



Starbeck Community Primary
and Nursery School

10th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Improvement Update

As you may be aware, all schools are expected to have a school improvement plan which governors and staff take ownership and accountability for over the course of the school year. Last year I informed parents about the key focus areas that the school would be concentrating on during this school year. We also invited parents to have more detailed updates on progress towards these objectives by attending our Parent's Forum meetings.

We are delighted with the progress that we have made over this school year. We have been moderated along the way through regular visits from Matt Blyton our School Improvement Advisor as well as termly visits from NYCC Education advisors for English, Maths and Attendance. We have also been subject to termly milestone review meetings, monitoring our progress towards the local authority support plan. These visits have continued to highlight that we are meeting our objectives and targets and all advisors have noted a significant improvement in the standards of teaching and learning, especially in English and Maths where they were most needed. Reports from all advisor visits have been shared and discussed with our governing body. Richard Walker, our Chair of Governors, will be providing his own update from governors very soon.

As we now reach the end of the school year, we have already begun planning our next school improvement plan. Due to the large amount of change that I introduced for this current school year, a great deal of consolidation and continuation of this good practice will be needed next year – I have listed some of these aspects below. In addition, we have some exciting next steps that we would like to share with parents at this stage. Our next steps have been identified through a combination of:

- School Advisor Monitoring
- School self-evaluation - monitoring of teaching & learning
- Analysis of assessments
- Pupil Voice
- Governor Feedback & input

Continuing the great progress

We have had strong success in these areas this year and will continue to embed and enhance them during the 2018-19 school year

- ∞ **Marking & Feedback** – *the school now has a systemic approach to assessment feedback ensuring that children are moved on quickly and understand their next steps in learning.*
- ∞ **Revised Maths Teaching & Learning** – *we now have quality evidence of reasoning & problem solving, adult response/feedback, variation & challenge and a new system for teaching Instant Recall Facts that have resulted in improved standards.*
- ∞ **Expectations for English** – *we have developed high expectations of handwriting and presentation for teachers and children; we will continue to develop children's writing stamina for sustained pieces of writing*
- ∞ **Whole School Curricular Targets** – *these have resulted in significant impact for handwriting (English) and Key Instant Recall Facts (Maths) We will maintain 17/18 WST expectations into the new year*
- ∞ **Interventions** – *new interventions introduced for Reading & Phonics have been successful in raising attainment for those children needing additional support.*
- ∞ **Attendance** – *Our whole school focus on attendance has resulted in improved overall attendance and reduced persistent absence percentage. We will continue to monitor and target the attendance of disadvantaged learners.*
- ∞ **STAT Online Tracker** – *our new tracking system is now fully embedded, ensuring that we are able to monitor attainment and progress of all children (individual, groups & whole school trends) and report this information to governors on a regular basis.*

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- ∞ **Subject Focus Year** – this year focused on Science, culminating in our ‘Science Week’ – we will now ensure that the good practice developed over the year continues to be embedded.
- ∞ **Wider range of sporting opportunities** – we have widened our range of sport provision including competitive, non-competitive, lunch clubs, after school clubs, NYCC inter-school competitions which have been incredibly popular with children.
- ∞ **Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH)** key skills development – we recently shared with parents at Stay & Learn sessions how we are teaching and developing children’s core learning behaviours – Social Skills, Motivation, Managing Feelings, Empathy & Self-awareness.
- ∞ **Leadership skills (children)** – we introduced new opportunities for children to develop their leadership skills through training Sports Leaders, Arts Leaders, Junior Road Safety Officers and School monitors – we will re-establish this for 18/19
- ∞ **Governance** – our governing body are now working effectively following re-constitution and the forming of two key committees (Standards & Resources) – governors are better informed and provide regular challenge to school leaders as well as visiting school to meet with key leaders each term.

Moving Forwards

These are our next steps for 2018-19 which will combine with the areas above:

- ∞ **English** – this year our whole school focus will be on spelling
- ∞ **Maths** – we have been accepted to join a Maths Mastery Hub – this will provide us with further training and development and link to our whole school target for maths questioning
- ∞ **Outdoor Learning** – develop a range of opportunities in all subjects for outdoor learning for all year groups. This will include a project to create an outdoor classroom area within our wonderful grounds.
- ∞ **Interventions** – we have now trialled a new maths intervention which will be used with children identified through assessments as needing additional targeted support
- ∞ **Oracy/Speaking & Listening focus** – we will be looking at staff CPD around providing a language rich learning environment and specific teaching of oracy.
- ∞ **Focus Year** – this year our focus will be DT & Art (any parents with artistic talents, please let me know!)
- ∞ **Assessment** – we will be looking at new systems for assessing skills development in Foundation subjects
- ∞ **School Website** – develop manageable system for regular updates of class pages

We hope you agree that this has been a very busy and positive year. Everyone has worked so hard and been on-board as we have successfully introduced a range of new initiatives and change. We are looking forward to a new school year and working towards our next plan. If you would like to discuss any of the points above, then please do speak to me or Mrs Pitts. If you have additional ideas or suggestions, we would be very happy to listen to these.

Thank you to all parents and friends of Starbeck School for your support and especially for the great attendance at our Stay & Learn sessions. We will continue these in the Autumn when we can share more details about our new whole school targets.

School Data - I will shortly be able to share with you the key outcomes from statutory testing once we have all data available.

Yours sincerely,

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Headteacher

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