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1st September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Welcome Back – and a Warm Hello from Your New Headteacher**

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break with your families.

It is with great excitement and genuine pride that I write to you as the Headteacher of Bentham Community Primary School. I feel truly privileged to join this vibrant community and I am very much looking forward to getting to know our wonderful children and families over the coming weeks. This is a fresh chapter for us all, and I believe that—together—we can build a happy, ambitious, and inclusive school environment where every child can thrive.

My heartfelt thanks go to our kind and welcoming staff team, who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure everything is ready for the children's return.

### **Settling Back into School Life**

We are delighted to welcome back all our pupils and families for what promises to be an exciting year ahead. A particularly warm welcome goes to those joining us for the first time. Whether your child is returning or just beginning their journey at Bentham, we are committed to ensuring every child feels safe, supported, and valued from day one.

Over the next few days, class teachers will share key information about daily routines, homework expectations, and PE days. A reminder that children should continue to come to school in their PE kit on designated days, following our uniform policy. If PE clothing is not appropriate, parents may be contacted to bring the correct items.

### **Communication & Information**

We are committed to keeping you well informed. Over the coming weeks, you will receive:



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- **Class Newsletters** with curriculum topics and key routines
- **Whole-school Newsletters** each half term, with important dates, achievements, and news. This exciting new 'Newsletter' will replace the Friday News.
- **A Learning Journal**, delivered via Tapestry for children in Reception and Nursery (Early Years).
- **A calendar of key events** (assemblies, parents' evenings, performances)

## Consent Forms

Please look out for a Data Capture Form and a Medical Form in children's book bags over the coming week. Can you please complete the Medical Form and make amendments to any incorrect data the school holds on the Data Capture Form. Please complete both these documents as quickly as possible and return them to the School Office at your earliest convenience. This is so we have all the necessary information to support your child. For those children in Years 5 and 6 there is also a 'Consent to Walk Home from School' form that needs to be completed and returned.

## Uniform & Attendance

We take pride in our school's appearance. All pupils are expected to wear the correct school uniform each day unless otherwise advised. Full guidance is on our website, and if you are experiencing difficulties obtaining items, please do get in touch—we are here to help.

Excellent attendance is a high priority for us. We ask that pupils attend regularly, arrive punctually, and avoid holidays during term time. My aim will always be to work positively with families, providing help and support wherever needed.

## School Meals & Clubs

Our freshly prepared school meals continue to offer great value and meet government nutritional standards. Dinner prices this year are £2.60 per child per day in Nursery and £3.20 per day per child in years 3,4,5 and 6. All children in Reception, Year 1 and year 2 are eligible for Universal Free School Meals.

Please remember that Parents/carers of children in ALL year groups are eligible to apply for Free School Meals (including those parents/carers of children entitled to Universal Free School Meals). More information can be accessed via the below link (alternatively, please contact the School Office).

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

We also run extended services, including Breakfast Club and After-School Club. Times and prices are available on our website, and the school office will be happy to help with bookings if you cannot access SchoolComms.



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## Health, Safety & Wellbeing

As part of our healthy school approach, snacks brought from home should be fruit or vegetables only. To protect children with allergies, no nut-based products are permitted on site.

We will shortly be reviewing our Behaviour and Safeguarding Policies, which will be available on the school website. These documents outline our expectations of pupils, parents, and staff, as we work together to maintain the highest standards of care and respect.

## Strengthening Special Needs Provision

One of my priorities this year is to enhance the support available for our vulnerable and special educational needs pupils. While like all schools we face budget pressures, it is vital that every child receives the support they need. I am very grateful to our governors for supporting the recruitment of additional staff to strengthen our provision.

I will be working closely with our SENDCo, Mrs Smith, and the wider staff team to review and develop our services. Every child only gets one chance at their education, and we are determined to do all we can—now rather than later—to give them the best possible start.

## Forest School

Please note, that due to logistics, this term, all Forest School activities will take place at school, utilising our amazing outdoor spaces. This will also mean that all children in all classes will be able to access our wonderful outdoor provision.

## Building Community Links

I am also eager to develop stronger links with the wider Bentham community. Our school should play a central role in supporting and serving the town, and I want our children to be actively involved in making a positive difference.

We are proud of our school, our facilities, and our talented staff team. Together, we will capitalise on the amazing potential we have here at Bentham—both within our building and beyond it. The hard work has already begun, and I am excited about what we can achieve together in the year ahead.

## Opportunities for Parents/Carers

We are busy planning lots of opportunities for parental engagement, including opportunities to take part in activities at the school, or simply call in, have a look around and have an informal chat with members of staff and myself. We are keen to promote an 'open door' culture. Please remember that there is no such thing as a silly question, or a small concern.



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One small change that we will be making is to the Friday Celebration Assembly. This will now take place earlier in the day, meaning that we will be unable to invite parents/carers to join in. However, please be reassured that we are looking at our 'whole school' assembly provision, and I am confident that we will be sharing exciting information and invites to future assemblies with parents/carers.

### **Car Parking at School**

We are incredibly lucky to have the provision of a large car park at the school, and one that can be accessed by all stakeholders.

I would just like to take the opportunity to remind everyone to use the car park both considerably and courteously. Please be extra vigilant about your surroundings when in vehicles, consider other users and children and be mindful of your speed.

When dropping off and picking up, I would encourage parents/carers to stay in their vehicles until a marked space becomes available. This may result in making drop-off and pick-up times taking a little longer, but please be reassured that no child will be marked as arriving 'late' in the morning, due to their parent/carer waiting for a car parking space to become available. I am sure you will agree – safety is paramount.

Please also respect that the 'Disabled Parking' spaces are reserved for blue badge holders.

### **Looking Ahead**

This is a year of opportunity and growth for our school. I believe in openness, collaboration, and clear communication, and I want every child to feel happy, confident, and inspired in their learning.

Over the coming days and weeks, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible—at drop-off, pick-up, or at one of our school events.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. I am honoured to now be part of your child's journey at Bentham Community Primary. While my role as Headteacher is initially for this year, I am determined to see through the important work we have begun—and to make our school one that the whole community is proud of.

With very best wishes,



### **Richard Wright**

Headteacher

Bentham Community Primary School



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