

Monday 9th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We now only have 10 school days until the end of the Autumn term. Thank you for your support last week in sending in so many tombola gift bags which will, as always, help FOSS immensely as part of their Fair this week. I would like to remind you of some of the events taking place before the holiday.

- ❖ **FOSS Christmas Fair** - Tuesday 10th December - 2:30pm to 4pm (Main School Hall)
- ❖ **Nursery Sing-A-Long** - Wednesday 11th December – 9.00am (Nursery Parents only)
- ❖ **Reception, Yr 1 & Yr 2 Nativity Play** - Thursday 12th December - 9:15am & 2pm (Main School Hall)
- ❖ **Key Stage 2 (Yr 3-6) Christmas Show** - Tuesday 17th December – 2pm & 6pm (St Andrew's Church)
- ❖ **Christmas Meal** – Wednesday 18th December

Term Dates:

Friday 20th December - Break up for Christmas Holiday
Monday 6th January - Teacher Training Day – No children
Tuesday 7th January - Children return to school (Reception to Yr 6)
Wednesday 8th January – Nursery Class return

Community Carol Service

In addition to the above events, the annual Starbeck Community Carol Service will take place on Sunday 15th December – 6.00pm at Starbeck Methodist Church. This is a joint event held by all Starbeck churches along with our wonderful school choir who will be performing during the event.

Advent Star Trail

We must say a big thank you to everyone at St Andrew's Church for allowing all our classes to visit their Advent Star Trail last week. This provided the children with a time for reflection on various topics such as patience, caring for others and appreciation which are very important qualities, especially at this time of year.

Cricket Opportunities

I was asked to promote this information by Knaresborough Cricket Club:

*The English Cricket Board and the Knaresborough Forest Cricket Club needs help from you and your child to win back both the ICC Men's and Women's Cricket World Cups in the near future!
We are looking now for both girls and boys to join us in 2020 as new members of our Under 9s and Under 11s cricket teams! To find out more and also pre-register your child for any of these teams plus All Stars Cricket email Josh Denize at kfccjuniors@gmail.com or call 07713800097*

Pupil Voice Questionnaires

As part of our on-going school improvement and monitoring, all pupils were recently given the opportunity to feedback on a range of school-wide aspects. We were pleased with their positive comments and thoughts and have already analysed the feedback to identify any objectives going forward. These include:

- Even more opportunity for children to give ideas in relation to clubs (lunchtime and after-school)
- For the school to increase our education and involvement in 'Green' Eco-friendly campaigns and awareness.
- To further develop outdoor learning opportunities (this is already part of our school improvement plan for this year)
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VIPERS Reading Comprehension

Following on from our recent Parent Stay & Learn sessions, a questionnaire was sent out to parents to gain your feedback on your children's views and progress in reading. We have received lots of replies so thank you for these and Mrs Riley, our English Leader, has already begun collating this important feedback.

Over the last 2 years we have made significant changes to how we teach English (Reading, Writing, Handwriting and SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar) and these have shown significant impact in terms of progress and attainment. VIPERS, our approach to developing the core reading comprehension skills and ensuring that these progress across the whole school, is now embedded practice. Having recently watched a range of English lessons with Mrs Riley, we can see excellent progress in the confidence and enjoyment that children of all ages show during lessons. We will incorporate your feedback within our on-going 'Plan-Do-Review' process.

Breakfast & Afterschool Club Bookings

Please could I remind parents that in order for children to attend breakfast or after school club provision, we need to have your bookings in advance. Booking forms are available from Mrs Johnson at the club or from the school office. We organise our staffing in advance and, unless in the case of a genuine emergency, we can not take last minute bookings. If you have booked a session and your plans have changed meaning you no longer need the provision, we would also appreciate advanced notice of this change as we are, on some occasions, expecting a child to attend after school club but they are then collected which can clearly cause confusion. Thank you for your cooperation.

Information from Public Health England

We have been informed that there has been an earlier increase, from what is expected at this time of year, in people reporting diarrhoea and vomiting illnesses. Public Health England are asking support from parents and schools to ensure that children maintain good hygiene – washing hands with warm soapy water – particularly after using the toilet, using tissues to catch a cough or sneeze and before eating. In addition, children should not attend school when they are experiencing diarrhoea &/or vomiting until 48hrs after the last bout of illness. Thank you for your support.

Your Sincerely,

Garry de Castro Morland
Headteacher