



NORTHERN STAR ACADEMIES TRUST  
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15<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Parents and Children,

Here is our newsletter for this week.

The term is progressing rapidly and Easter is almost upon us so first of all a reminder that school closes for the Easter break on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm. and re-opens again to the children on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Next, thank you to the parents of KS2 pupils who attended our meeting regarding the changes to our class structure. I hope that this went some way to allaying most of the concerns however we have been busy looking at how we can best support you and your children in the transition to their new groups. To that end, Mr. Harrison has organised a number of activities which will take place during over the next few weeks that you can be involved in and this includes pupil progress meetings, activity sessions that parents can attend and 'drop in' opportunities. Next Wednesday afternoon there will be a 'Get to know your teachers' session with some fun activities for the children. More details about our calendar of events will be sent out in separate letters by Mr. Harrison.

I am pleased to say that Mrs. Purchase is returning to work next week however it is likely that she will be absent again before the end of the year due to on-going treatment for her illness.

There are several other activities planned over the final two weeks including Easter Day on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. and a sponsored event to raise money for Sport Relief on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, again more details to follow so please look out for texts, emails and letters in book bags.

Our drama group are performing tomorrow evening at Harrogate Theatre for their parents and I am sure it will be tremendously entertaining (some spare free tickets available) and a group of pupils have been taking part in Tchoukball at Harrogate High School, continuing on Wednesday after school.

A reminder that children should not be allowed to ride bikes or scooters at any time on the school grounds and could children and parents be careful when entering through the electric gates – these should not be blocked or pushed whilst opening or closing.

Finally, could I remind all parents that swimming is a statutory part of our KS2 curriculum and regularly forms part of the 2 hours PE per week that we have to provide. It is not for children to place pressure on parents to support them in 'opting out'. Even if your child can swim the required distances in good style they will still be challenged to do more during

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their sessions. It is unfortunate that we have to request payment to cover the costs of the instructors and pool hire but it is the same in almost every other school and certainly every other school I have worked in. We have now moved over to our new routine which means that Y3/4/5 pupils will attend swimming for one term during the year. We hope that this way, by the end of Y5 all children will have reached or exceeded the required minimum standard set out in the national curriculum orders. I would be grateful therefore if parents did not approach teachers with requests to excuse their children from swimming sessions and instead encouraged them to participate as fully and energetically as possible to gain the maximum benefit from it!

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Tomlinson