Dear Parents and Carers,

Harvest Festival

I am writing to you regarding our preparations for Harvest Festival this year. We will be taking the children down to the Methodist Church on Monday 14th October to take part in a special assembly for children and staff only, kindly organised by Rev. Ann Fox. We will as always aim to share some photos of the event on Facebook and Twitter.

We would be very grateful if you would be able to contribute to our harvest collection which is in aid of *Harrogate Food Bank and The Harrogate Homeless Project*. Any donations, no matter how small, are very welcome.

We would be very thankful for donations of non-perishable food but especially the following items:

Long Life Milk
Tinned Veg
Tinned Fruit
Pasta Sauce
Chocolate
Tinned Meat
Long Life Juice Cartons
Toiletries
Sugar
Tinned Sponge Pudding
Washing-up Liquid

Please could any donations be brought in during next week or by Monday 14th October at the latest. Thank you very much for your support.

Stay and Learn Sessions

Next half term we will be starting our stay and learn sessions for parents and carers to attend. As before these will be during the last half hour of the school day and will focus on a key aspect of school development. Previous sessions on handwriting, spelling & maths facts (SMIRFS) have provided parents with an insight to how we teach certain aspects of English and Maths as well as offering advice of how to support children at home with their learning.

Our first session this year will focus on VIPERS – our whole school approach to developing reading comprehension skills which was launched last school year. We will provide you with dates for each year group as soon as possible.

Parent Forum

Since Autumn 2017 we have led Parent Forum sessions which provided an opportunity for parents and carers to be updated on the key aspects of our school improvement plan, as well as details relating to school performance. Although this is information that we provide to all parents in letters and other forms of communication throughout the school year, the forum is an opportunity to hear more detail from myself and other school leaders as well as chance to ask any questions or make suggestions linked to the areas of discussion.

We will be arranging a first Forum meeting for after the school half term holiday. If you would be interested in attending, please could you complete the slip below and return (even if you attended regularly in the past). This will enable us to plan ahead in terms of room size and the time to run the sessions.

World Mental Health Day
World Mental Health day is on 10th October. As a school committed to the Health and Well-being of all our staff and pupils we are taking the focus of Managing Feelings and dedicating this day to an off curriculum Focus Day.

Managing Feelings is one of our 5 Key Skills and important for our pupils to develop in order to live well. The day will be filled with workshops, teaching and learning around managing feelings, with exploration of what our feelings are, how to manage them, and that all feelings are normal. There will be an assembly to introduce the Focus Day to the pupils the day before.

FOSS Dates
Following the first meeting of FOSS last week, we have dates for several exciting upcoming events. Full information will be shared by FOSS about each of these very soon.

- Cake/Bake Sale – (Year 6 both classes) – Wednesday 23rd October (straight after school)
- Harrogate Railway/FOSS Fireworks Evening – Sunday 3rd November 6pm (at Harrogate Railway FC)
- Key Stage 1 Movie Night – November (date to follow)
- Christmas Fair – Tuesday 10th December (from 2.30pm – School Hall)

Yours sincerely,

Mr Garry de Castro Morland
Headteacher

Parents Forum Response (please return to school)

I would be interested in attending the Parents Forum sessions and contributing in a positive and constructive way to school development.

Name of parent responding:_____   Signed:_____

Name of child:_____

Preferred time for meetings:_____