

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. We hope you all a restful half term holiday.

### National Covid-19 Updates

As you will have seen in the news at the weekend, it is the government's intention that England is to enter a period of national lockdown from this Thursday. The government have stated that this does not affect schools, which will remain open. This means that all children should continue to attend school **unless ill or isolating due to the existing Covid-19 guidelines for symptomatic individuals or household isolation**.

This will minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks children falling further behind.

Please rest assured that we continue to follow our risk assessments and procedures in school to ensure that our learning environment is Covid-19 safe – children will continue to remain with their class bubbles all day and continue with the same drop-off and collection procedures as last term.

### To ensure safety of adults and children, please could you follow the following:

- Please keep to your allocated drop off and collection time – **please do not arrive early or arrive late**

Year group	Timings
Nursery	8:50 (end times depend on nursery sessions)
Reception	8:50 – 3:15pm
Year 1 & 2	8.40 – 3.15pm
Year 3, 4, 5 & 6	8.50 – 3.25pm

- Entrance/exit door remain the same as last half term.
- If you accompany your child to school, please could only one parent attend and with older children, if possible, say goodbye to children at the school gate.
- If you collect your child from school, please wait at the correct exit and **maintain 2m distance from other parents/carers waiting as well as from staff**. Remember to not gather in groups and please do not remain outside the main entrances after drop-off to avoid blocking the public footpaths.
- Please adhere to the one-way system through our school playground
- Please do not visit the school office unless it is essential. If possible, phone the office with any queries. If you do need to visit, please press the bell and wait - you may have to wait outside until the lobby is free to enter as we can only allow a maximum of 2 people at a time in and from the same household. All other school buildings should not be entered.

### Harvest Collection

Thank you all for your generous donations to our harvest collections. Following quarantining of all products, we will now be delivering them to the Harrogate and Knaresborough Food Banks who I know will be delighted with the support from Starbeck Primary. In school, all classes took part in focused learning linked to Harvest and were able to join up through a special TEAMS assembly to share what they had been doing.



### **Free School Meals Support**

A special thank you must go out to Jenn Plews, CEO of Northern Star Academies Trust for her decision to go against the government decision not to provide food vouchers to those families eligible to free school meals. At very short notice, all schools in our trust were able to send out vouchers (as was the case during school closure during lock down) to those families eligible. We hope that this helped during the half term week.

### **Your Harrogate – School of the Week**

In case you missed seeing this on our social media streams, Starbeck Primary Academy featured as 'School of the Week'. If you would like to read the articles here are two links:

<https://yourharrogate.co.uk/school-of-the-week/school-of-the-week-19th-october-starbeck-academy/>

<https://yourharrogate.co.uk/news/mental-health-is-the-focus-for-post-lockdown-primary-school/>

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Following further advice from Councillors regarding communication from the Mayor's Office, there will be no wreath laying ceremony in Starbeck on Remembrance Sunday. This is in line with the cancellation of the similar private ceremony at the Harrogate Cenotaph. This is from the Harrogate Borough Council Residents' news: *'The coronavirus means Remembrance Sunday events cannot go ahead in their usual format. No public ceremonies are taking place in our district this year. Instead, we encourage you to mark the occasion from the safety of your home. You could arrange your own event in your garden as you observe the two minutes silence. Despite Covid-19, we still need to pay our respects to the many service men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars and other conflicts. We're also supporting the Royal British Legion's request for everyone to show their support for the armed forces community by displaying a poppy in your window'.*

**We will be selling poppies to class bubbles in school as normal. There are also a small selection of Royal Legion poppy souvenirs, including bracelets, rubbers and snap bands. These cost from 50p to £2 and will be sold in class bubbles.**

### **Social Media Streams**

During these testing times, we are trying harder than ever to keep parents, carers and friends up to date with news about in-school activities and news. The quickest way to achieve this is through our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please do try to keep an eye on these for photos and links which are regularly updated. In addition, class sharing assemblies, which parents would normally have come into school to see, are now being filmed and a link to the video shared with parents and carers of the class to watch at home. So far we have had Ancient Greeks, Vikings, Romans and Stone Age linked learning as well as learning from other subjects from Years 6, 5, 4 & 3 and will now move onto Key Stage 1 and EYFS this half term. We hope you are enjoying these.

I will be in touch again shortly with more updates including information about our academy development plan focuses and other news relating to the curriculum.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

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