staff and school Governors who helped Mrs Leak.

**WELL DONE** to all those children in Classes 1 and 2 for their wonderful performances of 'The Sleepy Shepherd'. Everyone enjoyed the shows.

**REMEMBER** The Friends of Bentham School will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Town Hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00am. There will be stalls, a tombola, a cake stall and, rumour has it..... a bouncy castle – why not go along and show your support?

**REMINDER** On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, the Senior Citizens of Bentham have been invited to join children in the School Hall. Children in Classes 3,4 and 5 will be performing. There will be an opportunity for everyone to join in with some Christmas Carols and drinks and mince pies will be served once performances have finished. If you would like Grandads, Grandmas, neighbours and friends to join in with this festive treat then please contact Sally in the School Office.

**SWIMMING** Can we just remind parents that Children in Class Four will start Swimming Lessons on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Please ensure that Consent Forms have been returned to school by this date, and that payment for the lessons has been made via Parentpay. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS SLEEPOVER** Unfortunately, some children missed out on the Christmas Sleepover. This was because reply slips were returned to school after the deadline (11<sup>th</sup> November). Due to the nature of the event, catering supplies were purchased on the attendance numbers collated at the closing date for responses and as a result 'late' applicants could not be catered for. Apologies for any disappointment this may have caused children. Can we please emphasise the importance of returning documentation to school by due dates, in order that we can avoid this kind of disappointment in the future.

**FINALLY.....** This will be the last Friday News of 2016! We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Remember to stay safe over the Christmas Break and not to eat too much chocolate.....

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on **WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> January 2017.**