

28.5.2021



Dear parents & carers,

What a half-term it has been! As always, the children have been magnificent. They have shown tremendous resilience and determination in the classroom and have loved being back with their friends. The warm weather has been gratefully welcomed and the children have enjoyed eating their lunches outside, often being particularly creative with the scrapped materials to make their own tables and chairs! Whilst our coronavirus procedures remain in place at the moment, we are hopeful that things will be relaxed towards the end of the Summer term. As soon as the Department for Education releases further guidance I will write to you with an update.

Coronavirus

We continue to support test and trace service during half term. Please inform us via email if your child tests positive for Coronavirus over the break. Unfortunately, we were forced to close half the school at the end of April due to positive cases across EYFS and KS1. This was a reminder to all of us that the threat of COVID has not completely subsided. Please do not send your child to school if anyone in your household has symptoms until you have received a negative PCR test result. The lateral flow self-test devices are not suitable when a child has symptoms.



Support for families

The last year has seen community groups and charities come together to support families who have been hit hardest by the pandemic. I am really proud of the support we have been able to provide as a school and trust - we are working with local charities to again provide food vouchers and parcels over the half-term break. As always, please contact the office if you are facing food shortages or financial difficulties as we work closely with agencies and charities across Harrogate and can signpost you to services that can offer help and support.

Class Photos

I am pleased to announce that we have invited Phototronics will be taking class photographs on Friday 11th June. These will be outside due to coronavirus and we are unable to offer individual and sibling photos at this time. Please make sure children are in full school uniform (Year 6 should wear their jumpers/cardigans, rather than their hoodies)



New technology

Over the last two years we have been investing in ICT provision across the school. Last year we updated all KS1 and KS2 classrooms with new projectors and visualisers. This year we have purchased touchscreen laptops for our classrooms so that the children have continuous access to technology as and when they need it. This is particularly beneficial for regular practise of spellings and maths knowledge. This week we were thrilled to install two huge touchscreens in Nursery and Reception, giving our children a brilliant new resource for teaching and playing educational games – have a look on our Facebook page to see how they got on!



Community Farm

The work on our community growing spaces is almost complete. We have purchased a number of raised beds and are being ably supported by junior soldiers from AFC Harrogate who are volunteering and helping to move many tonnes of soil free of charge! We will be sending out more information after half-term when we are ready to open. We will be looking for 10-12 families who would benefit from having their own growing spaces on our school field with year-round access.

New member of staff

We are delighted to have welcomed Mrs Simpson to the New Park team this term as our new receptionist. Mrs Simpson will be the friendly voice on the end of the phone line and will hopefully have the chance to meet many of you in person as COVID rules allow.

I hope you all have a fabulous week and get to enjoy the long-awaited sunny weather!

Mr Mold

