



Autumn Half Term 2 - 2021/2022

10th December 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic autumn term with lots of exciting activities and learning taking place. Our pupils have once again shown us how mature and talented they all are with the impressive work that they have produced. This newsletter will give you a flavour of some of their amazing achievements.

I am pleased to report that in autumn 2 we have seen a steady rise in our attendance with many of pupils coming into school every single day. However, we would like to continue to improve on this and therefore appreciate your support in sending your child into school every single day. Remember our target is 97%

As the end of this term, unfortunately, we will be saying a sad farewell to Mrs Kauser and Mrs Siddique, both have been at Starbank for several years. During their time at our school, they have served the community and helped many children achieve their primary milestones. We would like to say a huge 'thank you' for all their hard work and wish them good luck for their future endeavours.

As always, the break is an opportunity for you to enjoy time together as a family and help your children gain experiences which will enrich their lives. We wish you all a happy Christmas and a restful break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

*Mr Riaz (Associate Principal) and Mr Ahmad (Assistant Principal)*



### £1600 raised for BBC Children in Need!



A huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped us raise money for Children in Need. We raised an impressive £1600; money we know will go some way to supporting young and vulnerable children around the UK. We will continue to raise money for good causes throughout the year, so please look out for our next event!



**acorns**

Your local children's hospice

### Star Service

FESTIVE WINTER GIFT PROGRAMME



During the winter period, the needs of those less fortunate are present in everyone's thoughts. With Christmas fast approaching, the festive period offers an opportunity for Starbank School to demonstrate their contributions to the wider community through charitable actions as part of the Festive Winter Gift Programme.

We have been working alongside Acorns Children's Hospice and Birmingham City Mission to create Christmas Toy sacks for vulnerable children across Birmingham. Thank you for all your generous toy donations. The toy sacks have been delivered on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.



### Nursery discover lots of new things

Our Nursery pupils have been working hard to develop their understanding of numbers. Pupils have had lots of opportunities to read, write and match numbers to a quantity of up to the number 5. Children have been using 'Number blocks' to help them with their learning. They have also been looking closely at shapes - they have been on shape hunts and exploring shapes in their own environment.

Pupils have been learning to mark make by writing their names on their work, paintings, and creations. They have been trying to recognise what their name looks like by finding their name cards at the beginning of each session.

In Nursery our children love to read and share books. Pupils have enjoyed reading the stories 'Walking through the jungle' and 'Dear Zoo'. They have learnt the names of lots of jungle and zoo animals; they have also been looking at non-fiction books to find out lots of interesting facts about them.



### Reception fly off to space!

Reception have had lots of fun learning about Space. Our favourite story in Literacy has been Whatever Next. Pupils have enjoyed acting out the story; making rockets using different materials as well as writing lists of things they would pack to take to the moon!

In the afternoons pupils have done lots of Art activities such as marbling using ink to make different planets. They have also made balloon rockets and propelled them into the air in our Reception garden and made some space puddings!

In Maths pupils have been learning to recognise, count and write numbers 6 to 10. Please read with your child daily and practise their new sound with them. Remember to return their phonics reading wallets daily.



### Year One are artists

Year One we have enjoyed becoming artists and the children have been working hard to create their own self-portraits. This has involved the pupils looking closely at their features and how to draw these in the correct place on their faces.

They have also been able to experiment with mixing paint to create new colours, tints and shades, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children have had lots of fun and have been able to produce some fantastic work, well done Year One!



### Year Two visit the Great fire of London

Pupils in year 2 have been extremely busy looking at 'The Great Fire of London' in History. They were able to carry out their own research using a range of secondary sources to find out about why the fire in 1666 was one of the worst recorded events in London, during this period.

Pupils also had the opportunity to write their very own diary entry in first person, from the perspective of someone living in London during the fire outbreak. It was lovely to read the wonderful descriptive entries, which all included key facts and information!

We are very proud of the work Year 2 have produced this term; we have showcased our work on our Year 2 display. Don't forget to have a look at it when you walk past it next!





