

Tuesday 11th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this half term draws to a close, here are some updates on learning and events in and around school. Please don't forget to like our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter in order to see regular photographs and updates as they happen. We wish our Year 6 classes all the best for their exciting week at Beverley Park and do hope that the weather continues to return to normal for them!

Year 5 Green Assembly

Our Year 5 children delivered an inspiring assembly last week, sharing their letters to Mrs Plews (CEO of Northern Star Academies Trust) and following her challenge to all our trust schools. They studied all aspects of recycling and how to become 'Plastic Free', developing their own ideas into some great letters. This forms stage 1 of Mrs Plews' aim for NSAT to become a 'Green Trust' and we look forward to a visit from our CEO very soon to hear which children's ideas will be put into practice across all NSAT schools.

School Council Update

Our school council continue to have a busy time and this half term they have focused on the launch of their first 'Recycling Initiative'. Their ideas was to collect all used plastic pens from teachers and children and to arrange for these to be sent off to be recycled. Following the launch a couple of weeks ago, a considerable number of pens have already been collected. We continue to collect and recycle paper on a weekly basis and will shortly be looking at further ways of recycling both in the school buildings, canteen and outdoors.

Sport Leaders

We recently had a visit from Mrs Speed, the Harrogate Schools Sport Partnership Leader, who came to deliver Sport Leader training to a new group of our Year 5 & 6 children. The session focused on all aspects of leadership as well as demonstrating and trialling simple games that the children can now support and lead our KS1 children with.

Australian Bushfire Fundraising

The children in our Year 1 class were very concerned about the devastating fires that affected Australia. Spurred into action, they wrote letters to Mr de Castro Morland requesting permission to run a cake and soft toy stall for all the children in school to attend. Posters were created to promote the day and the children themselves ran both stalls raising £220.88 for the WWF Australian Emergency Appeal which will provide emergency funds for injured wildlife, help restore homes for Koalas and other wildlife after the fires and also replant trees urgently needed in the Koala habitats. This week Year 1 featured in the Harrogate Advertiser as the editor was so impressed by our young children's initiative.

Year 4 Robotics

Our Year 4 children have been so inspired by their Iron Man topic. The engaging and descriptive Ted Hughes classic book has been the focus of their English lessons this term but led to so much more great learning, with the children creating their own robots, poetry and robotic dancing. To round it all off, they showed off their learning during a Robot-themed class assembly last week.



Parking Reminders

You may have noticed our local PCSOs monitoring parking recently. They have asked me to remind parents to take extreme caution when parking near school and to ensure that all regulations around appropriate parking are followed. They will continue to visit when possible to monitor safety.

Tennis for Kids is back!

Tennis Harrogate will be running a 6-week course of tennis lessons at Starbeck tennis club starting after February half term. For just £29.99 every child will receive 6 high-quality lessons delivered by professional LTA coaches as well as a special Tennis For Kids racket, ball set, and personalised T-shirt delivered right to your door. Places will be limited – to book use the following link:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisForKids/At/MatthewMcturkCoaching>

Arrival Times

A reminder to all parents that our official start time for the school day is 8.50am. Children arriving after this time will be marked late in registers. Regular lateness will be picked up on as part of attendance and welfare processes. As you are aware, we line children up at 8.40am to help parents needing to get off to work but also to get children in and settled, ready to begin their learning promptly once inside. If you prefer not to arrive by the 8.40am line-up then please ensure that children are on-site and entering school by 8.50am. For parents of children who walk to school on their own, in order to ensure their safety, please could you encourage children not to arrive earlier than 8.30am if possible as they are not supervised until 8.40am. Thank you for your support.

Spelling and Maths Shed Champions

As you are aware, all children from Year 2 to 6 have their own log-in accounts for Spelling Shed and Maths Shed which we use as part of our in-school programmes of study for Spellings and Times Tables. Both on-line platforms are inclusive and children can work at their own level. In-class challenges are set as well as homework in some cases. When children do not have access at home, they are able to have additional access at computer clubs and in class. Mrs Riley and Mrs Willans have recently begun recognising efforts on a weekly basis. This is linked to the weekly league tables (rather than the overall cumulative tables) which are based on the last seven days. We have been pleased with the enthusiasm towards both aspects since we began using both resources during the last school year.

FOSS (Friends of Starbeck School)

Fundraising continues, most recently with the Year 2 & 3 Bake Sale raising £75. Several events are being planned following the last FOSS meeting, including a Spring Disco, Film nights and of course the Summer Fair.

We hope that everyone enjoys the half term break as we break up on Friday 14th Feb this week. A reminder that **school re-opens on Monday 24th February** for all children.

Yours Sincerely,

Garry de Castro Morland
Headteacher



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