



Autumn 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our pupils have had an excellent start to the new academic year. They are thoroughly enjoying their learning experiences and spending time with friends. Our staff continue to work exceptionally hard to ensure pupils receive a high- quality education. To ensure the school is happy and safe place for all our pupils. We have dedicated daily time to building a sense of community within the classroom and to develop pupil character. All pupils know who they can speak to if they are worried and there is a high presence of the leadership team throughout the day.

The school has also been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools and West Midlands Police. Operation Encompass is the reporting of police attended domestic abuse incidents to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, where there are children in the home. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

We welcome Mrs Ahmed, a highly experienced Assistant Principal, who supports across the three primary school sites. She will be working with us this year to support with teaching and learning.

Linked to the curriculum, we further emphasis our aim for all pupils to be functional, confident and independent readers who also take pleasure in it This is not only to prepare them for secondary school but to encourage lifelong readers as this opens up life opportunities. As always, we thank you for your continued support and if you have any queries we are always happy to talk to you.

Miss Rifat (Associate Principal)

Mr Westwood (Assistant Principal)

Safeguarding

We take safeguarding at Starbank very seriously. If your child ever has any worries or concerns, then it is vital they know who they can talk to. We have posters around the school showing who they can talk to and our new safeguarding display in the dinner hall also offers advice and help.

The designated safeguarding leads at Bierton Road are:



Attendance

We have continued to work hard on our attendance this half term. It is very important that your children come to school every day and on time.

There are still some challenges with COVID, if you feel your child has symptoms then please arrange for them to be tested.

Our aim is for every child to be at 97% or above with their attendance. If this falls below 92%, then your child is classed as a persistent absence. If this does happen then a meeting will happen with a member of the senior leadership team to support you. Please make sure if your child is unwell that you phone the school office to let us know.



Reception

Reception have really enjoyed learning about the Autumn season during Literacy and Topic lessons. They have named, handled and described a variety of autumn artefacts including conkers, pine cones, acorns and pumpkins. The children have particularly enjoyed their Literacy work based on the story 'We're Going on a Leaf Hunt' and they have learnt lots of new words to describe autumn leaves.



Year 1

The children in Year 1 have developed a great deal of independence this half term as they have adapted to a new way of learning at school. There has been lots of excitement as they have learnt new subjects including Geography, History, Music and D&T. The children have been particularly interested in learning about where we live and identifying human and natural features during a walk around the local area.



Nursery

The children in Nursery have settled into school brilliantly and they have made their teachers really proud! They have been busy playing and exploring in all areas of the classroom and garden. The children have started to build friendships and find their favourite activities to play with. The home corner and painting easel have been particularly popular.

Year 2

Year 2 have had a wonderful half term and have made lots of progress. In English they looked at 'The Owl Who Is Afraid of The Dark' and 'A Tale Of Two Beasts'. Both these books have supported the children to create some excellent pieces of writing, where they have been working on expanded noun phrases and their use of punctuation.

In Maths, it has been all about number work! Place value, counting forwards and backwards, one less and one more and finding greater than and less than numbers are some of the skills. The children have been using lots of concrete equipment and tried to represent their findings using pictorial drawings.

Chocolate has been the main word for Year 2 this half term. They have been learning about the history of Cadbury. In their DT time, they have created their own Cadbury trucks to learn about wheels, axles and how they work.

Safety Seymour

The Year 2 children also had a workshop based on carbon monoxide and how to detect it in our homes. They learnt so much and were able to recall the telephone number if they recognized any danger signs.

Well done Year 2, Seymour would be proud!





Years 3 and 4

Year 4:

English: 4K and 4PB have enjoyed reading 'The Fire Maker's Daughter' and have used powerful vocabulary to describe settings and also have written non-chronological reports.

In RE they have learnt a lot about Diwali and in Geography they have studied many European countries.

