

14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have almost reached the end of term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and kindness since our return in September. We expected that this would be a challenging term due to the tight restrictions and rules, however what has shone through is that with positive support from our families, children have shown resilience and fantastic motivation to be back in the classroom and learning.

As we move into the holiday period, it is vital that we all continue to take great care out and about and when mixing over Christmas, so that we can aim to return in January fit and well. We feel that our community's adherence to guidelines has helped to keep infection cases to a minimum. Although we have remote learning plans in place, we would much prefer to maintain school-based learning and the benefits this brings to children.

#### **End of term confirmation**

You may have seen in the news that the DfE offered schools the option of closing a day early and making Friday an INSET day. This was purely due to the government realising that, as school leaders must be contactable for 6 days after closing in the event of contact tracing needs, this would include Christmas Eve. The trade-off was also to move an INSET from later in the year. Our trust collectively decided that it was too short notice to be changing holiday dates, which creates extra pressure for parents on childcare and therefore our final day of term remains as **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**. You will also receive a letter from our CEO, Jenn Plews about this.

#### **Christmas Contact**

Should your child develop symptoms or test positive for Covid-19 over the holiday, you must notify school please. A special contact system will be available via our website. Contacts will initially be processed by our academy trust central team and if needed passed onto me should any contact tracing action be needed. In addition, we have an out of school hours phone number which you can contact for both Covid related urgent matters or should you have any safeguarding or other needs that you would like to discuss with us. The telephone number is 07856 943750 and you can contact us between 10am to 12pm only.

#### **Christmas Jumper Day**

A reminder that we are holding a Christmas Jumper day this week on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please bring a coin donation if possible toward FOSS Funds. Children may wear a festive jumper of any kind (no fancy dress please) and as this is effectively a special non-uniform day, children do not need to wear school uniform under their jumpers.

#### **Food Bank Opening Hours**

Harrogate District Foodbank have asked if we could confirm their Christmas opening hours: I am listing only the days open for anyone needing support before or after the Christmas bank holidays:

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec (OPEN – Knaresborough)

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec (OPEN – Harrogate)

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec (OPEN – Harrogate)



### **Letters for the Elderly**

Our Year 6 class have been busy writing beautiful letters to bring some Christmas cheer to elderly care home residents from the Granby Rose Care Home. This is a project that we have worked on with Barratt Homes and I will share the press release once available. I will be delivering the letters on Monday which will hopefully bring a smile to the faces of the residents and help lift spirits after such a difficult year.

### **Flu Vaccination Updates**

On Thursday last week, all children who had been signed up on-line by parents, received their Flu Vaccinations. If you did not sign your child up to but would still like them to have a vaccination, there will be a drop-in clinic running this week which you can attend without an appointment:

***Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Knaresborough Community Centre (Stockwell Avenue) – 15:00 – 16:30*** (please note this is not the Children's Centre in Knaresborough)

### **FOSS Christmas Craft Boxes**

FOSS have kindly made up some great craft boxes containing Christmas activities for children to make at home. These are on sale for £3 each this week. For full details, visit our Facebook site where you will find a post and video all about the boxes. If you missed buying one, they can still be bought during the week.

### **Christmas Performance Video**

Our Christmas video is almost ready and in the final editing stages. Please look out for details later this week of how to access this, which will most likely be via our new Starbeck Primary Academy YouTube site. For those parents new to the school, Starbeck has always aimed to provide performance opportunities across all year groups – not the standard Reception class only nativity. In December, we normally produce 3 Christmas performances for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 – this allows children, who are not keen on drama and performing, further opportunities throughout the school. This year, our special film combines all year groups together and we hope gives a chance, for parents of younger children to see our older children at work and vice-versa, which is not usually possible due to audience size limitations etc. We do hope you enjoy watching this as a family.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday. This year has been full of challenges for everyone and how wonderful it will be if we can all enjoy a restful holiday and re-charge our batteries. We look forward to welcoming you all back in January. ***School re-opens on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January (Reception to Year 6). Our current Nursery Class children start back a day later on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Jan.***

Merry Christmas and a very happy new year from the whole of the Starbeck team.

Yours sincerely

Mr G de Castro Morland  
Headteacher



**High Street, Harrogate, HG2 7LL**

**Tel: 01423 884 780 | Fax: 01423 880 612 | Email: [admin@starbeck.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@starbeck.n-yorks.sch.uk)**

