

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome

Welcome to the start of a brand-new year at New Park! It has been lovely to welcome the children back into their newly redecorated and refurnished classrooms. A special welcome to all of our new starters this year. Whether you are just starting your school life in the Early Years, or have recently moved schools, New Park is a great place to learn!

Celebrating children’s achievements

Our end of week celebration assemblies will start this week at 9am on Friday. Every week teachers choose two children who have impressed with their perseverance, hard work and great attitude. We also ask each class to share some of their learning from the week. If your child is chosen, we will let you know beforehand so that you can come along and celebrate with them.



Mini-library

Our mini-library is now in place outside the KS1 entrance – this is a free resource donated by Harrogate International Festivals to encourage reading and book swaps. It is aimed at adults, please feel free to take a book and either bring it back when you have finished – or donate another book that you have enjoyed.



School dinners

Our new caterers, Chartwells, have begun serving their new menu at lunchtimes and the first impressions from the children have been very positive. There will always be some teething issues with a new system but I have been pleased with the greater choice and the focus on healthier, more seasonal foods. We have asked Chartwells to run an information evening on the new menu and will send out information in the coming weeks.

NSPCC

Next week the NSPCC will be running assemblies and workshops with the children, teaching them how to keep themselves safe from harm. These sessions are an important part of our PSHE curriculum and empower children to recognise signs of abuse and know how to get help. We are also pleased to have secured an online safety workshop for all parents next Friday. I would encourage as many of you to come that are able – the online world poses the single biggest risk to our children and each year we have to deal with the consequences of inappropriate and dangerous online behaviour. Please see the enclosed letters for more information.

ParentMail

This year we will be moving to online notifications, letters and bookings (eg. Parents’ evenings) across the school. The first step is setting up ParentMail. You should have received an invite to set up an account via text message– please speak to the office if you haven’t received this as we may not have your correct contact details.

Parent governor vacancy

Our governing body have an important strategic role in guiding the school and holding leaders to account. Our governing body has roles for two parent governors and we currently have one vacancy. If you are passionate about helping our school be the best it can be and would like to know more – please speak to our current parent governor, Lousie Terzza, or ask at the office.



Achieving together

Our results in 2017-18 showed New Park to be one of the most improved schools in the country. Last academic year we went one step further: children across the school achieved not only the best results in the school's history but quite possibly some of the very best nationally. 95% of our children achieved the expected standard in reading and we believe we will be in the top 5% of all schools for the progress that our children made. This year our school focus is developing the wider curriculum through a Project-Based-Learning approach. Our teachers skilfully weave English teaching through the novels and stories that the children study, and our projects will incorporate the wider curriculum into the children's learning in a similar way. Each project will culminate in an exhibition where we invite families, friends and the wider community to share and celebrate the children's achievements.



Family Breakfast

On Thursday 19th September we are holding our first family breakfast of the year. We will be serving breakfast for all children and parents from 7:45 in the school hall. Tickets cost 50p and can be bought from the office. This event is free for children eligible for free school meals but please let the office know you are coming.

UCI World Championships

After taking advice from NYCC, the Governing Body have decided to close the school early at 1pm on Tuesday 24th and at 12:30pm on Wednesday 25th. We will be serving lunch on both days. There will be significant road disruption all week, please leave your cars at home where possible and allow extra time for your journey.



Open morning

On Monday 30th September we are inviting all parents to stay for the first hour of the school day from 9-10am and join in with some fun activities and challenges in the classroom. This will be a great opportunity for you to see the work that has gone into redecorating the school over the Summer. Please come to the school office after dropping your child off in the playground.

Jeans for Genes

It is Jeans for Genes day on Friday 20th September. All children are encouraged to wear jeans for the day and bring in a donation to raise money for the 500,000 children in the UK with Genetic Disorders.

School Uniform

Thank you for making such an effort with the new school uniform, the children look incredibly smart and wear the badge with pride! Our aim is to make school uniform simple and cost-effective. Please remember that:

- Nursery children do not need to wear school uniform
- All other children must wear an aqua sweatshirt/cardigan with the New Park logo
- Plain black shoes should be worn. No boots, heels, sandals or flip flops and there should be no visible logos

Free Uniform and trips

We provide free school uniform, free school trips, free clubs, and free swimming, as well as a free school dinner to all children who are eligible. You can visit <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals> for a list of criteria and application forms can be found online or from the school office.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Family Breakfast or open mornings later this month

Mr Mold