



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of term, we are very proud of all the children at Bierton Road. They have shown fantastic attitude, excellent learning behaviours and a brilliant drive to succeed.

Please ensure as a community we work together to help keep everyone safe. This includes wearing our masks on the playground and keeping our distance. If your child has any of the 3 main Covid-19 symptoms, siblings at the school without symptoms must also isolate. A negative PCR test for the child with symptoms will be accepted for the symptomatic pupil and siblings to return before the end of the isolation period.

We want our pupils to have a fantastic holiday filled with laughter, loved ones and creating special memories. Happy Easter and Ramadan Kareem to all families who are marking the auspicious event.

We look forward to seeing you all return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Keep safe,

Miss Rifat and Mr Westwood

### Attendance

Each child must achieve 96% or above in their attendance. This is vital so children do not miss valuable school time and lessons. It is especially important this year due to national lockdowns. If you have 100% attendance you will have received a 100% certificate- a brilliant achievement!

We have been impressed with all the classes' attendance, but a huge well done to the following classes:

**5V for the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March you achieved 100% everyday!**

**3K for the week commencing the 15<sup>th</sup> March you achieved 4 days of 100% attendance!**

**We have seen a big improvement in all year groups so keep it up!**

### Staff Farewell

Next half-term we will be saying farewell to a few staff members.

**Mrs Thorne-Smith** has supported many pupils and families across the Bierton Road site. Her dedication and contribution has been invaluable. She will be missed by both her colleagues and pupils.

**Ms Gaeta** has been at Starbank for 20 years and has worked across all three sites and in all year groups. We want to say thank you for everything on behalf of the children at Starbank.

**Mrs Morell** has taught Spanish to KS2 pupils across the three sites. Her commitment to ensure pupils learn a new language and enjoy it is a time pupils will remember.

**The FACE team**, Nargis and Christine, have supported many families across the three sites. Their dedication and commitment has made a remarkable difference to many.

**Mr Bell** has developed the sporting abilities of many pupils. He has encouraged a lifelong passion and unforgettable enthusiasm.

**Mrs Begom**, office staff, will be moving to the Starbank Road site. Her kind, and compassionate nature will be missed.

**Mr McGeown**, Site team, is moving to Hob Moor Road site his cheerful and kind demeanor will be missed.

On behalf of the Bierton community we wish them all the best for the next chapter in their lives.

### Staff Welcome Back

Next half-term we will be saying welcome back to a few staff members.

**Ms Clifford**, a member of the senior leadership is returning from her maternity. Ms Clifford has previously worked at the Bierton road site and will be familiar to many parents.

**Mrs Yafai** will also be returning from maternity. She will be teaching in Y5.

Both staff members are really looking forward to working with the pupils and families.

## Reception

Reception have had a very busy half term learning all about Africa. The children have enjoyed reading stories set in the continent of Africa including 'We All Went on Safari' and 'Handa's Surprise'. They have taken part in lots of activities including locating Africa on a map, finding out about where people live and what they eat and also naming and comparing a variety of safari animals. We would like to say a big thank you to all of our parents and carers for helping the children to access Morning Meeting each day. We are all very proud of the learning they have done, both at home and in school!



## Nursery

This half term Nursery have been exploring all about journeys and adventures! We have been on train ride adventures which helped us to think about what we might see on our journey, where we might go and what we might need to take. We have also explored the story of "We're Going on a Bear Hunt!" through picture walks, videos, actions and songs. We have also explored the beautiful season of Spring where we have discussed the changes we might see through a wonderful Spring walk adventure! We have painted and created Spring pictures through the use of different media. This gave us lots of practice to create beautiful spring flowers for our wonderful mummies on Mother's Day! We are so proud of how the children have come back with an enormous smile on their face ready to start their exciting learning adventures.



## Year 1

This half – term in English, Year 1 have had a great time exploring the story 'Supertato'. Pupils even dressed up as 'Superato' for World Book Day! After, reading the story online they returned to school and did a brilliant job in writing their very own alternative version of the story. Their alternative version involved 'Supertato' coming to Starbank School on a mission looking for the evil pea!

In Maths, online pupils learned about measurements. They even made their own scales at home to compare items to see which is heavier/ lighter. Back at school, pupils began to develop their understanding of multiplication and division with a focus on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

The pupils have also particularly enjoyed their History unit focused on toys. Learning all about types of toys from the past and comparing it with the present.

They have made their own toys and these looked brilliant!



## Year 2

In Year 2 pupils have been learning about narratives with the same author based around our class text, 'Traction Man'. After reading different versions of the story online, pupils arrived at school with their amazing ideas and wrote their very own scene for the story.

In Maths, online pupils learned about shapes and even went on a shape hunt around their house. Back at school, we moved onto learning about measurements.

In Art, our unit was 'Mother Nature'. We started online by exploring images of plants by artists Paul Klee, Henri Rousseau and Vincent Van Gogh. Back at school, we moved onto experimenting with a variety of art skills, to help us create our very own images of leaves and plants for our final art piece.

## Year 3

3Q have joined a life lesson about farming, together with many schools across the UK, and have learnt about different soils and what can be done to prolong the good qualities of soil to grow crops, which is so important as this where we get our food from.

They have planted French beans in different types of soil and will be observing g what will happen over time.

