



NORTHERN STAR ACADEMIES TRUST
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Dear Parents and Children,

Here is our newsletter for this week.

Things are progressing fairly quietly at the moment with the children continuing to work hard. We have been especially pleased with their general behaviour and learning behaviour. Hopefully this will continue and help us to improve our overall performance at those vital end of key stage points for Reception, Y2 and Y6 pupils. I am pleased to report that our Reception outcomes in 2016 were our best ever and were well in excess of North Yorkshire and national averages. This shows that the children had high attainment and made great progress.

Our internal progress data shows that all year groups made at least good progress in reading, writing and maths. The news for Y6 test outcomes is not so good however where we fell considerably below the local and national averages. There are many reasons for this, not least the increased expectations and the difficulty of the revised tests. We also had a cohort of children with high mobility and this also had a significant impact on our results. We will be working hard to improve on this and I am pleased to say that our predictions for next year are much improved. It is the case though that parents of children in Y5 and Y6 need to know more about the new expectations, the revised tests and the challenges they pose and how you can help your children succeed in them. Whatever we feel about the nature of this year's test regime we have to accept that this is the key measure of a school's effectiveness and that we are obliged to strive for the highest possible outcomes. To that end we are planning some curriculum awareness raising sessions specifically for parents of Y5 and Y6 children, although everyone is welcome to attend.

Next, a big 'Well Done!' to the children who attended football at Harrogate High School last week. Once again they played well, earning a draw in their first game.

Well done too to the children who attended the swimming gala at the Hydro on Thursday. Against often older and bigger opposition, the children gave their all and actually finished 12th out of 16 schools, an improvement of one place on last year!

Finally, please check your children's book bags for letters and return those that need a reply as promptly as possible. This week we need the census information responses if you have not already sent them back by now. Thank you.

NORTHERN LIGHTS
Teaching School Alliance

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Tomlinson