

18.12.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is difficult to put into words the scale of the challenges we have all faced this year. This term has been the hardest any of us can remember and it has come at the end of a very difficult year. Despite this, the children have proven incredibly resilient and have relished being back at school. Even through the disruption and challenge of remote-learning and frequent self-isolation, they have excelled in the classroom. I am grateful to all of you for your understanding and willingness to follow our new ways of working at school. I know it has been especially difficult for those of you with children new to the school – I hope that our frequent tweets and Facebook posts have helped reassure you!

I am immensely proud of the staff team at New Park. Through national lockdowns and different tiers of restriction, multiple changes of direction and last-minute instructions from the government, the staff have worked tirelessly every single day to keep the children safe, happy, and learning. The consistency and routines of school, and the incredible levels of dedication and care from school staff, have meant that the children have thrived this term.



Our premises and cleaning team have been tested like never before; they are a vital part of our COVID strategy and daily constantly clean classrooms and communal areas to reduce the risk of infection. Our fantastic office team have been in constant contact with families, checking-in during periods of self-isolation and organising hundreds of food parcels, hampers and vouchers.

Messages for staff and the community

Our community spirit will get us all through this academic year and keep us cheerful, come what may. I will be creating a thank-you board in the staffroom with words of thanks for the New Park team and a banner on the school gates to encourage our community. If you feel you would like to, please send an email with your comments or complete this form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FILJc5e1GEqXuMLFPNpY80lqpTqwn9tGgSPG0cztUOdUQlhGUjk4RDVORjJTT0VBRjVVN1NCR1AxNS4u>

Hampers, vouchers and fish & chips

During the last few weeks, Mrs Lee has been working extremely hard to make sure families are supported over the Christmas period. We have sent out thousands of pounds worth of Aldi vouchers and worked with local charities to distribute food hampers and other goodies. I am extremely grateful to Oliver's fish & chips restaurant, Rumblin' Tums and Harrogate Round Table for their donations. If you find yourself in need of food support over the Christmas period, please visit the wonderful www.resurrectedbites.co.uk who will arrange a food delivery to your door.

We know that Christmas can be a financially challenging time for many and we are determined to do all we can to support our school community. If you are in difficulty, please contact us in the New Year as there are a number of charities and groups that we work with who can offer support and assistance.



Reading newsletter

We are sending out our first reading newsletter today. There are book reviews, recommendations, and even a quiz with prizes! If you visit the Reading page on our school website (<https://www.newparkacademy.co.uk/our-school/curriculum/reading>) you will also find some videos of the teachers reading extracts from their favourite books!

Coronavirus procedures during the holidays

This Department for Education have asked all schools to remain 'contactable' for the first 6 days of the Christmas holidays so that they can assist with the contact tracing of both pupils and staff who test positive for COVID-19. This is because that individual might have been infectious whilst at school.



To support this process, the NSAT Central Team will be 'on call' from 19th December until 24th December 2020.

What to do if your child has symptoms or as a member of staff you have symptoms?

- Please take your child to get a test, immediately
- If your child tests positive, please follow the instructions below:**
- Go to our website: www.newparkacademy.co.uk
 - Click on the Reporting COVID-19 Form (this will be obvious)
 - Complete the form and include:
 - name of your child, school, year group, date of positive case, parent name, contact number and email address
 - Follow the advice to self-isolate given by the NHS

We look forward to seeing the children back at school on **Tuesday 5th January**. Our school day timings and systems will remain as they are:

Bubble	School day	Entrance & Exit
Nursery	9:00 – 3:00	Via main gates on Skipton Road
Reception	9:00 – 3:30	Via main gates on Skipton Road
Y1/2	8:45 – 3:15	Via main gate and side gate on Skipton Road
Y3/4	8:45 – 3:15	Via main gates on West Street
Y5/6	9:00 – 3:30	Via main gates on West Street



I hope you have a wonderful Christmas, take care of yourselves and each other.

My very best wishes,

Mr Mold