

10th December 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mr Hiley

This week additional measures have been put in place by the UK Government in response to the new Omicron variant of Covid 19. As readers will have seen or heard from the news this new variant has the ability to spread more easily. Many schools are now cancelling parent performances of nativities and Christmas concerts as they feel they cannot go ahead safely. At the time of writing, we feel that our approach of a limited audience is still possible and we can do this in a Covid safe way as long as everyone plays their part. As a result, we are still going ahead with our Prickly Hay production but would once again like to emphasise to parents and family members who will be attending the performance that they should not attend if they have ONE or more symptoms of Covid. Please also consider not attending if you are not well with any other potentially contagious illness. As everyone will appreciate, there are also a lot of nasty coughs, colds and bugs doing the rounds at this moment in time – we need to limit the spread of any illness.

We have not issued 'physical' tickets for the performance, but we will be making reference to our pre-booking list. If you have not provided a contact number on your reply slip then you will be asked to provide this prior to entering the school hall. In addition, we are asking members of the audience wear a face covering AT ALL TIMES whilst in the school building (unless medically exempt) and not to enter corridors and classrooms. In addition, to help keep everyone as safe as possible, **prior to attending a performance, please carry out a Lateral Flow Test.**

Finally, if you have not yet downloaded the NHS Covid 19 App we would recommend you do this. There will be a Bentham School QR code to scan at the entrance to the hall and we would strongly recommend that you scan this on entry to the building. This will allow any infections to be tracked should they happen.

On Wednesday 1st December, a team of keen athletes, Oscar, Wilf, Reggie, Finley, Cheska, Tilly, Dora, Zoe, Missy, Ellie, Freyja, Teddy, Casper, William, Archie, Reuben, Riley and Thomas from across classes 3,4 and 5 all took part in an Inter-School Cross Country Festival at Giggleswick School. It may have been a very long time since children were able to represent their school at an external fixture, but our children were, as ever, a credit to the school and local community. Well done to all those

children who took part, and thank you to parents for their invaluable support.

Our Christmas Parties will be taking place across school on Thursday 16th December. Children are invited to come to school in their party clothes if they want to. There is even a rumour that a certain Mr Claus may also have this date in his very busy seasonal diary..... But as with everything this year – there are no guarantees!

Earlier today lots of us at the school tucked into a delicious Christmas Dinner. Thank you to Lila and John our wonderful school cooks for putting on such a delicious festive feast. The meal was made even more festive by the wonderful array of Christmas jumpers and accessories on display! Thank you to everyone who made a donation of £1.00 towards Mental Health Charities and came to school wearing a Christmas Jumper or Christmas accessories.

This week, on Wednesday 7th December, children in classes 1,2,3,4 and 5 made their way to the Auction Mart and took part in the Community Carol Service. Whilst the weather was what can only be described as dismal, our children really shone at the Service. It was also wonderful to see so many parents there.

Next week, depending once again on Covid restrictions, we are hoping that children in Classes 4 and 5 will be visiting the Victoria Institute during the afternoon of Wednesday 15th December and treating some elderly local residents from our community to some Carol Singing.

Following on from a letter sent home earlier in the week, I would just like to once again remind parents that swimming lessons for children in Class 4 that were scheduled to start in January 2022 have, unfortunately, had to be cancelled. Regrettably, during Storm Arwen on Saturday 27th November the roof to Settle Swimming Pool was significantly damaged. Following assessment of the damage a decision has been made that the roof is so badly damaged the pool will have to temporarily close. Whilst this is very disappointing news, I am sure everyone will understand and only wish to pass on their thanks to staff at the pool for their continued hard work and efforts towards keeping the pool open, especially whilst construction works have been underway to improve the

10th December 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

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pool for everyone's future use. An official statement from Settle Pool is attached to this Newsletter.

Our Christmas Crafts evening was an absolute seasonal treat and as popular as ever. It was lovely to see so many children engaged in making home-made gifts and treats.

Over the past two weeks all of our Key Stage 1 and 2 children have been completing some in-school assessments to help staff identify any potential gaps in learning and to enable them to put in place the necessary support and interventions to help children 'catch up' with any learning missed due to Covid and school closures. I would just like to congratulate children on all their hard work and dedication to learning and for completing assessments over the past couple of weeks. All our children have worked relentlessly and simply 'got on with the task in hand,' – well done you make us all very proud.