### Year Three learn about forces



Year 3's Science topic is in full 'Force'! Children in 3S and 3Y have been studying forces, focussing on magnetism. The classes loved classifying things around the school as 'magnetic' or 'not-magnetic', using a horseshoe, ring, bar, and button magnets.

Pupils soon found out that their original prediction (that all metals are magnetic) was wrong, so they planned a series of experiments to understand which metals get attracted to magnets and which don't. The teachers have been so impressed with how well the classes are linking scientific concepts to real-life problems and experiences.

### Year Four visit Tudor life

Year 4 have become Tudor experts!

They started the topic with a trip to Blakesley Hall, where they immersed themselves in the life of a Tudor named Richard Smallbrook. As you can see from the picture below every child gained something from the experience and enjoyed taking part.

The children now understand how the Tudors came to reign over England, they can explain the Tudor family tree and they know all about Henry VIII's six wives. Your children have worked wonders over the last seven weeks, and we are proud of them all and their outcomes! I am sure if you ask them, they can teach you all about the Tudors too.



## Birmingham Hippodrome

### Project – Year 5

Year 5 have been exploring the topic of Animals and Humans from the perspectives that all animals are equally precious. Topics like the origin of life, the theory of evolution, and the impact humans have been making towards nature have been discussed. They have looked at Invertebrates and Vertebrates, and the different kinds of animals that are under these categories. These themes have been incorporated into a physical theatre performance directed by Cheryl from the Hippodrome Education Network. Year 5 have worked hard rehearsing the piece and have shown enthusiasm throughout the sessions.

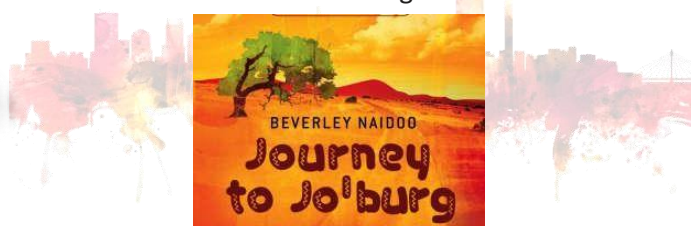
Also, our after-school group this half term has been for Year 4. They have explored themes such as Nature, Ocean, and Travel in their sessions, experiencing different continents and cultures through fun activities and games. The Travel session has also been reexplored and recreated as our Christmas piece about 'Love & Giving', filmed by Shan as part of this year's iStarTV Christmas show. The Caribbean, Japan, and Africa are the three places the Year 4 have visited using the magic of imagination and happiness.

### Year 5's Journey to Jo'burg

Year 5 have been reading the text 'Journey to Johannesburg'. The text covers many important themes including racism and apartheid. Through empathising with the main characters of Naledi and Tiro, pupils were able to gain an understanding of the hardship that was suffered by many individuals who lived through this terrible time.

Pupils discussed how unfair the treatment of certain individuals was and the fight for justice in making positive change. They identified and used empowering vocabulary from the text to write their own diary entries as Naledi.

The pupils' diaries were a delight to read as they were filled with emotion, powerful language and the characters conveying hope for the future. Pupils were able to reflect on the trials and tribulations of the characters and showcase this within their writing.



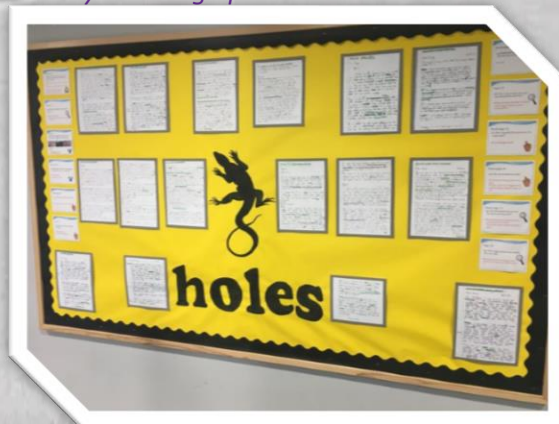
### Year 6 explore deserts

Year 6 have really enjoyed their unit on 'Holes' by Louis Sachar this half term. They had the opportunity to explore (the ironically named) Camp Green Lake -which isn't a lake at all, as well as themes including curses, cruelty and cowboys- particularly the notorious Kissin' Kate Barlow.