Year 3:

Year 3J and 3Q have enjoyed two novels this half term: 'Georges's Marvellous Medicine' and 'Christophe's Story'. Both stories are about familiar settings. The children have used various writing techniques to describe a setting and to write formal letters.

In History, they have learnt about Ancient Greeks and how Alexandra the Great got his title.

Year 5

In year 5 the children have been exploring the world of Harry Potter! They have been looking at the book, 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. The topic has been all about descriptive writing and how different characters have felt at certain points within the story. The children have created some excellent writing using some adventurous adjectives.

In maths, place value has been the main topic and the children have been working hard on number skills. We have recently moved onto statistics and the children have been gathering their own data.

Throughout Autumn 1, the children have been learning about rivers and the importance of these. See if your children can explain some of these key words:

Saltwater Stream Mouth Source

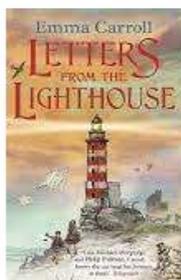
Year 6

Year 6 have had a fabulous start to the academic year.

We have been lucky enough to take part in a HEN project with the Hippodrome, creating some powerful dramatic performances linked to World War 2.

We were also able to visit the Hippodrome in person to watch the extremely informative and engaging play, 'Marcus'. This highlighted the life of Marcus Garvey, linked to October's Black History Month learning.

Our novel focus has been Letters From The Lighthouse and children have really enjoyed learning about Olive and Esther's adventures.



Times Table Rockstars

We are working extremely hard on our time tables in all year groups. It's vital that our children know their times tables as they feed into all of mathematics.

What times table does your child need to learn?

Year 1 – 2's, 5's and 10's

Year 2 – 2's, 5's and 10's including odd and even numbers

Year 3 – 3's, 4' and 8's

Year 4 – All times table facts

These include division facts and the children must be fluent in their year group times tables.

You can support your child at home by testing them on their division and multiplication facts.



Star Readers

Star readers are a fantastic way of seeing new and exciting books. We have an excellent variety of fiction and non-fiction books in a Star Reader collection. Please make sure you are reading these books with your children and speaking about the author. You may want to try and research the author to see what other books they had written. Please look after these books and return them to school in the correct condition.

Important Dates

- Wed 03/11/2021 Reception Open Event
- Fri 26/11/2021 Staff Wellbeing Day (School Closed)
- Thu 09/12/2021 Christmas Dinner
- Wed 17/11/2021 Last day of school
- Wed 05/01/2022 Pupils return to school

Parent workshops at Starbank Road at 9:30:

- Wed 24/11/2021 Knife Crime parent workshop
- Mon 13/12/2021 Violence parent workshop
- Wed 27/01/2021 Online Safety/ Cyber Crime parent workshop

Mindfulness Workshops

We have been very lucky at Starbank to have an organisation come into school to speak about mindfulness. With the state of our world currently and the tragic effects of the pandemic, looking after ourselves and our mind is very important. The children have been learning about how to stay calm, relax and look after their mind. It's been brilliant to hear our children talk about experiences and share with their friends during this time.



Trips and visitors

Year 6 were lucky enough to go to see a performance of a new show at the Hippodrome in Birmingham called, 'Marcus'. The show was all about Black History month and Marcus Garvey.

The children enjoyed the show and came back talking about the life of Marcus and what he had achieved. These opportunities are fantastic ways for our children to learn about important topics in new and interesting ways. We were really proud of how Year 6 behaved on the trip and represented our school.



Year 2 went on a local walk to identify human and physical features. The children were amazing at spotting them and enjoyed being out in the fresh air. When the children came back they were able to talk about these features confidently and it showed the trip had been a huge success.



PCSO visits:

We have also been visited by our local PCSO's who have held discussions about topics that are important in the current climate. The PCSO's discussed gang awareness and other topics and the children found the discussions very knowledgeable. As a school, we want to make sure our children are aware of current issues in the world and in the local community. These discussions are vital in supporting our children in gaining important information and how to safe.