Finally, unfortunately and disappointingly, there has been quite a lot of negative activity connected with the school on Facebook recently – mostly, but not exclusively, about issues or concerns parents might have about the school. Can I please once again remind parents, that if you have any concerns or questions about any aspect of school, no matter how big or small, then please either contact your child's class teacher or myself. Unfortunately, if, as a school, we are unaware of any issues then they cannot be resolved. As with many social media sites, it would be nice to see positive comments and posts; these sites are not places to air grievances or criticise and insult school staff who all work incredibly hard to do the very best they can for the children. Any person who has liked our school page, but then uses it inappropriately will be immediately blocked from the account and, if necessary, reported to appropriate authorities. This is a last resort and something we do not want to do however, it is not fair for staff to be subjected to such negative comments without the right to reply. Thank you to everyone who has been both supportive and positive over the past unprecedented year which has, after-all, been difficult for all of us.

We would also like to ask parents not to use Facebook as a means of communicating with school about urgent matters. Please continue to contact the school directly. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr T Hiley

Interim Headteacher

Online Carol Service for Ingleborough Churches

We were delighted to be invited to offer a contribution to this online carol service. Mia, Max, William, Ellie and Casper were video recorded delivering readings and prayers for the carol service. The readings will be aired on Sunday 12th December from 9.00am. Please visit 'You Tube' and search for 'Ingleborough Churches.'

Snow and Ice

Storm Arwen brought some very unwelcome snow and black ice to our playground at the beginning of last week. As this was the first time we had encountered such bad weather since the introduction of our altered entrance arrangements our usual gritting and entry procedures did not work effectively. As a result, we have reviewed our policy to ensure we can bring children and parents into school safely when the conditions are very icy.

A copy of the policy is attached to this newsletter with changes highlighted in yellow. I would be very grateful if you could spare a few moments to read it. We will ensure that we inform parents via text by 8.30am if we have to put our snow and ice plan into action.

Car Parking

Can we remind parents about using the school's car park safely. Please do not double park, block other cars in, park in the gateway or abandon vehicles. Perhaps consider walking to school, or alternatively, if distance is the issue, driving only part of the journey to school, parking up in a safe and legal place and walking the remainder of the journey to school. Likewise, please do not block driveways or highways, please consider that these actions might have a significant impact should an emergency vehicle need access.

Free Family Events for Christmas at the Methodist Church

MESSY CHURCH : Sunday 5th December 2021 : 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Christingle Service : 12th December 2021 : 4.00pm

Carol Service : Sunday 19th December at 4.00pm
Crib Service : Friday 24th December 2021 at 4.00pm

10th December 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

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For more information about the above events, please see attached Flyer or visit www.ingleboroughchurches.org.uk

Mobile Phones on school grounds.

We understand that parents and carers may wish to use mobile phones to make calls, check messages on social media etc while they are waiting for their children at the end of the school day, and we are absolutely fine with this. We would ask however, that you do not use your device cameras to take photographs while on school premises. We have several families who have expressly asked that their children do not feature on any photographs taken in school and it is an important safeguarding issue that we respect their wishes. If there is something specific you would like a photograph of, please have a word with your child's class teacher and we will be able to arrange it, if at all possible.

Return of Baby and Toddler Group

We are absolutely delighted to confirm that the Friends of Bentham School are once again offering a '@Covid secure' Baby and Toddler Group session, every Friday, term-time only in the School Hall. The next session will be on Friday 17th December 2021 from 9.30am until 11.00am. If you have a pre-school aged child, then please do pop along to this friendly informal group – we look forward to seeing you!

Covid-19

There is clear evidence (ZOE Covid Study) that a runny nose and cold like symptoms are now the most common symptoms of Covid infection in unvaccinated children. This is challenging as we move into the usual Autumn cold and flu season therefore, we would strongly recommend that if your child is showing mild cold symptoms including a runny or blocked nose you test regularly with an LFD (Lateral Flow Device) test. By following guidance, we can help prevent the spread of Covid and protect our friends, families and communities. Advice from the Government continues to state:

“Do not use a rapid lateral flow test if you have COVID-19 symptoms as listed on the NHS website. [Get a PCR test](#) as soon as possible and [self-isolate](#), while awaiting the result even if symptoms are mild”.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms that could be attributable to Covid without undertaking an appropriate test. Please remember, that in line with advice from the Local Authority, it may be deemed necessary to send a child home, or not accept them in class if they are displaying covid symptoms and have not been tested. As is always the case, thank you to everyone in advance for their co-operation, support and understanding.

