

December 2021

NEWSLETTER



STARBECK
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are rapidly approaching the Christmas holiday with only 2 further weeks to go after this one. We do still have a lot to fit in before then and we are doing our very best to make the education and learning for your children as smooth and uninterrupted as possible amidst the ongoing and ever-changing pandemic. Like all schools around us, we are experiencing positive cases of Covid-19 in a range of classes and we are grateful for your support with updates around testing and prompt notification when children are experiencing Covid symptoms.

COVID-19 UPDATES

This week, we have seen the reintroduction of face masks in various contexts. At school, staff are wearing masks in communal/shared areas of the school and all visitors and contractors must wear a face mask. If you are visiting the school office, could we once again kindly ask you to follow this guidance. Primary age children do not need to wear face masks unless they or parents wish to wear them. As before, should we notice that children have any of the main Covid-19 symptoms, they will be sent home and a PCR test should be taken. Although close contacts of a positive covid case are notified by the NHS, in line with our trust policy, parents and carers will continue to be updated by letter should there be a positive case in their class. We strongly advise in these cases, that you seek a PCR test for your child, irrespective of whether they are symptomatic or not. We have seen some positive cases in school where no symptoms were present. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone that recently supported our Children in Need Day and for all your contributions. On the day, we raised a total of £365.00 which has already been sent off to the fantastic charity. Our wonderful Deputy Head, Mrs Pitts and our current Head Boy and Girl even featured on Radio York, talking about what we were doing in school to raise money. .



IT'S GOOD TO GROW

We are very thankful to all you busy Morrisons shoppers who have been helping us to collect 'Grow Tokens' for the school. With your help, we have over 4000 tokens which myself and Mrs Kitwood, who has been running the KS1 Gardening Club, have used to order a range of new equipment for children to use in our school growing areas.



CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

Our classes are currently busy planning and preparing some Christmas nativity plays to be shared with parents and carers. With the tightening of rules this week, we are confirming our decision that these will be filmed and shared via our Youtube channel. With rising number of positive cases in schools including our own school, we feel this is the safest way, just before the Christmas holiday, to ensure that everyone reaches the holiday fit and well if possible.

There will be separate performances by Nursery (sing-along), Reception (Nativity Play), KS1 (Christmas Play) and KS2 (Christmas Play). Links will be shared before the end of the term and you will then be able to watch and enjoy these as many times as you like, and with as many family members as you like, during the holiday. Watch out for more details in the final week.

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CHRISTMAS MEAL

You will shortly be receiving a letter about our Christmas Meal – this will be on **Wednesday 15th December**. Please do respond to this. Parents and Carers of children in Year 3 to 6 need to let us know if you would like your child to have a Christmas Meal. For children in Reception, Year 1 and 2, as all children are entitled to a free school meal so will be booked in to have a Christmas meal, only parents of children who normally have a packed lunch need to respond. All details are explained in the letters. Please do respond by the deadline so that we can order sufficient food.

FOSS

Our PTA, are currently organising some fun events in the lead up to Christmas – these will include a **Christmas Non-uniform Day** on **Wednesday 15th December** as well as a range of games that children can take part in. All funds raised will go toward learning resources for children. Watch out for a separate letter with details.

GARDENING CLUB

Our Year 2 Gardening Club Members have been really busy over the last few weeks. They have been learning about how to weed and plant, already having planted bulbs and heather around the playground planters as well as new strawberry plants for next summer. They also set up some new bug homes in our allotment area to attract a range of helpful insects and bugs ready for the new growing season.

Mrs Kitwood worked with the children to write letters to local gardening and DIY centres, asking for help and donations for our school. We were delighted to hear back from the manager of the local Homebase, who was so impressed with the letter that he received from Amelia, that he invited us down to the store to talk about the kind of things that we would like.



We have been so touched by the community spirit and kindness shown and have already taken delivery of soil, bulbs, heather plants, planting tools and our wonderful Christmas tree! Thank you again to everyone at Homebase.

As we move into the spring months, children across all year groups will become involved in helping grow and maintain a range of plants and vegetables, as well as further developing our wildlife area. We will also be submitting our first applications for RHS School Gardening awards and will keep you informed of our progress.

Spring Term

We hope that everyone can enjoy a wonderful Christmas break and a good rest before the start of our new term. A reminder that our last day of term is Friday 17th December. School re-opens to all children on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G de Castro-Morland
Headteacher