

12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

This week we welcomed back children in the target Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 groups. We have been so impressed with how quickly they adapted to the changes that we have had to put in place and enjoyed being back in the classroom.

On Monday and Tuesday, our Year 6 children began work on a transition unit in preparation for high school and have planned some reflective artwork, linked to their experiences during the lock-down period. On Wednesday and Thursday, the Year 1 children began working on a new English topic, linked to the story 'Last Stop on Market Street' as well as getting outdoors for some active science learning focusing on Trees and Plants. Finally, the Reception children who re-joined us on Thursday and Friday have especially enjoyed gardening in their lovely outdoor areas using their own new wheelbarrows and sets of garden tools, kindly donated to us by Morrisons Starbeck.

A reminder to parents and carers of those children who have returned this week to refer to the letter sent out for the later finish time for your child's days at school next week.

Our teaching staff have been busy speaking to parents and carers of children who have yet been unable to attend school and will continue to make these calls through next week. They have loved hearing about all the home learning taking place as well as personal experiences and how we can further support you. We will continue to keep in touch over the coming weeks.

Virtual Sports Day Activities

As has been the case for many sporting events this year, it will not be possible to have our normal full sports days with parents cheering on their children. We do however want to plan something fun for our children with a challenge element involved. Next week the year 6 children, who are in school, will be planning a series of 'Personal Best' challenges for children to complete at home (or for those children attending school, these will be completed at school). Once ready, Mrs Anderson will be filming an explanation video, which will then go on our website along with all the resources needed. We are aiming to launch this for the first week in July and encourage children to take part, share their success with their teachers on-line and send photos of their efforts for us to share on our social media streams. We will let you know full details in the coming weeks.

Next Steps in Wider Re-opening

You will have seen from media coverage that the government no longer plans to request that schools re-open to further year groups before the summer holiday. The government has recognised that due to the requirements for smaller groups and that staff and children remain together as 'bubbles', many schools simply do not have capacity to welcome more children until the regulations are relaxed more. We now await further guidance about this and government proposals. We will keep parents informed of any updates in the coming week.

As a trust we are already looking ahead and discussing changes to our curriculum model to allow for recovery from the changes that we have all been through. We will be considering different scenarios for September and beyond to ensure that we can get children back into school as soon as is safely possible.



What we have seen this week with those children who have been able to return is that our young people adapt quickly and are keen to work hard at school. Please try not to be over concerned about the aspect of 'catching up' and the often-inflammatory coverage in the media. All children in the country have had a significant period away from school. At Starbeck Primary, we have made a point of focusing on mental health and wellbeing. In our last inspection, we were praised for outstanding provision for personal development and wellbeing and we will continue to ensure that this remains at the core of our curriculum offer for our children whilst adapting our teaching and planning to best fit the needs of children as they return to school.

Critical Worker Provision

Our provision for children of critical workers as well as vulnerable learners has continued right through the last 12 weeks and has grown to near capacity. This week, in addition to completing on-line learning and other learning tasks, they have been busy with a range of creative activities. One of these was to make a scarecrow to help keep the birds away from Harrogate Borough Council's newly planted grass on the Stray. You can see a photo on our school Facebook page but also on the Parks and Environmental Services Facebook page where each scarecrow can be 'liked'.

Transition

As we are approaching the end of the school year, we are finalising plans for teacher and support staff organisation in each year group and how we can support transition for our children. For our Year 6 children, as mentioned earlier, we have already begun specific work around moving to secondary school. Our local secondary schools are now also finalising their support for our Year 6 children and will be sending letters to parents very soon. Much of their support will be on-line due to the current limitations placed on visitors to schools.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception class to our school in September. If we are unable to arrange a parent meeting, we will be speaking to all the families involved to answer any queries. In addition, we will also be filming a 'Virtual Tour' of the EYFS and key areas of the school and producing an information booklet too.

For children in other year groups, we will be in touch soon to confirm which teacher and support staff will be in each year group. We will be filming short transition videos, for those children unable to be in school, which will explain what to expect in the coming year and opening up the option for children to send in any questions they may have.

As always, thank you for your kind support, which our team really appreciate. Please do let us know if we can help in any way.

Yours sincerely,

Mr de Castro Morland
Headteacher



High Street, Harrogate, HG2 7LL

Tel: 01423 884 780 | Fax: 01423 880 612 | Email: admin@starbeck.n-yorks.sch.uk

