

14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

It has been a packed half-term at New Park with the children getting stuck into their new projects and Novels. There have been visitors, trips, poetry recitals and cycling lessons! Please read on for some important information and upcoming dates:

### **SATs information evening**

Each May, children in Y6 around the country sit their SATs tests. We are holding our annual SATs information event on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 3:20pm in the main hall. We will explain the format of the tests, how we prepare the children in school and what you can do to support children at home. There will also be past-papers for you to look at and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.



### **School shoes / PE kit**

We have a supply of spare black shoes and PE kit in the school office. We do not want children to miss out on their learning so will send them to the office to change their shoes and/or get a PE kit for their lessons.

### **Mobile phones**

A reminder to all that mobile phones are not allowed in school. They are the root cause of many friendship problems and present a safeguarding risk with children filming and photographing each other. Children should not bring them to school and they will be confiscated if found.

### **Miss Allan**

Following some sad news, Miss Allan has resigned from her post in the office to be with her family. We are very sorry to see her go and she is in our thoughts at this time.

### **Y3/4 Residential**

We are extremely excited to be offering three-day residential experience for Y3/4 children in June. We are visiting Nell Bank in Ilkley where the children will enjoy a jam-packed program of adventure, fun and exploration in the great outdoors. We have chosen Nell Bank due to their excellent facilities and value for money. We are holding an information event after school on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March where you will find out more about the site, activities and accommodation. Information packs will be available at this event and sent out if you are unable to attend.



### **Parents' Evening**

It is our Spring Parents' Evening on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. As in October, you will be able to sign up for an appointment through Parent Mail from 7pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February. There is an expectation that all families will endeavour to attend. Our caterers will be in attendance (along with some tasty treats) should you have any questions about school meals.

### World Book Day

Immediately following Parents' Evening we have World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This year we are inviting children to wear their pyjamas for the day and bring a bedtime story to swap. We are excited to be welcoming Georgia from Imagined Things Bookstore to lead our book-focused assembly in the afternoon. After assembly we will gather the children in the hall and enjoy an afternoon of bedtime stories and hot chocolate! Each teacher will be sharing one of their personal favourite bedtime stories and the children will have the opportunity to swap their books



### Contributions towards trips, residentials and swimming

You may be aware of national news headlines in recent months regarding low levels of school funding. At New Park the budget is prepared by myself and the school business manager before being reviewed by governors and trustees. As an academy we are audited annually and I am proud of the way we have managed our school finances in recent years. Our children benefit from brilliant and dedicated teachers and associate staff, small class sizes, a wide range of free extra-curricular activities and an ambitious and exciting curriculum. We would be unable to afford to offer these opportunities if it were not for the generous contributions you make towards school trips, swimming lessons and residentials. Here are some answers to questions that have arisen in recent weeks:

- All costs for trips and residentials are made **voluntarily**. You do not have to pay and **your child will not be singled out or disadvantaged** because you choose not to
- If a number of families choose not to pay, the trip or residential will be cancelled (by law every child must be allowed to attend every trip; either **everybody goes, or nobody does**)
- All trips are charged at cost. **The school makes no profit** on any trip
- All trips are charged per child. **Parents are never asked to cover the costs of other children** whose parents are unable to pay
- The school receives extra funding for children who are eligible for Free School Meals. The school uses this funding to pay for these children to attend trips, clubs, residentials and swimming. **This does not take money from the wider school budget**



### 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. We are also 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.

I hope you have an enjoyable half-term break.

Mr Mold