

Dear Parents and Carers,

Northern Star Academies Trust – Virtual Sports Day

This week on Thursday, our trust is holding a 'Virtual Sports Day', which will include all the schools in our trust and includes several challenges for children to complete at home. If you receive emails, you will receive details of the event, including the challenges set, how to record and submit your results and how to share photographs of your child/children taking part at home. The pack includes suggested timings – these are however only suggested so that it creates more of an impression of a sporting event. You may choose to complete the activities at different times. We would however ask that if you do complete the challenges early, to record the results and only submit them on the actual day (Thursday) – via the link provided. For parents who do not receive emails, we will be posting the details on our school website and will text when they are available.

The pack gives details of 'alternative' resources that you can use as we are aware that most families will not have the actual sports equipment that would be used at school. The sporting challenges have been designed to not need large amounts of space at home.

Please feel free to send a photo of your child taking part and email to the email address given on the Sports Day pack.

For children who will be in school on Thursday, we will complete the events with them during the day, so you do not need to complete at home. The children in our Year 6 who have been attending school have already completed the activities and we will submit their results on Thursday for them.

Year Group Transition

Following the government's U-turn regarding bringing back additional year groups, like many schools, we are unable to currently include additional bubbles of children as all our staff are currently being used to cope with the increased demands of smaller group sizes for Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Key Worker groups.

The guidance does however allow us to arrange some face to face meetings prior to the end of term. We would therefore like to arrange some 1 hour 'Moving Up' meetings, inviting children to come in small groups, to meet with me and their new teacher. This will enable children in the year groups who have not returned to school, to visit prior to the summer holiday. For those who do not wish to visit/attend, we will still aim to provide a short video from each teacher prior to the end of term.

You will have seen the announcement at the end of the week that it is the governments intention that all children will return in September, full-time. We are therefore now awaiting the guidance that has been promised in the next 2 weeks in order to be fully prepared for this.

In the meantime, we have already begun reviewing our curriculum to make adjustments that will be needed to ensure that children will not miss out on vital learning/knowledge from the summer term. We are also pleased to hear that schools are being promised additional funding to allow for increased use of catch-up interventions and tutoring in schools during the next academic year. Once we are clear on how this funding will work, I will update you more on our plans for this.

I can assure you that our priority will be to understand the needs of each child, both of their mental health and wellbeing as well as academic needs, and tailor our teaching and support closely to these. This will therefore include additional pastoral support, booster sessions/small group teaching and interventions programmes, enhancing those that have already been offered to a wide range of children over the last couple of years to great success.



Annual Reports

We are busy finalising academic reports for children to be sent out later in the half term. Despite the national school closure period, teachers have been putting together their reports on your child's progress and achievements during the Autumn and Spring terms. You will be aware that all exams and tests were cancelled by the government for this academic year. Any attainment data indicated on reports is therefore an indication of how your child was getting on in relation to age related expectations, at the end of the Spring term. We hope that you find the reports informative and as always, you are welcome to contact us if you have any questions afterwards.

School Holiday Dates

A full list of school holiday dates has been emailed out to those parents who choose to have electronic communication. They have also been included in the 'Term Dates' tab within the Parents & Carers section of our school website. Please do take note of these when planning any holidays, bearing in mind that holidays taken during term time can not be authorised and may result in a penalty notice being issued for unauthorised absence.

FSM Vouchers

Following the announcement by the government that those families who are entitled to free school meal vouchers will continue to receive these during the summer holidays, a few parents have enquired about how to apply for these. The vouchers have been sent out nationally to parents who are registered as eligible for free school meals. This is different to the Universal Free School Meals that all Rec, Yr 1 and Yr 2 children receive. Free School Meals is eligibility-based and must be applied for. If successful, the school receives some additional funding to support your child at school and once they reach Yr 3, should you remain eligible, free school meals would continue into KS2. We do inform parents about this from time to time via letters however we appreciate that some employment situations may have changed over the last months. If you would like to check whether you are eligible for FSM, then visit the following website or search for North Yorkshire Free School Meals.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Please note that although school arrange for the actual FSM vouchers to be sent out, we can only send these to families where we have received confirmation from North Yorkshire County Council of eligibility. You must therefore first apply via the link above if you believe you are eligible.

As always, thank you for your kind support, which our team really appreciate. Please do let us know if we can help in any way.

Yours sincerely,

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