PE Days

Nursery:	Thursday (AM)
Class 1 :	Tuesday/Friday : PM (including Nursery children who stay for afternoon sessions)
Class 2 :	Tuesday/Wednesday
Class 3 :	Monday/Tuesday
Class 4 :	Monday/Tuesday
Class 5 :	Monday/Tuesday

Christmas Reading Challenge

North Yorkshire Libraries will be running a Christmas Reading Challenge for 4–11-year-olds from Saturday 20th November. As a reward for reading children will be able to earn stickers, prizes and certificates. For more information, please see the attached leaflet, or contact North Yorkshire Libraries on 01609 534547. www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 13th December 2021

Connie's Chicken Quesadilla
Five Veggie Pasta
Jacket Potato

Tuesday 14th December 2021

Pasta Bolognaise
Cauliflower and Broccoli Cheese Bake
Jacket Potato

9.45am [The Prickly Hay](#)
2.00pm [The Prickly Hay](#)
6.00pm [The Prickly Hay](#)

3.30pm-4.20pm After School Basketball Club



10th December 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Wednesday 15th December 2021

Sausage Toad in the Hole

Vegetarian Sausage

Jacket Potato

1.15pm Classes 4 and 5 to Victoria Institute Carol Service

Thursday 16th December 2021

Fish Fingers

Cheese Pastry

Jacket Potato

AM : Nursery, Classes 1 and 2 Christmas Party

PM : Classes 3,4 and 5 Christmas Party

3.30pm-4.30pm CREST Science Club

Friday 17th December 2021

Cheese and Tomato Pizza

Veggie Fajita

Jacket Potato

**9.30am – 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group in the
School Hall**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Apply for a child's Reception Place by 15th January 2022
(N)

Festive Dates for your Diary...

14/12/2021 : The Prickly Hay Performance (EYFS/KS1)

16/12/2021 : Christmas Party Day

17/12/2021 : Last day of Term school closes at 3.30pm

04/01/2022: Coach Gunn's Holiday Sports Camp

05/01/2022 : School Re-opens

10th December 2021

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Join us and help give young
people a brighter future

*Sunday December 12th 4.00 p.m.
At Bentham Methodist Church*



christingle.org

Charity Registration No. 221124



XT01334/0919

10th December 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Free Family Events for Christmas at the Methodist church

Sunday 5th December, 2.30-4.30pm

Messy Church

Christmas Crafts, games and story, plus hot dogs and cakes for everyone

Sunday 12th December, 4pm

Christingle Service - come and make a Christingle

A short, fun service in support of the Children's Society

Sunday 19th December, 4pm

Carol Service

Worship the Newborn King with well-known songs and readings

Friday 24th December, 4pm

Crib Service - come and be a character in the nativity, costume optional!

10th December 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

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SETTLE AREA SWIMMING POOL

Kendal Road, Giggleswick, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 0BU
Tel: 01729 823626 info@settlewimmingpool.co.uk
www.settlewimmingpool.co.uk

News release from Settle Pool

Settle Pool forced to closed after storm Arwen damages roof

Settle Area Swimming Pool was among the buildings in Craven damaged in storm Arwen in the early hours of November 27th.

A substantial amount of damage was done to the pool roof and as a result the pool will remain closed into the New Year.

Major redevelopment work is taking place at the pool at present and, whilst some damage was done to the building site, work was able to resume later in the week.

The roof damage, which was not connected to the building work, has led to water damage to the ceiling and some leakage onto the pool cover. The pool was closed on Saturday November 27th as soon as the extent of the damage was recognised. Classes, private hire and public sessions have all been cancelled until further notice. Customers with a booking for one of our sessions who asked for a credit please get in touch by e-mail (info@settlewimmingpool.co.uk) and we will arrange a refund. All customers who have paid for the current block (November to February 2022) of swimming lessons (£58.30 per child) will receive a full refund. We do realise that one lesson from this block has been delivered, however, we will not charge you for this. This lesson is with our compliments as a thank you for working with us and for the inconvenience caused by this further closure. Please note once the pool reopens the above customers (with paid up accounts) will be given priority to re-enrol to our Learn to Swim Programme. Customers on our Waiting List for lessons will be contacted afterwards.

The pool had been operating on a reduced timetable with temporary changing arrangements whilst the redevelopment takes place and it had been hoped to keep it open for most of the building work which is due to be completed early next summer.

The building is fully covered for insurance purposes and discussions are now taking place with the insurance company.

10th December 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

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