



Friday 4th December 2020

Autumn Term : Edition 11

Dear Parents/Carers

Following on from last week's Friday News, I am now in a position to confirm that those families who are in receipt of Free School Meals and meet relevant criteria, will be provided with £40.00 worth of vouchers (£20.00 per week - per child), to assist with the purchase of food and essential items at a local shop over the Christmas Holidays. It is anticipated that vouchers will be sent home with children on the last day of term.

Earlier this week I sent home a letter to all parents about Festive Activities that will be taking place at the school over the next couple of weeks. I know that many parents/carers will be disappointed that they will not be able to see their child(ren) perform in traditional Nativity productions, or services this year, but please be reassured, from what I have witnessed throughout the school just recently, everyone is in for a real treat, when our virtual Christmas production is launched virtually during the last week of term!

This week, the weather has turned chilly and forecasters are predicting snow. Firstly, can I please remind parents/carers to send children into school with suitable outdoor coats for the weather, together with hats and gloves for children to wear when they are outdoors. It is also a good idea for children to have a pair of wellies at school.

With the threat of snow, comes the possibility of a school closure. Can I please remind parents/carers that in the case of the school having to close, we will try our utmost to text parents by 8.00am informing them of the decision. Remember, if you have recently changed your mobile telephone number then please ensure that you have provided this information to the School office.

I am sure you will have noticed some increased activity in the school car park last week and this week with the presence of Police Officers and also a representative from NYCC Health and Safety. This is due to concerns around safety in the school car park at the beginning and end of the school day. We are very fortunate to be able to have parents parking in the car park – NYCC could only think of one other Primary School that has this arrangement – but it will only remain in place if parents use it safely. If there is no space, you will need to drive out and find

somewhere else to park. Parents should not block cars in, park in the gateway or abandon their car in the middle of the car park. If parents continue to drive and park irresponsibly, then an alternative will need to be looked into. Similarly, it is not acceptable to arrive 10 minutes late at the start or end of the day because you couldn't get parked in the car park. This is disruptive to children's education and is unfair on school staff. I would encourage parents to walk if they can and then to drive and park a little way from school, walking the last bit of the journey. Very few families need to actually drive to school because of the distance that they live from school, the vast majority of our families can walk. I would encourage all parents to consider the above moving forwards.

This week, Governors at the school have started the recruitment process for an Interim Headteacher who will cover my maternity leave from April 2020. As Headteacher, I would like to reassure parents that Governors will ensure that any Interim Headteacher will continue to build on the school's successes, recent growth and continue to nurture our whole school community. Naturally, the leadership and management team at the school will continue to keep parents/carers up-dated with the recruitment process.

After many years of service, Mrs Leak has decided to leave her position as School Cook. We will be very sad to see Mrs Leak go, and would like to wish her the very best for the future.

Finally, for those families who are now lucky (or unlucky) enough to have a visiting Christmas Elf in their home helping to celebrate Advent, I hope he does not bring too much mischief and chaos to the household over the weekend! Have fun but STAY SAFE.

Mrs Pearson

REMINDER : IMPORTANT INFORMATION please remember that if children develop Covid symptoms during the evening, or over the weekend then you **MUST** let school know as quickly as possible using the parents@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk e-mail address. The sooner we are advised the better. Many thanks to everyone to date who has helped support the fight against Covid.

SETTLE SWIMMING POOL This year, to help fundraise for Settle Pool, Bentham Town Council have agreed to donate any profits from the sale of its annual calendar to the pool. The calendar contains some lovely pictures that have been taken around the local area, not just Bentham.

Please help to fundraise and support our local pool by purchasing a calendar. Calendars will be on sale via Settle Pool's website:

<https://www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk/fundraising/how-can-i-help/>

FUN DAY FRIDAY Did you know, if your child does not regularly take a school meal, then we are once again offering the 'Fun Day Friday' option! This is an excellent opportunity for your child to try a delicious freshly prepared school meal – on a Friday! Meals can be secured by e-mailing admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk. School Meals are FREE for ALL children in Reception, Years 1 and 2, FREE for children eligible for Free School Meals, £2.10 per meal for children in Nursery and £2.55 per meal for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. Friday Meal choices are either:

Sausage in a Bun/Falafel Burger/Jacket Potato
Fish Fingers/Loaded Potato Skin/Jacket Potato
Beef Burger in a Bun/Sweet Potato and Lentil
Curry/Jacket Potato

Payment should be made via Parentpay.

NYCC SEND Provision If your child has been identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities then NYCC and PCV are striving to work more closely with parents in local areas to ensure services are working for children, young people and their families. Parents are invited to join local parent/carer virtual meetings where information will be shared about the new SEND Hub structures and discussions will take place about services moving forwards. Craven's ZOOM meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 10th December 2020 from 10.00am until 11.00am. To find out more, or to book a place please visit the events page on the Parent Carer Voice website www.Parentcarervoiceuk.org/events. Further information is also available via e-mail at info@parentcarervoiceuk.org.

Breakfast Club Every weekday morning (term-time only) in the School Hall. Full sessions, including activities, breakfast and refreshments run from 8.00am until 9.00am and are priced at £4.00 per child per day. Half sessions are also available, priced at £2.00 per child per day including activities and refreshments. If you would like your child to join our Breakfast Club provision, please e-mail admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk to pre-book a session. Thank you.

Uniform and Leisurewear Company Limited The Uniform and Leisurewear shop based in Lancaster, have confirmed that they will once again be opening their shop on the 4th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 14th, 16th and 18th December 2020 between the hours of 9.30am and

4.30pm. Uniform is still available to purchase online at www.ualonline.com.

Christmas Activity Days Jill Eccleston (who many of our children know from PE Lessons), in collaboration with RunBikeFun, the Yorkshire Dales Guides and Stick in the Wood has let school know about some Christmas Activity Days that will be taking place at Yorkshire Dales Guides in Stainforth, Settle. Sessions will be taking place from Saturday 19th December to Wednesday 23rd December from 11.00am to 6.00pm. Sessions are aimed at children aged 7 years and over, and include gift making and Christmas crafts. The charge per child is £50 to include all activities and craft materials. For more information, please e-mail info@runbikefun.co.uk

Reminder, for more information about Covid and symptoms in children, please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

Parentpay Can we please remind parents/carers to regularly check their child's Parentpay Account. Please remember, if you are financially struggling and are unable to pay off an outstanding Parentpay debt then please contact the school. There are options available, including making small weekly contributions. Failure to contact the school about an outstanding balance may result in a referral being made to NYCC's Legal Team.