



NORTHERN STAR ACADEMIES TRUST
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Dear Parents and Children,

Here is our first, brief, newsletter for 2016 and I should start by wishing you all a Happy New Year!

The children have settled well today, including our new Nursery pupils and it is good to see the Foundation Stage looking and feeling as vibrant as it has ever done. For parents with children due to start Reception in September can I please remind you that the deadline for applications is the 15th of January. If you miss this deadline you may be less likely be allocated a place in the school of your choice. Applications are made direct to the Local Authority via their online portal.

The new year is certain to bring continued change and improvement and along these lines we have been looking at our homework policy in response to in school evaluation and your comments. We have attempted to keep the requirements simple and manageable, focusing on the key skills of reading, spelling and times tables, with some additional activities brought in as the children progress through the school. You will receive precise information about homework via the termly curriculum leaflet.

We will also be determining our school uniform requirements for KS2 shortly and will let you know about any changes and how we intend to support you with these once we have done this.

This is a much shorter Spring term than usual so we are limiting the number of additional activities we undertake in order to focus on the key areas of literacy and numeracy so that we can ensure all children make progress and achieve more, building on their improvements last term and making the most of the time available to us.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns regarding your child please direct them to the class teacher in the first instance and then, only if necessary to Miss Ball, Mr. Harrison or me. This is usually the simplest way of dealing with day to day matters and also helps our younger, less experienced members of staff develop their skills in communicating with parents.

I hope that you have a healthy and worthwhile 2016 and look forward to working with you, the children, staff and our academy partners in helping New Park to flourish.
Yours sincerely,

Andrew Tomlinson

