

25th March 2022

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



## Message from Mrs McGregor

The weather this week has been absolutely glorious, with the sun shining every single day. It has been delightful to see children enjoying the school field, trim trail and track. As the weather warms up, can I please remind parents to send children into school with water bottles and sun-hats, please also consider applying a sun-cream at the start of the school day.

Unfortunately, with the sunshine, it becomes necessary for children to take off their school jumpers, coats and cardigans whilst enjoying break-times. Can I please remind parents/carers to ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with children's names – inevitably this week there have been a number of clothing items that have lost their original owner. Likewise could parents/carers please check over the weekend that another child's clothing has not appeared in laundry baskets by mistake..... thank you.

As everyone may have noticed we have, once again, this year got our resident Oyster Catchers setting up home and nursery on the school roof! It seems the benefit of peace during school holidays outweighs the noise endured during the school week!

Following consideration of the impact of Covid and infection rates at the school, at the time of writing face-to-face Parent Interviews are still scheduled to take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>. I would, however, ask parents/carers to bear in mind that the situation could change at short notice. Thank you as ever for working with and supporting school.

Confirmation of appointment times should now have been received by parents. If you are unable to make the time allocated, then please contact the School Office so an alternative date and time can be secured.

By way of a reminder, for those parents/carers of children in Classes 1,2,3,4, and 5, please ensure that you only arrive at school FIVE minutes before your allocated appointment. Members of the Governing Body will be welcoming parents/carers into school – they will also be asking parents/carers to complete a short questionnaire. The questionnaire is anonymous, and completion of the questionnaire is very much appreciated. There will be an opportunity to look at your child's work outside of classrooms prior to meeting with teaching staff. Please only look at your own child's work. At the end of your

parent interview, please leave classrooms through the door exiting onto the school playground. We are asking parents/carers to consider wearing a face covering at all times whilst in the school building and ensuring that social distancing is observed.

For those parents/carers of children in Nursery, parent interviews will take place during the afternoon of Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March. We are asking that parents/carers wait at the car park entrance doors (near to the Community Room), where they will be welcomed to appointments by class teacher, Mrs Richardson. Again, please consider wearing face coverings, and keep socially distanced. Thank you.

As is always the case, I would encourage parents/carers to continue to regularly LFD test children and other family members if they are showing any signs of Covid. Whilst the number of infections has decreased this week at school, there are still new cases being reported daily.

This week Mrs Harrison has sent information home to parents/carers about a collection of items that is being put together to help Ukrainian refugees. Donated items will be transported to Poland and sent to Primary Schools on the 27<sup>th</sup> March. A massive thank you to all those families who have helped, donated and shown their support.

Also this week, Mrs Duckett has been working with the School Council looking at ways children can help raise money to support the dire situation in Ukraine. Ideas included selling sweet cones, selling ice cream, a school raffle, an enterprise project, talent show and cake sale. After much deliberation, it was decided to sell 'Bacon Butties' from **8.40am** in the School Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April, the last day of term. Butties will be priced at £1.50 each (any additional donations welcome); parents/carers, younger siblings, grandmas and grandads (you get the picture) are also welcome to pop into the hall and grab themselves a delicious butty! There will also be vegetarian sausage butties on sale. Also on the 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a non-uniform day, the theme of which being yellow and blue to represent the Ukrainian Flag. In return for a voluntary contribution of £1.00, if children wish, they can come to school dressed up representing the theme of the fundraiser.

Thank you to everyone who helped support this year's Comic Relief efforts. As a school we managed to raise an astounding £350.00 – well done everyone.

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Thank you also to those who supported 'Rock your Socks Day' for Down Syndrome. I can honestly say there were some 'out there' sock combinations, children truly rocking those socks!

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 we will also be celebrating Easter, and inviting all children in all classes to join a Happy Easter Celebratory Lunch. Roast Chicken, Roast and Mashed Potatoes, Yorkshire Puddings, Broccoli and Sweetcorn will be on the menu together with a vegetarian option (sausage and Yorkshire pudding) or a Jacket Potato. For dessert Chocolate Fudge Pudding with Chocolate Sauce, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt..... There is no need to pre-order, meals can be ordered during registration on the day. Meals are priced at £2.10 per child in Nursery, FREE for children in reception, years 1 and 2 and £2.55 each for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. Meals are also FREE for those children eligible for Free School meals.