As part of this unit, year 6 did a lot of work on inference and analysis to explore the main character, Stanley Yelnates (whose name is a palindrome). Year 6 also explored deserts and were able to gather vocabulary by exploring features of a desert and how this links to the book setting.

The unit was completed with a celebratory movie night in year 6 where all children had a superb afternoon watching Disney's adaptation of the book and thoroughly enjoyed their time.

*"Stanley Yelnat's family has a history of bad luck going back generations, so he is not too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre. Nor is he very surprised when he is told that his daily labour at the camp is to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, and report anything that he finds in that hole. The warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth."*



### Year 6 are tour guides!

'History for Today' – Is a visual exhibition focusing on WW2 and Anne Frank specifically, that can be put up in the school. The exhibition organiser, James will help the pupils to develop their own tours in groups of 3-5. The exhibition will stay in the school for up to two weeks, where the pupils use what they have learned to become peer educators and give the tours to their peers.

This is a great way to focus in on the historical context, as well as working on teamwork and presentation skills.



### Year 6 stamp out Fake News

Year 6 took also took part in the workshop 'Fake News, Extremist and Truth'. This was a superb opportunity for our children to deepen their knowledge of violence, extremism and exploitation; being able to recognise what this looks like and focusing on practical tools to build their confidence in a safe space using interactive and engaging content.

There was a lot of reflection and conversations from our pupils who were able to explore themes such as radicalism, real and fake news, online trends and how to keep themselves safe both in person and particularly, online.



### Odd Socks Day

During anti-bullying week, we continued with our odd-socks-day. The children developed their understanding of it being ok to be different and what to do if they ever felt they were being bullied. We use the STOP acronym:



It is vital our children feel safe in our school. Children are encouraged to speak to their teacher or an adult in school if they do not feel safe.





## Rocket Radio and iStar TV



"Rocket Radio and iStarTV have been in full swing recording this half term at all sites with a "Story Special" radio show from Year 3, and a brand new "Christmas Special" TV show from all year groups. The TV show even sees some of our teachers showcase their performance skills in front of the camera! Two brilliant shows to look out for! They can be found on the Rocket Radio/iStarTV page on our school website."

## Parking reminders!

When parents or carers are picking up or dropping off children at school it is advisable that they park sensibly, safely and in accordance with any parking restrictions. What can you do to help keep everyone safe around the school gates?

Please do not:

- Block the road - emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access.
- Park on yellow lines, zig-zags or block the school entrance.
- Park on the pavement, across dropped kerbs or residents' driveways.
- Park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users.
- Leave your vehicle with the engine still running.
- Stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off, even for a few seconds

## Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing



Pupil mental health and wellbeing is high on our agenda. As part of our targeted provision, we work with other agencies to support pupils' mental health and emotional wellbeing including:

The school nurse service  
Mental health support teams  
Educational Psychology services  
Behaviour support  
Pediatricians  
CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)  
Counselling services  
Family Support Workers

Pupils marked World Mental Health Day. They practiced mindfulness activities. The mindfulness calendar can be found at the following:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/mindfulness-calendar-daily-five-minute-activities/>

For good mental health, daily exercise is encouraged. Please ensure your child has a minimum of 60 minutes a day outdoor activity.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/how-to-using-exercise>

Please see our school website for our Mental health and Emotional Wellbeing Policy This includes a list of websites for further support. You can also contact the school SENDCo Mrs. Perry

## Dates for your Diary:

Key dates	Event
13/12/21	Year 1-2 Stars Assembly
14/12/21	Year 3-4 Stars Assembly
15/12/21	Year 5-6 Stars Assembly
13/11/21	Violence parent workshop with PC Cooper 8:45-9:30
15/12/20	Christmas Dinner Day
16/12/21	Y4/5/6 Talent show (AM) End of Term/Christmas Party (PM) Non-uniform
17/12/21	Pupils and staff break up for Christmas holidays
04/01/22	Teacher Training Day – School closed for pupils
05/01/22	Pupils return to school for the Spring Term
06/01/22	Photograph Day