

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

It has been a year of two halves at New Park. We had a fabulous first half, with children getting stuck into their projects – our exhibitions in December were a brilliant showcase of the hard work the children had put in and they loved sharing their learning with each other and with you. The EYFS trip to Eureka, Nativity performance, movie night, after-school clubs, The Wizard of Oz, Dippy the Diplodocus, World Book Day, ice skating, business meetings with banks and selling bags at Knaresborough Market are particular highlights of mine.



Unfortunately, the second half of the year has been very different, and we have missed the children dearly. I am immensely proud of the way the staff team at New Park have come together in the midst of a global crisis. We have been able to offer all our critical worker and vulnerable children a place at school and were even able to extend that offer to Year 5s for the last half term. Every day since 23rd March the teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, cooks and cleaners have welcomed children back to school with beaming smiles, providing structure, routine and nurture. They have worked through the holidays, both in school and at home, ringing families to check how the children were coping, hand-delivering home learning packs, providing over 50 food parcels and organising thousands of pounds worth of food vouchers. I am proud to work with such a committed team of professionals.

As parents, you have had to become your children's teachers at home. Juggling your own job around online learning, work packs, phone calls from school and countless Zoom calls, it has not been an easy time. Many of you will have been personally affected or bereaved during this time and I offer you my condolences. We have been so impressed by the mature way your children have adapted to the new routines in school, you should be proud of how you have risen to this new challenge, even if it has often felt like a struggle.

Y6 leavers

Our wonderful Year 6 have not had the send-off we would have wanted, but Mrs Constable and Miss Cornelius have visited every child to create a touching film celebrating each and every one of them which you can find on our Facebook page. They have all received a goodie bag from school with a photo montage of their friends, guide to high school and a book signed by all the New Park staff.



September opening

You can find our September plans on the school website (<http://www.newparkacademy.co.uk/parents-carers/coronavirus-update>) and our social media pages. We will send further information (including photographs for you to share with children) on 8th September

- School begins for all children on Wednesday 9th September and attendance is compulsory
- Check your child's start/finish time and which set of gates they need to use
- School uniform should be worn

Parking on West Street

In September, KS2 children will be using the double-gates on West Street to enter/exit school. Please be particularly careful when crossing the road as cars often come round the blind corner too fast. If you choose to drive your children to school, please do not park on these roads as it increases the risk of a collision. The yellow zig-zag lines must be kept clear at all times and cars who park here will be photographed and reported.

Transport to and from AFC Harrogate

We have still not received an update from NYCC regarding the coach that transports our service children to and from AFC Harrogate each day. We have asked them to contact you directly and we will pass on any information as soon as it becomes available. There will be a seating plan in place and children will sit with others from their bubble. A chaperone is present to ensure children remain seated and safe. School staff meet children from the coach and escort them into school at the start of the day, as well as making sure they are safely back on the transport at the end of the day.

Renovation work

Despite the pandemic, we have not stopped in our determination to make every part of our school as perfect as it can be. Over the Summer the toilets that are used by Breakfast and After School Club and the Year 3/4 bubble are being completely replaced. We have also continued to develop our plans for allotment plots on the school field and hope that this work will begin during the holidays. Keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook pages!

Contact over Summer

School is closed during the Summer holidays. The office email address (admin@newparkacademy.co.uk) will be checked weekly but school business will not be addressed until September. You can also ring the school mobile on 07398624415 or 07464427142. Messages on these phones will be checked every three days

Food vouchers

Food vouchers for eligible children will be sent out in two separate emails, one on 20 July (3 week voucher) and the other on 10 August (4 week voucher). If you have any queries, please contact meals@harrogatehighschool.co.uk

Sports Day winners

We had a brilliant time at our Sports Day and some of our children had the top scores across all five primary schools! Certificates have gone home with the winners today

Summer Reading Challenge

Silly Squad, the 2020 Summer Reading Challenge, is set in a fun house and this year is all about funny books, happiness and having a laugh! You can sign up online right through to September at <http://www.silysquad.org.uk>

We look forward to seeing all of the children on Wednesday 9th September for the new school year, it's going to be the best one yet!

Mr Mold





