

10th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A great first week back

Year group	Timings
Nursery	8:50 start
Reception	8:50 – 3:15pm
Year 1	8.40 – 3.15pm
Year 2	8.40 - 3.15pm
Year 3	8.50 – 3.25pm
Year 4	8.50 – 3.25pm
Year 5	8.50 – 3.25pm
Year 6	8.50 – 3.25pm

This has been a very positive and enjoyable first week back and I would like to thank all our families for your support and kind comments. Our Starbeck team have loved seeing the smiling faces of children filling our classrooms and we are grateful for your continued observation of our Covid-19 specific guidance and changes to our school day. Please could all parents and carers continue to arrive as close to the specified start time as possible and no earlier as this avoids over-crowding both in the waiting areas but also in alleyways and entrances. Please could I ask Nursery parents and carers to wait in the playground rather than inside the nursery outdoor play area, which is set up first thing with learning activities – thank you.

We have welcomed lots of new pupils in Nursery, Reception and various other year groups and I would like to welcome all those families to our Starbeck Community and look forward to getting to know you all.

As you know, good learning behaviours, including social and emotional aspects of learning, are a key part of our normal curriculum, however after such a turbulent period, we decided to make our start of term a focus week on learning linked to wellbeing, friendships and good mental health. This has led to some powerful discussion relating to topics such as worries and anxieties, coping with change and tackling challenge as well as on-line safety and cyber-bullying. We will be sharing some of the art-linked outcomes on-line so keep an eye on our social media streams.

If you as parents and carers would like to access some quality guidance relating to this topic, a new nationally approved website is now active www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk where you can find a wealth of resources and information linked to key Mental Health topics.

Home-learning

As always, we will continue to provide children with short-burst regular home learning tasks such as reading, SMIRFS (Maths Instant Recall Facts) and Spellings, and as last year, we continue to provide children in appropriate year groups with log-ins to on-line platforms such as Mathshed.com and Spellingshed.com

During the lock-down period we ventured into on-line learning which I know many of you embraced and children were able to continue to be active learners. Now we are developing a more robust strategy for on-line learning which will future-proof our learners to cope with the ever-changing face of technology and learning. In Key Stage 2, children are currently being introduced to Microsoft Education Classroom which will allow us to provide increased depth to on-line learning and teacher/pupil interaction. Some homework tasks will be set using this platform and full instructions are being shared with pupils and parents.

In KS1, children will also have the opportunity to be active on-line using the more KS1-friendly Purple Mash. We will also be using these technologies in-school linked to our Computing/ICT learning developing children's confidence and skills linked to e-learning. Please do communicate with class teachers if access at home is limited or difficult and we will work with families to support with this.



School Dinners

Our school dinner menus can be found in the parents/school meals section of our website at <http://www.starbeckprimaryacademy.co.uk/parents-carers/school-meals/>
Please note that the current menus do say Spring/Summer – this is correct as the timetable for Chartwells, our catering provider switches to Autumn-linked food further into the term. We will update you when these next change.

Mid-day Supervisory Roles

We currently have two vacancies for a mid-day supervisory assistants – one permanent and one temporary. If you are interested in reading more about the skills and experience needed to apply, details are available on the vacancies section of our website at: <http://www.starbeckprimaryacademy.co.uk/our-school/vacancies/>

Term Dates

Please refer to our website for full 2020-21 term dates – here are the key dates for the Autumn Term

Autumn Term 2020

Thursday 22nd October - School Closes for Half Term
Friday 23rd October – Staff INSET training day
Monday 2nd November - School re-opens
Friday 18th December - School closes for Christmas Holiday

Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5th January - School re-opens

Star Awards

Finally, those parents and carers who are not new to the school will be familiar with our weekly 'Star Awards' awarded to children from each class for a great effort or achievement across any aspect of school life during the week. These are traditionally handed out during our Friday 'Celebration' assembly. Sadly at present such whole school gatherings are not allowed – however that will not stop our Starbeck celebrations and we will be using the wonders of technology to hold a Friday 'Teams-based' Celebration assembly. Our children have all been stars this week however but our regular focus on aiming high is a real target for our children and they love the anticipation each week of seeing who has been chosen.

Yours sincerely,

Mr de Castro Morland
Headteacher



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