

30th November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Keeping Safe

Thank you to you all for your response to our request for continued caution and care when visiting the school grounds, to ensure that we maintain safe distances or wear face protection. Thank you also for your prompt updates with regards to absences and testing procedures.

Christmas Performance

As mentioned some time ago, due to us being unable to put on live performances this year, we are currently planning and filming a whole school video, linked to the Christmas story. Each bubble is involved in preparing a section, which will be edited into one piece. We hope to be able to share this with you all in the final week of term. We will work hard as always to try to encourage children to have a go and take risks in terms of performing, we aim to include children in a way that they are most comfortable with.

Christmas Cards

It would be such a shame if we were unable to allow children to bring in Christmas cards in the usual manner. We will therefore make special arrangements to ensure this is safe. Children who wish to bring in cards may do this from Tuesday 1st December and put them into the Christmas letter boxes in their classrooms or school halls. We will retain these for 72hrs after which they will be delivered to the class bubbles. The final day therefore that children may bring cards in is Tuesday 15th December in order for them to be safely given out by the last day of term.

FOSS Christmas Jumper Day

We will be holding our annual Christmas Jumper Day on **Thursday 17th December**. Children may wear a festive jumper or perhaps one in seasonal colours (no fancy dress please). We will be collecting donations on the day which will be on behalf of FOSS and help their fundraising for further computing equipment.

Lapland Challenge

Hopefully you all received details of our Lapland Challenge – we hope you agree that this is a healthy and positive way to focus our time in the lead up to the holiday. If you have been keeping note of your miles walked, run, cycled or other methods this week, please complete the first slip on the letter (or send a note with name and details) and return to school on Monday. Mrs Anderson will be updating everyone on progress next week.

School Ventilation

A statutory part of the national guidance for schools (in line with recommendations for all indoor spaces) is that all rooms have on-going ventilation to ensure a flow of fresh air. This means that classroom windows remain open at all times. As the cold weather approaches, we are able to adjust ventilation to as minimal as possible and heating remains on during the day, however some children may feel that the temperature becomes too cool. We are therefore recommending that children have an extra layer of clothing (this does not need to be school uniform but should be plain colour – for example a dark/plain colour hoodie or sweatshirt. This can be kept in the classroom in case needed. So far, children have been ok however with the onset of winter, we are recommending this just in case.



Children in Need Fundraising

Thanks to all who contributed to our Children in Need event. We raised a grand total of £301.05 which is a fantastic achievement baring in mind the current pandemic restrictions. Well done all!

Term Date Reminder

Friday 18th December School closes for Christmas

Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5th January School re-opens

Friday 12th February School closes for half term

Nursery Dates:

Please note that due to the new intake of Nursery children starting in January and to allow for their settling in, our current nursery children will return a day later than other children.

Tuesday 5th January – New intake children only

Wednesday 6th January – All Nursery children

FOSS Virtual Christmas Fair

Don't forget that FOSS are running an on-line Virtual Christmas Fair this year. You can access this via their special Facebook page – ***Friends of Starbeck School (FOSS) Virtual Christmas Fair 2020*** where you will find a range of stall holders selling some great products. These can then be purchased by messaging the sellers directly via facebook.

Long Lands Common

Fantastic news - the Long Lands Common project has successfully reached it's £300,000 target to be able to buy the land needed to develop the exciting public space on 30 acres of greenbelt farmland between Harrogate and Knaresborough. This will be a community owned woodland and accessible-to-all public green space. Starbeck Primary Academy are signed up to be part of the development stage of this project and I am sure that a number of our parents and families will have bought shares in the project. We will keep you updated on more news!

We hope that you found the recent parent consultation phone calls useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us during drop off or collection or via email or phone to the school office if you have any questions or requests (please avoid using Purple Mash or TEAMS classroom to contact teachers, unless linked to homework or remote learning, as these are platforms which children can see/read within their account). We will be in touch again soon with more news in the lead up to the holiday.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher



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