

25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents and carers,

It's been a brilliant first half-term at New Park – hopefully you've been keeping up to date by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We love sharing the children's learning with you. We have recently updated our website and prospectus with some new pages and photographs of the children. You can read and share the prospectus on our website (address at the top of this letter). We are looking forward to our two open days next half-term, please spread the word to any friends and family with children who are looking for a Nursery or Reception place.

### Parents evening

We are pleased to announce that our first parents' evening of the year will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. This is a really useful opportunity to talk to your child's class teacher about how well they have settled into the new year, the progress they are making and to ask any questions you may have. Our Chair of Governors, Philippa Bogle will be attending and we will have information on staying safe online available. We will be using ParentMail to book appointments which will save paper and time. The link will go live at 6pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. If you haven't yet signed up for ParentMail you will need to book an appointment with the office.



### School dinners and packed lunches

This half-term we have been working with our caterers to develop a new menu. The children have shared their views on the options and choices they would like to have available and we will be presenting this new menu at parents' evening. Healthy and nutritious food is at the centre of the school day – we are removing all puddings and replacing them with daily fresh fruit. At the same time we will be more closely monitoring the contents of children's packed lunches. If you choose to send your child with a packed lunch please note that it should be as equally healthy and nutritious as school dinners. Crisps, chocolate, sweets, and foods with added sugar (choose sugar-free yoghurts, jelly and dried fruit) are not allowed. There are excellent lunchbox suggestions available on the NHS Change4Life website and we have included a copy of our own guidance with this letter. Water is freely available to all at lunchtimes, no other drinks are permitted. If children bring unsuitable food to school in their packed lunches, the items will be confiscated until the end of the school day. We thank you for your support in this.



### Progress

It is hard to believe that our Ofsted report was published just over a year ago. We were exceptionally proud of our GOOD outcome as it reflected the tremendous hard-work from all staff and children. We will never stop striving to improve and offer the best possible care and education to all our children. In the last year alone we have created our school farm and made outdoor learning an intrinsic part of the curriculum, replaced the roof and windows across the school site and redecorated every classroom and implemented brand-new, bespoke schemes of work for PSHE, Art, Science and PE. We know that our progress results place us in the top 5% of all schools nationally and we are excited about our future curriculum plans.

### 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! We are beginning to have instances of older children wearing bright branded trainers to school. We understand that accidents happen and shoes get lost or damaged – that is why we have now purchased spare shoes in every size in the school office. If a child arrives without correct school shoes we will ask them to change into a pair of these until the end of the school day.

**Free Uniform and trips**

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school meals. However, you can still apply for funding which will support your child as they move through the school. We use the extra funding we receive to 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.

**Miss Williams**

Miss Williams is taking the brave and exciting step to change careers which means that Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November will be her last day with us. For over 22 years she has nurtured, taught and cared for children at New Park and I am sure many of you will want to thank her personally. As Y3/4 are on a school trip that day, we will be holding a special celebration assembly on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 9am to celebrate Miss Williams and thank her for her tremendous service to the school. You are all most welcome to attend.



I hope you all have a fun, family-filled half-term.

Mr Mold



**Dates for your diary**

- 4<sup>th</sup> November – school reopens at 8.45am
  - 6<sup>th</sup> November 9am - New 2020 Reception starters Open day
  - 13<sup>th</sup> November – Individual school photos
  - 13<sup>th</sup> November – 3.30-7.30pm Parents’ Evening
  - 14<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need. Children can wear their pyjamas to school for a suggested donation of £1.
  - 15<sup>th</sup> November – Year 3/4 trip to Life Science Centre
  - 18<sup>th</sup> November 1.45pm - New 2020 Reception starters Open day
  - 28<sup>th</sup> November – Flu immunisation catch up
  - 12<sup>th</sup> December - KS2 theatre trip to Leeds
  - 17<sup>th</sup> December – Nativity (6pm St John’s church)
  - 19<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas celebration/ movie night
- Exhibitions TBC