



Friday 6th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone at the start of a new and exciting school year. Many of you will have read my Facebook update prior to the start of term in relation to our official change of name to Starbeck Primary Academy as we converted on September 1st. We are thrilled to have become part of Northern Star Academies Trust and look forward to playing a key part of a fantastic group of schools all with a shared inclusive and forward-thinking approach to education. Our staff training days included attending the Northern Star Conference, for all 7 member schools, held at Harrogate High. The focus was on curiosity and staff engaged in a range of innovative and topical workshops.

The first few days back have been highly positive, and the children have impressed us all in the way they have returned to new year groups raring to go and remembering our core rules and expectations. A warm welcome to our new families joining us at Starbeck.

Along with our new name, we have a brand new website www.starbeckprimaryacademy.co.uk which you are welcome to explore. This includes so many wonderful photos of your children in action as well as a new brochure. Please bear with us as we learn how to administer the site – several changes and additions – including calendar dates will be added shortly. We also hope that you like our new signage at both entrances to the school as well as on Bogs Lane.

Very soon we will be launching a new Twitter feed – this enables us not only to share great news about our own school but also to highlight news and success within the trust. Once set up, I'll let you know the details!

Open Days

All homes in our catchment area will soon receive fliers regarding two open days which are taking place. These are aimed at prospective parents of children who are due to start Reception in September 2020. Please do however share the dates with any friends who may be currently considering a suitable school for their child. Parents of children already attending nursery are of course also welcome to attend to have a full look around the school. The dates are:

Thursday 26th September – 10am

Thursday 3rd October – 1.30pm

CCTV

During the holidays, CCTV cameras were fitted at various entrances and points around the outside of the school buildings. This is to further enhance our safeguarding measures during the day but also for added security should anyone choose to trespass in school grounds when the school is closed.

Roof Works

Works taking place on the roof above our old Year 6 classroom have taken much longer than planned – hence the scaffolding on the front right side of the building. It is likely to take a further 3 or 4 weeks, during which time there is no parking available at the front of school. If you need specific access arrangements, please speak to me directly. Rest assured that internally, the area concerned is secured and our Year 6 class have permanently relocated to a new classroom.



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Contact Details

Our office staff have asked me to remind parents to let us know immediately should you have any changes to your contact details. This includes address, phone numbers and email addresses. As a matter of safeguarding, we must be able to reach all main contacts without problems.

Clubs

We will again be offering a range of extra-curricular activities for children to sign up for this year. To start us off we will be holding a Tchukball Club for Years 3 & 4 and Dance Club for Years 5 & 6. Letters have already been sent out giving children the option to sign up. In addition, music/performing arts clubs will also be starting next week including, drama, orchestra, African drumming, choir and more. We will keep you informed of news relating to these clubs as well as other interesting options as the term progresses.

Music Themes

We have a range of new school development focuses this year aimed at further enhancing learning across the school. One new whole school focus which we are introducing straight away, is the introduction of half termly music themes. All children will be introduced to a different genre/style of music from Classical to Pop, Jazz to Country each half term during our music assemblies. This style of music will then be played and discussed in assemblies, and during music lessons to ensure that our children leave school appreciating and understanding the breadth and depth of the world of music. Music is one of, if not the most inclusive subject for all learners and sparks imagination and curiosity. We are starting off with a fab genre – Movie Themes and Soundtracks. This will be introduced next week.

Dates for your diary

We will be sending out a full Autumn Term dates letter very soon. In the meantime, here are a few key dates for your diaries:

Tuesday 8th October - 3:30pm -7pm – Parent Consultation Evening

Wednesday 9th October – 3:30pm – 5:30pm – Parent Consultation Evening

Thursday 10th October – World Mental Health Day (School focus day on Managing Feelings)

Monday 14th October – Harvest Festival

Friday 25th October – Break up for Half Term

Monday 4th November – Children return to school

Yours sincerely,

Mr Garry de Castro Morland
Headteacher



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