

17th December 2021

FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



Message from Mr Hiley

Finally, we have made it to the end of the Autumn Term! I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the whole school community for all their support and continued efforts to keep everyone safe over the past weeks. These are certainly unprecedented times, and as reported in the national news, the country is now facing a further pandemic as the Omicron variant spreads at great speed across the country. It has never been more important to keep safe and look out for each other.

Fortunately, on Tuesday 14th December we were able to go ahead with our performance of The Prickly Hay. Thank you to parents/carers for being so understanding about the need to limit audience numbers. For some of our younger children, this was their very first stage debut. The production was an absolute delight to watch and all our children were absolutely amazing. Well done everyone and thank you to school staff for working so hard to ensure this production went ahead.

As you may have seen on the school's Facebook Page, last Friday, 10th December our Forest School Leader, Mrs McGregor, invited a few children from the Parent and Toddler Group to take part in a Winter Forest School session. Younger children absolutely delighted in rummaging around the wilderness, stomping around in their wellies and making wooden Christmas decorations for families to treasure for years to come! This was a trial session, but because of the positive feedback and enthusiasm of parents to engage in further sessions, we will be hosting more Parent and Toddler Forest School activities in the New Year.

This week, we will be saying a fond goodbye to Mrs Milner, our Nursery Teacher and Miss Webster, class 2 teacher. I am sure everyone will join me in wishing both Mrs Milner and Mrs Webster the very best of luck in their future roles. Both members of staff will be greatly missed.

We will also be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Hodgson at the end of December. Mrs Hodgson will not be returning from maternity leave as previously planned.

Joining us from January 2022 will be Mrs Susan Richardson (not Sarah Richardson) in Nursery and Miss Hannah Wilson in Class 2. Both Mrs Richardson and Miss Wilson are very experienced teachers, with a vast amount of knowledge and hands-on experience in EYFS and KS1.

We very much look forward to welcoming both new members of staff to the school. If you do see Mrs Richardson, or Miss Wilson, do say hello.

Class 4 have been busy this week applying their science skills, by building working miniature lighthouses utilising electronic circuits. Whilst it may not be seasonal, these creations really are a site to behold! The model lighthouses are absolutely stunning – well done.

In last week's Friday News information was shared about Mia, Max, William, Ellie and Casper from Class 5 contributing to an on-line Carol Service for Ingleborough Churches. The Carol Service is now available for everyone to watch at <https://youtube/Rjt8n9UTmhs>.

During Wednesday afternoon children in Classes 4 and 5 walked down to The Victoria Institute and treated some of our local community's elder residents to some Carol singing. All our children were wonderful ambassadors for the school and everyone in the audience thoroughly enjoyed some seasonal cheer and traditional Carols, even joining in with children's singing.

On Thursday 16th December, Father Christmas managed to secure some time to visit children in all classes on their party day. Every child was handed a pre-Christmas gift - thank you Santa and The Friends of Bentham School (you know who you are).

By way of a reminder, can I please emphasise to parents/carers that if they have any concerns or questions about any aspect of school, no matter how big or small, then please either contact myself or your child's class teacher. Social Media sites are not appropriate platforms to air grievances, criticise or insult. Please also do not use Facebook as a means of communicating with school no matter how urgent.

Finally, and once again, thank you to everyone who has been so supportive and positive over the difficult Autumn Term. On behalf of the Staff and Governors may I wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year. See you all on Wednesday 5th January 2022 ready to face the challenges the new Spring Term will, undoubtedly, bring!

Mr T Hiley

Interim Headteacher

17th December 2021

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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

Carol Service : Sunday 19th December at 4.00pm
Crib Service : Friday 24th December 2021 at 4.00pm
For more information about the above events, please see attached Flyer or visit www.ingleboroughchurches.org.uk
Children are invited to go along to Bentham Methodist Church dressed in nativity costumes and ready to take part in this year's Crib Service on Friday 24th December 2021 at 4.00pm. If you do not have a costume but would still like the opportunity to take part in this festive Service, then please do go along as some costumes are available at the Church on the day.

What's Happening in Bentham? Readers are invited to an event hosted by 'Bentham Moving Forward' on Saturday 15th January 2022 from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Town Hall. Bentham Moving Forward are asking 'What will you do in 2022?'. The event is aimed at everyone, including families new to the area or those simply looking for something 'new' to do! Did you know Bentham has over 40 clubs and groups that offer friendship, fun, education, arts, exercise, support and much, much more?

For more information, please go along to this exciting event on Saturday 15th January and meet members of Bentham's Groups. Entry is FREE of charge and there will be music, refreshments and entertainment for children. For more details, or if you would like to showcase your local organisation, please e-mail:

benthammovingforward@gmail.com

Bentham – you can make things happen here!

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 7th January 2022 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)

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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 3rd January 2022

SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 4th January 2022

SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN

STAFF INSET DAY

Coach Mark Gunn's Holiday Sports Camp (pre-booked places only).

Wednesday 5th January 2022

SCHOOL RE-OPENS

Minced Beef and Yorkshire Puddings

Vegetable Casserole and Yorkshire Puddings

Jacket Potato

Thursday 6th January 2022

Fish Fingers

Veggie Burger in a Bun

Jacket Potato

Friday 7th January 2022

Sausage and Mash

Veggie Sausage and Mash

Jacket Potato

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

SCHOOL MEALS : FREE SCHOOL MEALS : MEAL ORDERING

These are difficult times, with financial circumstances changing on an almost daily basis for some families. In some instances, families may be missing out on Free School Meals. Any child in ANY year group may be eligible for Free School Meals and some additional financial support. Remember ALL children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are eligible for UNIVERSAL free school meals, but families may also be entitled to some additional financial support. Free School Meal eligibility for children in younger year groups includes universal entitlement and additional pupil premium funding which helps support children in school with their learning. If you think you may be eligible for some additional support, then please contact Sally in the School Office. Please be reassured that all applications will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

As we start the new term, and in line with School Policy, can I please remind parents that children cannot swap and change on a daily/weekly basis from school meals to packed lunches. More and more we are noticing children having a packed lunch one day and ordering a school meal the next day. This is NOT in line with School Policy and detrimentally affects meal numbers and food ordering.

As a school, we do ask that parents/carers commit to ordering school meals on a half-termly basis. Obviously, there are exceptions when a child who usually brings a packed lunch will need to order a meal in an emergency situation, and this can be accommodated. Likewise, if your child would like to try a school meal, or take a meal once per week, then they are welcome to join in with Fun Day Friday which is available EVERY Friday at school. Meals can be ordered during registration and should be paid for via Parentpay.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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

Dates for your Diary...

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

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

(any queries please e-mail Coach Gunn : coachmarkgunn@gmail.com)

17th December 2021

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04/01/2022 : Staff INSET Day

05/01/2022 : School Re-opens to Children

**Bentham Methodist Church
and Bentham Parish Church**

Crib Service

Friday 24th December

4.00 p.m.

At

Bentham Methodist Church



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Bentham Community
Primary School