

October 2023

# NEWSLETTER



**STARBECK**  
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents & Carers,

## HARVEST COLLECTION

Our Harvest week will take place this year during the penultimate week of the half term, beginning on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. We will once again be supporting our local food banks. Please look out for a separate letter this week with full details.

**RHS BIG FOOD SHARE** – Thank you to everyone who supported our Food Share event. During the last school year, all year groups were able to grow fruit, vegetables or herbs in our allotment and use the produce as part of their curriculum learning. In addition, our gardening club worked very hard to plant additional vegetables in anticipation of the RHS Food share. We were delighted to be able to share some of our fruit and veg with our families.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our Head Pupils and School Council members have now been chosen through the process of election. This year, our school council will be led by Mr Starkey and will focus on school fundraising ideas and events, supporting health and safety in school and leading on Eco School issues linked to our NSAT Sustainability Agenda. They have already completed their first meeting and we look forward to hearing more from them during the year.

## PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Our first parent/carer consultation meetings will take place during week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – this is the second week back after half term. Please look out for letters during the first week back which will offer you the option of a face-to-face update meeting or telephone appointment. At these meetings, we will be able to give you a full update on your child's progress during the first half term of the academic year, share some examples of their learning and answer any specific questions that you may have.

## SPORTING UPDATE

As always, we aim to offer a wide range of sporting activities and clubs in addition to our PE curriculum offer. Our netball club has been very popular this half term and we were able to take a team to an inter-school competition where they came a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Watch out for letters relating to further sports clubs as we move toward the second half term and beyond.



## GOVERNOR UPDATE

You will be aware that we recently published letters offering parents and carers the opportunity to join our governing body. We received one nomination, meaning that there was no requirement for an election to the role. Mr Sam Sharp, who has a wealth of education sector knowledge, will be joining our team of governors with immediate effect. Also joining the governing body, as a staff governor, is Mrs Benson, who has been a member of our Starbeck team for several years and is also a representative on our school mental health team. We thank them both for their interest in supporting the governing team.

## PARKING

A polite reminder to all parents and carers who drive to drop off or collect children. When parking in the local streets, please take care not to block local resident's driveways or obstruct access along roads in any way. I have also been asked by the local traffic and parking officers to remind you that when parking on the extended pavement areas, you must mount the pavement very slowly and be extremely alert to pedestrians. Parking Enforcement Officers do patrol the area and will specifically monitor the areas in front of school and across the road in front of Springwater School. Thank you for your cooperation.

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## FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS

Last week, we had a visit from our local fire service fire fighters. This is an important part of our PSHE curriculum, providing up to date safety information to all children in relation to safety at home and school as well as how to enjoy the up coming Bonfire Night celebrations in a safe way.

Some of our younger children were able to have a look at the fire engine outside school, learn about all the equipment and how it is used and to ask lots of questions.

We are very grateful to Harrogate Fire Service for their time and support to our school.

## ACADEMY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

We were very pleased with our summer term outcomes, where we have once again achieved above or well above national averages for the individual Reading, Writing and Maths KS2 SATs and our combined percentage of children achieving the expected standard in all 3 subjects. Once data has been validated nationally, we will share this with you. We have already begun work on the actions from this year's Academy Improvement Plan, which will be finalised with governors this week. Our primary focuses this year will be on further enhancing our established Maths Mastery approach in school, through participation in our local Maths Mastery Hub; continuing to enhance our curriculum offer across all non-core subject areas, via deep dives and related staff CPD; and further embedding the work from last year around early reading and phonics. We will keep you updated on specific developments during the school year.

## TERM DATES

2023-24 term dates are now available on our school website. These can be found by clicking the link at the side of the screen, next to the current 2022-23 dates. <https://www.starbeckprimaryacademy.co.uk/parents-carers/term-dates/>

### Autumn Term 2023

Thursday 26th October	School closes for half term
Monday 6th November	School re-opens
Friday 22nd December	School closes for Christmas

### Spring Term 2024

Tuesday 9th January	School re-opens
Friday 9th February	School closes for half term
Monday 19th February	School re-opens
Friday 22nd March	School closes for Easter

Yours sincerely,

Mr G de Castro-Morland  
Headteacher



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