



**Starbeck Community Primary  
and Nursery School**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy and enjoyable start to the new school year and are very grateful for all your good wishes for 2019. Hopefully you will have all read the individual class newsletters which were sent out last week. If however you did not receive one, each newsletter can be found in the 'Class Pages' section of the website – then visit your child's individual class page.

### **School Improvement**

We continue to work hard on our school improvement focuses from this year's plan. Our plan (as well as last year's plan) were scrutinised by the HMI inspector during the OFSED monitoring visit and were commended for their clarity and clear impact-linked success criteria and milestones. We have already made headway with our new whole school target focuses for English & Maths:

- ∞ English – *we are now well on with our new Spelling target. This has included a new approach and scheme for planning and teaching spelling. In addition a new on-line platform 'Spelling Shed' is in use by children across the school. Our school advisor recently met with a group of children during his last visit to discuss the initial impact of the WST and was very pleased with the feedback that he gained.*
- ∞ Maths – *We are now working with the Maths Teaching Research Group (TRG) as part of the Maths Mastery Hub. This has involved collaborative training sessions as well as a visit from the TRG lead to undertake a learning walk at Starbeck. We received very positive feedback on the progress made towards Mastery during the last school year and our current provision. We are working specifically on an oracy (Stem Sentences) focus which is already showing impact across the school in terms of language being used by children in their written answers from EYFS up to Yr 6*

We will continue to work hard on these areas as well as other key focuses for the year.

### **Local Authority Statement of Action**

We have now successfully completed the action plan agreed with the Local Authority back in September 2017. Final milestones for this plan were reviewed at a monitoring meeting in December. Our school improvement advisor stated:

*It is the view of the adviser that a further partnership support plan is not necessary. Leadership capacity has been strengthened enormously, and the school is now effectively self-evaluating its work.*

### **Academisation**

We are currently extremely busy working closely with Northern Star Academy Trust in preparation for academisation. I have already attended two Academy Trust Leadership Meetings and continue to be impressed with the vision and purpose of the trust. There will be opportunities very soon for parents to meet Mrs Jenn Plews (CEO of Northern Star Academy Trust) to hear more about the trust and their vision for Starbeck School as we move forwards. In addition, I will soon be adding an NSAT statement and information to our school website. I will be in touch again very shortly with dates and times for the meetings and will keep you updated on any further developments or information.

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

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### **School Performance**

Recently published performance tables confirmed that in addition to much improved outcomes, our relative progress of children was in the top 20% of schools nationally in Writing and Maths. This was an achievement to be very proud of so please do share this news – this is a significant shift and we will continue to strive to achieve great progress for all children.

### **Breakfast and Afterschool Club**

Please could I request that all enquiries and bookings for both our clubs come via the school office. This is to ensure that bookings are recorded centrally and are closely matched to payments and to our orders for resources. Booking forms can be picked up either at the office or when collecting/dropping-off children at the club and returned in the same way. Payments can continue to be made either on-line using Parent Pay, with voucher schemes or directly to the school office.

### **Competitive Music**

The various musical groups and clubs are now beginning again after the holiday. Our choir and drumming groups will both be taking part in the Harrogate Competitive Music Festival again this year and are therefore already preparing and perfecting new repertoires. We will let you know nearer the time of the competitions as I'm sure that many of you will want to go along to support our children.

### **Sports Clubs**

We have two sports clubs running this half term so far. The first of these is a new Dodgeball Club which is being run by Sporting Influence who also provide in-school support for sport on Wednesdays. In addition, Mrs McKenzie has re-started her Netball Club in preparation for choosing a team of players to represent the school at the upcoming inter-school Netball tournament.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please do catch Mrs Pitts or myself first thing in the morning or at the end of the school day as we dismiss the children. Alternatively go directly to the class teacher if you feel this is more appropriate..

Yours sincerely,

Mr Garry de Castro Morland  
Headteacher

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