



NORTHERN STAR ACADEMIES TRUST
New Park Primary Academy
Skipton Road Harrogate HG1 3HF
Telephone 01423/503011 and 531397 Fax: 529094
E-mail: admin@newpark.n-yorks.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr. A. Tomlinson

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Dear Parents and Children,

Here is a very brief newsletter for the week.

This is a relatively quiet time of the year where the children can really focus on their learning without too many interruptions. You can help them by ensuring that they have daily practice at home with reading, spellings and tables and that they are well-organised and arrive promptly for school each day. This is especially important for the younger children involved in ReadWriteInc which takes place every day starting at 9.00am promptly.

I am pleased to say that overall attendance is improving and we had some days last week with 100% attendance across the school, which is great. Please remember that we are aiming for 97%, which is the national average and our target for this year. Persistent absenteeism is considered to be 90% or less and would be a cause for concern. Could I also remind you that schools are not routinely expected to grant leave of absence for term time holidays and we have seen an increase in the number of requests for these which simply do not meet the criteria. In most cases requests will not be approved and will be recorded as unauthorised absence which may trigger involvement from the behaviour and attendance officers or even a fine.

We are currently working on our staffing and class structure for next year. All schools are facing financial pressures and it is likely that this will lead to some changes sooner rather than later. We are doing our best to maintain our staffing levels but we are not experiencing the rise in the numbers of pupils entering Reception each year that we anticipated so will need to react accordingly. We will keep you informed of any changes as and when they are about to occur.

In the meantime, I am pleased to tell you that Mrs. Cliff's health has improved and that she hopes to be back in school in the not too distant future. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing her well as she continues on the road to full recovery.

Class photographs are on Thursday 4th February and we have a Stay and Play day in the Foundation Stage at 2.15pm. on Tuesday 9th February. PFTA are holding their first meeting on Monday 25th January so do come along if you can.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Tomlinson

NORTHERN LIGHTS
Teaching School Alliance