

4th February 2022

NEWSLETTER



STARBECK
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents & Carers,

LATEST GOVERNMENT COVID ADVICE

As you will be fully aware, the national guidance linked to Covid-19 changed last week. You will also have seen that the number of cases in primary school settings has been high over this half term. Although primary schools have been told that they no longer need to wear face masks in communal areas, I have asked our team to seriously consider continuation of this protection at least until half term. In addition to this, we continue to maintain separate entrances/exits to minimise crowding, timetabled use of the canteen, phase group/staggered playtimes and we have daytime/enhanced cleaning continuing each day. All our staff continue to promote and monitor good hand hygiene and all classes ensure good ventilation in rooms (with CO2 monitors fitted in each room to ensure good air quality is maintained).

Thank you for keeping us up to date with information about testing and asking any questions about required isolation periods.

NEXT GENERATION BOARD

To support its work on Environmental Sustainability, Northern Star Academies Trust has established an exciting new committee. This is called the **Next Generation Board** and will be led by pupil from all eight schools across the trust.

The members of the board will be asked to gather ideas, conversations and examples from their schools of the green and environmental work going on – and also to think about what else could be done. Their ideas will be shared directly with the Board of Trustees to ensure that pupil voice is at the heart of their decision making.



Our children produced some wonderful applications and Abiola Cowsill and Rory Green were selected as the representatives for Starbeck Primary. We wish them luck – they already have lots to bring to the table with our school already being fully immersed in green projects, such as our wildlife area, gardening club, and our campaign against traffic pollution caused by traffic build up near the railway crossings, which our Year 5 children will be taking part in next week.

CONTACT & COLLECTION DETAILS

Please could we remind all parents and carers of the importance of updating us with any changes to your contact details, including mobile phone/landline number, addresses as well as any changes to or medical information relating to your child. It is vitally important the details we have on our database are accurate – especially for the instance of needing to contact a parent/carer in an emergency.

In addition, we now keep regularly updated collection lists for all children. If you wish to add or remove anyone from this list, please speak to our administration team or myself directly about this so that we can authorise the change and update our lists.

SCHOOL START TIME

Our school day officially starts at 8.50am – we open our doors at 8.40am to ensure a calm and less crowded entry to school. Children must arrive by 8.50am at the latest to avoid being marked late in our registers. Should a child arrive after registers close, an unauthorised absence mark is given – frequent unauthorised absence may result in a penalty notice being issued.

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SPRING 1 LEARNING

Hopefully you have all been keeping up to date with our social media streams (Facebook or Twitter), which provide the most current news of everything taking place in school.

There has been an abundance of great learning taking place during the first weeks of this half term. As always, all children continue to be faced with daily new challenges in their

English and Maths learning. There have also been many highlights from topic learning.

In our Nursery class, our youngest learners showed lots of creativity linked to one of this half term's texts – 'The Dot'. They have also been finding out about animals who live in cold climates and how they survive.

We have seen linked Maths/DT/Art/English learning in Reception about all things 'Gingerbread' and Lunar New Year Dragon dances in Year 1 as well as an RE trip to one of our local churches. In Year 2, they loved researching and learning about Lions, with art activities - painting, sketching and making masks followed by the children then writing their own non-fiction reports about Lions.



Year 3 had great fun developing their understanding of the human skeleton in Science, making their own skeleton pictures and labelling every key bone. Year 4 also absorbed themselves in Science – planning and undertaking an

investigation into the sound-insulating properties of different materials. In Year 5, we have been impressed with their charity and sustainability work, including the recent fundraiser for the World Wildlife Fund as well as their wonderful paintings of our historic school buildings.



Finally, Year 6 not only continue to work hard to prepare for their SATs tests in May, but have also enjoyed many other challenges, including preparing their own spreadsheets in Computing lessons.

You should all be very proud of your children, who work extremely hard on a day-to-day basis, showing some great learning behaviours and a thirst for new knowledge and challenges.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G de Castro-Morland - Headteacher