They will also soon share their ideas about robotic vehicles that help to avoid compacting the soil with heave transport

### Year 4

Year four have been reading Street Child and during lock down wrote some amazing narrative stories and newspaper reports. Now that we are back in class we are using the same text to write persuasive texts. The pupils have enjoyed investigating information from different sources so they can write persuasive arguments. Science Day was a great opportunity for pupils to think scientifically about real problems. We all got very wet testing the properties of plastic so that we could recycle them correctly. 4AP made a Well-being Tool kit which we are going to use to keep track of and explain our emotions as we get used to being back in school.



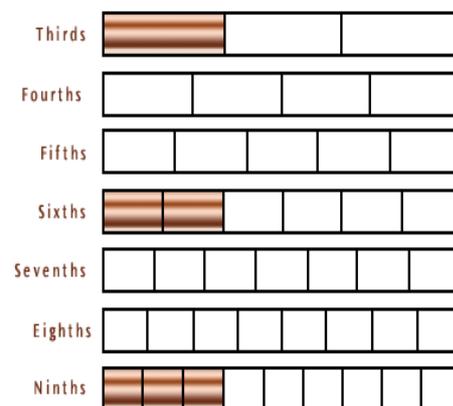
### Year 5

It is great seeing our Year 5's back in school! During our science week activities we became inventors, designing contraptions to help make our lives easier and to look after the environment.

We are getting stuck into the novel, 'Beowulf' as our English text: a story full of monsters, heroes and battles. We can really get our descriptive writing flowing to build vivid imagery of the scenes.

Our mathematical brains are also getting a real work-out learning all about fractions!

Can you complete the fraction wall?



### Year 6

It is lovely to have all of our Year 6 children back in school. Since returning, we have dived straight back into school life, starting our first week back with science day activities. We explored how density affects the way liquids behave, the reaction between washing up liquid and fats with our rainbow milk experiment and we got our hands dirty filtering water.

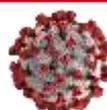
Linking to our previous topic of The Explorer, we have been learning all about South America, as well as exploring how our amazing bodies keep us alive in science.

In our English lessons, we are learning all about Macbeth this half term - we are excited to delve into Shakespeare's world of prophecies and betrayal!



In Maths, we will be looking at our number work again in Summer 1 and big focus will be on fractions, percentages and decimals. Make sure you look at these units on Sats Companion.

### COVID – 19



During this pandemic, the community has stood together is helping keep everyone safe. We must continue to do this as we ease out of lockdown. It's vital we continue to follow the rules set out by the Government when on the school grounds.



- Maintain your 2-meter distance when dropping and picking up your children.
- Do not stand in crowds, please leave the playground once you have dropped your children off or picked them up.
- You must wear a facemask when entering the playground unless you have a medical condition that means you cannot wear one.



### Birmingham Hippodrome Project

This half-term the children in Year 1 have been working on a Hen project with Birmingham Hippodrome and will continue to do so into summer 1. Children have had the opportunity to take part in a number of interactive activities to develop their performance skills. The children have had a great time taking part in pre-recorded sessions by the project organiser Izzy Taylor based on the story the Hungry caterpillar. We look forward to sharing with what the children do in summer 1 when Izzy Taylor will be coming in to work with the children.



### National Day of Reflection

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the whole country marked a year since we had our first lockdown. At Starbank we also wanted to mark this day and remember everybody that had sadly passed away, or all the amazing people that have helped in some way against the virus. We had a craft afternoon where the children created items for a 'Reflection Display' built around a tree as a sign of remembrance. KS1 painted pebbles in rainbow colours, years 3 and 4 created flower pots with messages on them and upper KS2 created tree decorations and letters to people they felt had helped during the pandemic.



### World Book Day

World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading: reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success. Its mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own.

This year, World Book Day fell during lockdown but we wanted to make sure that we still devoted a day to celebrating reading. Every year group planned some live fantastic and fun reading opportunities for the pupils to participate in from: class assemblies, book quizzes, interactive videos from established children's authors and illustrators, and offline fun reading activities.

We also arranged for the author 'Dan Freedman' to pre-record an assembly for our KS2 pupils. Pupils thought of questions that they would like to ask this famous author, which he then kindly answered. Many of our pupils were inspired by Dan and his achievements and successes, achievements and successes that he admits have stemmed from his love of reading.

Thanks to National Book Tokens and lots of lovely book publishers and booksellers, World Book Day, in partnership with schools all over the country, distribute over 15 million £1 World Book Day book tokens to children and young people every year on World Book Day. The £1 book tokens can then be swapped for one of the exclusive, new and completely FREE World Book Day books that are on sale in supermarkets as well as in book stores. On their return to school, every pupil also received their £1 book voucher so if you have not yet done so please go with your child to exchange their voucher for a brand new book.

Remember: Spending just 10 minutes a day reading and sharing stories with children can make a crucial difference to their future success and it is fun for all involved.



**Mr Grafton as  
Supertato!**

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

We continue to place great importance on our pupils' mental health. During lockdown we dedicated additional time to wellbeing and made sure this remained in place when pupils returned to school. Pupils were given tailored lessons depending on their lockdown experience. We can see an increasing confidence in pupils sharing what good mental health looks like and how to achieve this. Please encourage your child to continue using mindfulness and relaxation activities as one way to support them.

To continue to ensure pupils feel safe and happy at school. The school council are leading on an anti-bullying ambassadors project. With the support of a class teacher they will ensure in each year group, Year 1 to Year 6, there is a nominated anti-bullying ambassador.

We have put together a list of useful websites and contacts on the school website.

<https://www.starbankschool.co.uk/information/emotional-health-well-being/>