

19<sup>th</sup> December 2019

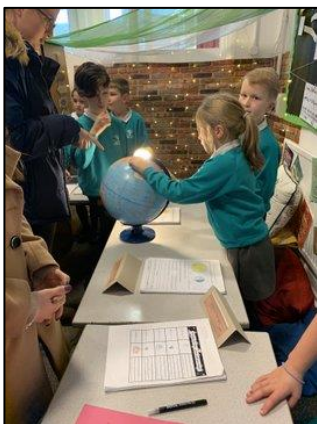
Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderful first term of the 2019-2020 academic year. From exciting school trips and visits, to new after-school clubs and lunchtime activities, from challenging projects and exhibitions, to learning a musical instrument for the first time; this has been a brilliant term. The last two weeks have been filled with pride and celebration as the children shared their learning through their project exhibitions and sang and performed their hearts out at our Nativity service. We document all our activities on Twitter and Facebook, you can find and follow us by searching for @NewParkPri on both platforms.



### Results and league tables

The primary school league tables were published last week and I am delighted to announce that New Park has the highest progress scores for reading and writing out of all the schools in Harrogate and Knaresborough, the third highest in the whole of North Yorkshire and in the top 2% nationally! These results mean that children at New Park make significantly more progress in their time here than children at other schools. This is a phenomenal achievement and reflects the superb work of all the staff – daily encouraging, supporting and challenging the children to help them achieve their very best. We should all be extremely proud of our school and the children.



### Parent Survey

At Parents' Evening in October we carried out a survey to get your feedback on our school. We had over 70 completed surveys with an overwhelmingly positive response. **99%** said their child is taught well at New Park, **97%** that their child enjoys coming to school and **100%** said that staff at New Park care about their child. When asked whether they would recommend New Park to another parent, **98%** said that they would. Thank you for the support that you give to the school, it is only through working together in partnership that we are able to offer the best possible education for your children.

### Christmas and New Year breakfast

Our end of term Nativity at St John's Church was a wonderful celebration and it was great to see so many parents and families there. The children sang, read, and acted their parts beautifully. We have just had a brilliant Christmas celebration lunch at school with the highest number of parents ever. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying and celebrating together. Next term we will hold a New Year's family breakfast on the morning of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January to celebrate the start of the new decade – tickets are available through parent pay and are only 50p each.

### Oreo the goat

As you may be aware, Oreo, one of our school goats sadly died suddenly last week. We held a special assembly to commemorate his life and the fun he had on our farm. We will be creating a plaque for our farm in memory of Oreo and have invited the children to suggest some words or a short poem that will go alongside a photograph of our friend. Please hand any submissions to the office.

### Projects

At New Park we are proud of the brilliantly creative, immersive and challenging curriculum that we teach. Our project exhibitions have been a joy and the children have risen to the challenge magnificently, confidently and passionately sharing their learning with parents and visitors. We will continue to be ambitious and aspirational for the children and are already excited for next term's projects!



### School lunches

The new lunch menu is proving extremely popular and there is much less wasted food than before. It has been particularly pleasing to see children trying different foods, some of the vegetarian options are particularly tasty! A nutritious diet is a vital element of a healthy lifestyle and we are proud of our meals. There are no chips, fried foods or puddings on our menu. Thank you for your support with packed lunches, they are healthier than ever. As a reminder, prohibited items are chocolate, sweets, crisps and sugary drinks.

### Community garden designs

We are very excited about opening our community garden and allotment plots on the school field. Our vision is to create a hub for the community that is open to all who wish to learn new skills, meet new friends and grow food for their families. This term we have been working with an architect to create a design for this new venture. We are hoping that this will become a valuable community resource and would like to work with a group of parents and residents to help our vision become a reality. If you are or know anybody green-fingered who enjoys gardening and would like to be a part of this new group, please email the school office or return the slip at the bottom of this letter.



### Debts

Earlier this term I was forced to send out a letter regarding outstanding debts to the school. I am pleased to say that the majority of this money has now been recovered. Thank you for your support in this matter.

### Free School Meals and support

Finally, I wanted to remind all parents of the benefits of signing up for Free School Meals. Even though meals are provided for all children in Reception – Year 2, we provide **free school uniform, trips and clubs** to children who are signed up for Free School Meals. If you think you might be eligible please visit <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals> and contact the school office. Christmas can also be a financially challenging time of year for many, we are a referral agency for the foodbank and local debt relief charities – please speak to myself or the office staff if you find yourself in need of support.

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mr Mold