North Yorkshire County Council's catering team have recently highlighted to the school that a number of children are missing out on Free School Meals, or are choosing not to take a school meal if they are eligible. If your circumstances have recently changed, then you could be missing out. ALL children meeting criteria are eligible for Free School Meals, from Nursery through to Year 6 (including additional funding for children in reception, years 1 and 2). For more information, please see the attached leaflet.

As I am sure everyone will be aware, unfortunately Settle Swimming Pool was forced to shut due to storm damage earlier in the year. Settle Swimming Pool is now hoping to open it's doors to customers later this Summer..... as part of the refurbishment of the roof, the pool are planning to install solar panels and to help support funding for this they have recently launched a special fund-raising project. The first of the fund-raisers will be a team of pool staff entering a Dragon Boat Regatta being held at Coniston Cold on the 15<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to help support fundraising efforts then please sponsor these valiant paddlers!  
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sasp-dragonboat-2022>. For the latest news and progress on the pool development please visit  
<https://www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk/news-and-events/our-building-blog>.

I am absolutely delighted to announce that our Nursery

provision is continuing to grow and thrive with little learners. Unfortunately, this means that Mrs Richardson (not Miss Richardson in Class 2) will be leaving us on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April. As from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, when school re-opens after the Easter holidays, we are hoping to run an exclusive Nursery Class all day, every day for the whole of the Summer Term. Interviews for the post of Class Teacher will be taking place on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. These are exciting times for our Nursery! If your child already attends our Nursery, or is due to start after Easter, please ensure that completed Parental Agreements are returned to the School Office by no later than Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Failure to return agreements may result in your child losing their place. Remember if you need any help completing the agreement, then please contact Sally in the School Office.

I would just like to thank parents/carers for all their interest in the two Parent Governor roles that are currently available here at the school. In total the Governing Body received six nominations. This has meant that the decision of which two candidates should be appointed for a four year term on the school's board now has to be made by you, as parents/carers. Ballot papers have been sent home with children and parents/carers are invited to vote for TWO individuals who they would like to see as Parent Governors. Please ensure that you follow voting instructions carefully and return completed Ballot Papers to the School Office by no later than 9.00am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – over to you.

Again, can I remind parents/carers of children in Year 6 that this year SATS tests will be taking place during the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> May. Can parents/carers please ensure that children are in school during this week and avoid taking time off. Whilst SATS can be a worrying time for children, I would like to reassure parents/carers that school are doing everything they can to support children and ensure they are ready for these national tests. If you do have any concerns, no matter how big or small, please do get in touch with me.

Finally, on Monday and Tuesday next week (28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>) Sally will be taking part in a First Aid Refresher course, meaning that the School Office will be closed. If you do need to contact the school, please e-mail the [admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) address. A member of staff will check messages left on the answerphone, but

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bear in mind this will only be periodically.

Have a lovely weekend, enjoy the sunshine, perhaps set yourself a challenge and aim to ascent Ingleborough, Whernside or Pen-y-ghent..... and enjoy a family picnic at altitude! Who knows, I might even see you at the top.

Take care, stay safe.

Mrs A McGregor  
Acting Interim Headteacher.

**Wray Scarecrow Festival** This year school would like to take part in the School Scarecrow competition at the Wray Scarecrow Festival. This year's theme is 'Celebrate'. Children have been sent home with a leaflet, asking them to design a scarecrow. Children need to think what materials would be needed for their design, how the scarecrow could be made, and how the Scarecrow would stand up, sit down or stay in place! Designs should be returned to school by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. The School Council will then vote which is their favourite design – Have Fun, Get Creative, Get Designing!

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 (not an April Fools) from 9.30am to 11.00am in the School Hall.

**Pop-Up Pantry** The Pop-up Pantry in Bentham is open at the Methodist Church every Wednesday 10.00am to 12.00 mid/day. Please bring any food items you might have spare, and take away any food items you might require! If you are struggling for groceries, then there is no need to 'bring' any food, but you are welcome to collect some provisions. Everyone is welcome, deliveries of food parcels can be arranged in special circumstances, text or call 07942 364606.

