



27th March 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and keeping safe in what are unprecedented times. Our staff were very upset to have to close our doors on Friday last week, however the decision was clearly a key requirement for the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and of course parents and carers at home.

We hope that you found the 'Home Learning' packs useful as a basis of providing some regular learning tasks for your children at home. We felt that these packs were the most inclusive way of initially providing children with learning for the first 3 to 4 weeks, without necessarily the need for a computer. Hopefully all children who were absent at the end of term have now had their packs delivered.

I'm sure you will have seen or heard many items on news programmes or the radio about how best to cope with home learning. Please don't get bogged down in these. It is important that children are not stressed by learning and you as parents know your children best. We will not be criticising or comparing what children achieve and instead encouraging praise. We also do not expect that you re-create the whole school day at home. Regular daily opportunities to sit quietly and learn can be combined with fun outdoor activities or more creative learning. Don't forget that children can log-in to Maths Shed and Spelling Shed where they can practice as normal and engage in tasks set by their teachers.

Our teaching staff are busy looking at further suitable learning which would be based on-line. Our Year 6 children have already begun using Google Classroom, in addition to their home learning packs, to engage in learning set by their teachers. We are looking at setting up children in appropriate year groups with access to either Google Classroom or a similar age-appropriate portal very soon. I will be talking next week with our leadership team to decide which option we prefer and will then be contacting you all to update you during next week. This will provide us with a way of providing further learning activities for children as we move forwards, dependant on the length of time that schools remain closed. In addition, we intend using our class pages on the school website to post some additional suggested links and activities for each year group.

We will keep in touch over the coming weeks and any letters will be posted on the 'letters home' section of our website which can be found in the 'Parents & Carers' section of the website. In the meantime, please keep safe and if you have any problems or need us, please email us on admin@starbeck.sch.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

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