

22.10.2020

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

It has been the strangest start to a school year that I can remember; multiple entrances, staggered start/end times, children in bubbles across the school and no opportunity to invite you in for our usual family breakfasts and open mornings. However, the children have been magnificent and I am incredibly proud of the way they have quickly adapted to this new way of life. It has been wonderful to come together (virtually) as a whole school in weekly assemblies – the children love waving to each other! I am grateful to you as parents for reassuring your children and helping to get them into school safely and on time. I also want to thank the staff team at New Park, who have had to adapt classrooms, come up with new teaching strategies and support the children in new routines at a time of great uncertainty.



**Remote learning**

We have been very fortunate not to have had any positive cases of Coronavirus so far, however it is likely that we will have to send children home at some point before Christmas – all the local high schools and many primaries have had positive cases in the last few weeks. Our remote learning plan is ready to go and in preparation for potential school or bubble closure, every child will receive a username for Microsoft Teams. They will use this to access home learning, submit work to their teacher, ask questions and keep in touch with their classmates.



**Meal Vouchers**

I'm really proud that New Park is part of Northern Star Academies Trust; not only has it meant that we have been able to draw upon expertise from across a wide range of partner schools, but we've also received financial expertise and advice which has resulted in significant building improvements to the school. I'm proud to announce that NSAT has taken the morally correct decision to provide food vouchers to all children on Free School Meals over the half-term break. We will email every family with a £15 Aldi voucher per child. If your child does not currently receive free school meals but you think you may be eligible, please get in touch with the office right away.

**Coronavirus symptoms**

Please email [admin@newparkacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@newparkacademy.co.uk) if you or your children have symptoms or receive a positive test result during half-term. We have a duty to report all cases to Public Health England. In term-time, we have access to self-testing kits and can give these out for children struggling to get tests.

### Attendance and medical appointments

Please remember to inform the office in advance if your child is attending a medical appointment. Routine visits (dentist, optician etc) should be made outside of school hours.

### Residential

I am excited to announce that we have been able to rebook two residential visits for Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 next Summer. Plans for our first ever Year 3/4 residential were scuppered by Coronavirus last year and our planned visit to Marrick Priory in February has now been cancelled. We are determined that the children do not miss out on their chance to enjoy a residential visit and are sending letters out to children in those year groups.

### New starters, tour dates/videos

Like many things, our open days for prospective new parents are a little different this year. We're asking parents to book ahead but we will make sure everyone still gets the same warm welcome to our school. If you know anyone looking for a school or Nursery place ask them to email us at [admin@newparkacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@newparkacademy.co.uk) and we will book them on a tour after half-term.



**CHOOSING A SCHOOL OR NURSERY PLACE FOR 2021?**  
Then take a look at New Park Primary Academy – the small family school with a big heart.

**TO VISIT OUR SCHOOL REGISTER NOW**

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Just email us at [admin@newparkacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@newparkacademy.co.uk) to register your interest, and we'll be in touch to arrange your visit.

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### New books in English

As part of our catch-up planning, we have invested heavily in new reading books and I have been delighted to see the children proudly showing off their book choices in their new reading folders. Every child will have two books; one that is appropriate to their current reading level and one that they have chosen for themselves.

### Wedding bells at New Park

Huge congratulations to Miss Barker and Mr Pratt, who are getting married during half-term! It has not been the easiest time to plan for a wedding and I know you will join me in sending them your best wishes for their big day.

Have a wonderful half-term,

Mr Mold