## PE Days

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

Class 4 : Monday/Tuesday

Class 5 : Monday/Tuesday

## Dates for your Diary

### Monday 28th March 2022

**School Office CLOSED**

Chicken Korma

Vegetable Korma

Jacket Potato

### Tuesday 29th March 2022

**School Office CLOSED**

Macaroni Cheese

Sweet and Sour Vegetables

Jacket Potato

### Guitar Lessons (Mr S Redfern)

3.30pm – 4.20pm After School Basketball Club

3.40pm-5.50pm Parent Interviews (1,2,3,4 and 5)

### Wednesday 30th March 2022

Roast Chicken

Cheese and Tomato Pasta

Jacket Potato

3.40pm – 5.50pm Parent Interviews (1,2,3,4, and 5)

1.00pm to 3.50pm – Parent Interviews NURSERY

### Thursday 31st March 2022

Interviews for EYFS Nursery Class Teacher

Nacho Beef Bake

Vegetable and Bean Chilli

Jacket Potato

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

**APRIL FOOL'S DAY.....**

Battered Fish

Roasted Vegetable Roll

Jacket Potato

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

## REMEMBER

Return Parental Agreements – Nursery Parents

4<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Return Ballot Papers for Parent Governor by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Return Bentham Easter Holidays 2022 Multi Sports Camp and Activity Days reply ASAP.

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## Easter Holiday Activity Sessions

Have you ever fancied a go at Abseiling, Caving or a Walk on the 'Wild Side' – then this Easter why not give it a go! Olly Roberts Outdoors, who has worked with the school previously, is offering a number of sessions over the East Holidays. For more information, please see the attached leaflet.

## Useful Addresses

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

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers>

[admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
[Nursery@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:Nursery@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
[class1@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class1@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
[class2@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class2@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
[class3@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class3@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
[class4@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class4@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
[class5@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:class5@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk)

**Did you know**

- You could be missing out of £450 of free school meals
- All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are entitled to free school meals
- If you are eligible for certain income support and allowances, support under the Immigration and Asylum Act, child tax credit, working tax credit, or universal credit, you may also be able to obtain free school meals

Children learn best on a full tummy and you could save time and money. Speak to your school office to find out if your child is eligible for free school meals or visit our website for more information and to apply: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals)

**75% of our food is produced daily in our school kitchen**

The fruit and vegetables we use are from local suppliers to promote local businesses, and reduce our carbon footprint

Our menu is nutritionally analysed; it is balanced and healthy

We use sustainably caught fish, free-range eggs, and Red Tractor meat

Information and menu guidance available on any specific dietary requirements your child may have

Our menu changes regularly to reflect the seasons

North Yorkshire County Council

Don't miss out 1.74 million\* pupils are currently eligible for free school meals – make sure you don't miss out.  
\*Based on Census Data

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## Easter Holiday Activity Sessions

### ABSEILING AT STORRS COMMON, INGLETON

<b>THURSDAY 14th APRIL 2022</b>	Evening session 6:00-7:30pm	Ages 8+	£15 per place or two places for £25
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This is an open session for children and adults to have a go at a variety of abseils around Storrs Common. This is a really progressive session as there are a number of abseils at differing heights.

### FAMILY CAVING SESSIONS

<b>SATURDAY 16th APRIL 2022</b>	9.30am-12.00 or 1.00-3.30pm	Age 6+ Children must be accompanied by at least 1 participating adult (18+)	£20.00 per person
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Thistle and Runscar, Ribblesdale Viaduct 1/2 day Caving  
A great introduction to caving with optional challenges along the way.

<b>SATURDAY 23rd APRIL 2022</b>	9.00am-12.30pm or 1.30-5.00pm	Age 10+ Children must be accompanied by at least 1 participating adult (18+)	£25.00 per person
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Long Churn, Selside, near Horton in Ribblesdale 1/2 day Caving  
Another great introduction to caving with some climbs along the way.

### INGLEBOROUGH SUNRISE WALK

<b>EASTER MONDAY 18th APRIL</b>	4am meet in Ingleton for a 6:15am sunrise. Aiming to be back down for 9:30am.	Age 10+ Children must be accompanied by at least 1 participating adult (18+)	£25 per person
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Start and finishing in Ingleton, we'll make our way to Ingleborough summit for sunrise followed by an explore of the wild side and one of the quietest limestone pavements in the Yorkshire Dales on our descent.

### HOW TO BOOK...

Please email [ollyrobertsoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:ollyrobertsoutdoors@gmail.com) to book a place, stating which activity you would like to book.

A booking form will be sent to you and your place will be confirmed once payment has been received.