



Starbeck Community Primary
and Nursery School

25th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are already into week 3 of the term. The children have settled back quickly and are working hard. You will already have received letters as well as class newsletters this half term. If you have misplaced these don't forget that copies are saved into 'Newsletters' and 'School Letters' within the 'News and Events' section of the school website at www.starbeck.n-yorks.sch.uk

Governor Details & Website Updates

During our Autumn 2 Parents forum, it was suggested that we provide more information about our school governing body. In response to this, the Governors page (found in the 'Community' section of the website) has been updated. We have also asked governors to provide a brief biography explaining about their backgrounds, roles and responsibilities on the governing body. Once you have opened the governor page, you will notice an additional tab called 'Governor Bios'. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a paper copy, these are available from the school office.



We have also added a Children's tab to the main website menu – as you will notice, this is currently under construction. Once up and running, this will provide a new way of sharing children's learning with parents, carers and friends. Within these areas there will be class pages, a school council page, sports and music pages as well as sections for Maths, English and Internet Safety where children will be able to access useful information and links relevant to their learning. We will let you know once this section is ready to use.

Email



We have now sent our first 'test email' to all parents who signed up to receive electronic letters instead of paper letters. The email should be listed as being from Starbeck School and within this email you should find a copy of this letter attached.

If you have **not** received this email (remember to check spam/bulk email folders), please contact the school office so that we can check the accuracy of your contact details on our database. You **do not** need to reply to the email. Initially we will send only whole school letters such as this one, not requiring any replies, by email. We will also continue to send paper copies until we are sure that everyone who requested emails is actually receiving them. Thank you for your support with this. Ultimately this will save the school money in paper and copy costs so we are grateful for your interest.

Messy Church

I recently met with Reverend Anne from Starbeck Methodist Church planning ahead for assembly visits as well as the Easter Bonnet Parade which will take place on the last day of the spring term (Thursday 29th March). Anne was discussing the 'Messy Church' events that take place at the Methodist Church and I agreed to let parents know the dates for the next sessions in case you would like to take your children along. They take place on weekends and run from 10am to 12pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult and can join in fun craft activities and games as well as going into church. Lunch is provided afterwards. The next dates for 2018 are: 10th February, 10th March, 14th April, 12th May and 14th July. The events are free with donations welcomed on the day.

High Street, Harrogate, HG2 7LL

Tel: 01423 884 780 | Fax: 01423 880 612 | Email: admin@starbeck.n-yorks.sch.uk



Starbeck Community Primary
and Nursery School

Leave of Absence During Term Time

We have received several questions recently relating to leave of absence during term time. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the North Yorkshire County Council rules relating to this:

Leave of absence is only authorised under exceptional circumstances. Parents/carers must complete an application for any leave of absence requests. This form should be completed by the parent/carer and returned to the school as far in advance as possible and preferably at least **6 weeks** before the first date of the period of leave being requested. Parents/carers must obtain the schools permission **before making any arrangements for leave in exceptional circumstances, otherwise the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.**

No parent/carer can demand leave of absence as of right. The Education regulations state that applications for leave must be made in advance by a parent with whom the child lives and can only be authorised by the school in exceptional circumstances. Each application is considered individually by the school.

The following are examples of the criteria for leave of absence, which may be considered as 'exceptional':

- Service personnel returning from active deployment
- Where inflexibility of the parents' leave or working arrangement is part of the organisational or company policy. This would need to be evidenced by the production or confirmation from the organisation/company
- Where leave is recommended as part of a parents' or child's rehabilitation from medical or emotional problems. Evidence must be provided
- When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis

Please note: Head teachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional

This is not an exhaustive list and Head teachers must consider the individual circumstances of each case when making a decision on this matter. Where a Head teacher feels that there may be exceptional circumstances which do not fit the criteria, they may refer to the local authority for advice. The decision of the Head teacher is final. Parents who take a child on leave in term time without the permission of the school risk being issued with a penalty notice fine from NYCC for unauthorised absences.

Taking a pupil on leave during term time interrupts teaching and learning and can disrupt educational progress. Before completing this application form parent/carers are asked to consider the effect on their child's continuity of education.

It is also important to note that single day/short term absences from school when a reason (such as sickness) is not provided by a parent or carer, will be marked as unauthorised absence. Arriving late to school after the close of registers will also be marked as unauthorised absence. This is in accordance with statutory laws for attendance. Should a child accrue several days of unauthorised absence over the school year, a penalty notice should be issued.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Garry de Castro Morland
Acting Headteacher

High Street, Harrogate, HG2 7LL

Tel: 01423 884 780 | Fax: 01423 880 612 | Email: admin@starbeck.n-yorks.sch.uk