

## Finham Park 2 News Updates

August 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 Issue 6



### Message from the Headteacher Designate, Russell Plester

The holidays are flying by and Finham Park 2 staff have been busy getting everything ready for the start of term. I hope your 'young adults' are looking forward to getting started. After 2 years of planning and hard work we are incredibly excited about seeing the pupils in their new uniforms raring to go and start their Finham Park 2 journey!

The building work has moved forward very quickly recently- what looked like a car park with a big hole in it a week ago now is a building! Also in this issue there is useful information regarding attendance, important dates and the start of term.

In other news, during July Peter Burns MBE (Chair of the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust) and I were invited for afternoon tea at The House of Lords. This was an event for all new Headteachers of Free Schools opening in September. It was an excellent opportunity to meet other heads and hear how other new schools across the country are getting on. I felt very fortunate to a) have a full school, b) of such enthusiastic and aspirational students, with c) such supportive parents and d) fully staffed with e) a site to be able to teach lessons in!

Finally, we have planned and prepared everything in as much detail as possible to ensure a smooth start for your child. However, as you can imagine, opening a new school is a big project and there may be some issues that crop up along the way. Please contact us (via email preferably) with any feedback so we can act on it swiftly. Thank you for your continued support.



With best wishes,  
Russell Plester

### Summer Reading Project- *important!*

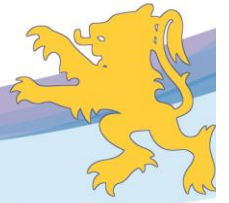
Not long left to complete the reading project... don't forget!

For more details go to: <http://finhampark2.co.uk/images/files/transition-project.pdf> however the link to suggested books is incorrect.

More information regarding suggested books to ready can be found here: <http://finhampark.co.uk/library/>

### Enrichment Programme

The deadline for enrichment options was 20<sup>th</sup> September and the students are now being put into groups- thank you to all parents who filled their forms in on time. Students will be informed about which group they will be in on their first day.



## Transport

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As we mentioned in the previous Newsletters we have made some changes to the route, based on requests from parents. We have also reduced the number of stops the bus has to stop at with the aim of trying to reduce travel time once the driver and children get used to the route. It is important that you check our website for more details (in the 'parents and students/ other' info section) or see the links below.

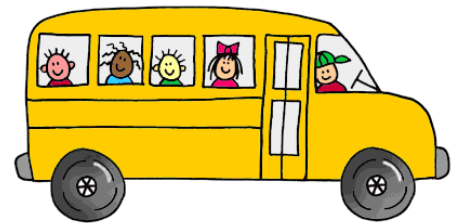
The updated bus route and limited bus stops can be found here: <http://finhampark2.co.uk/images/files/bus-route/bus-route-map-july-2015.pdf>

The approximate timings of the pick-ups in the morning can be found here: [http://finhampark2.co.uk/images/files/bus-route/Approximate\\_Bus\\_timings.pdf](http://finhampark2.co.uk/images/files/bus-route/Approximate_Bus_timings.pdf)

### Rules for the school bus (please remind your child of these!)

Students should:

- Show their pass clearly when getting on the bus
- Be sat down quietly at all times (unless all seats are taken!)
- Be polite and pleasant to the bus drivers and other children on the bus
- Not eat, drink or have chewing gum
- Not drop litter



Students have already been informed on Transition Day that any poor behaviour or failure to follow these simple rules may result in them losing their place on the bus.

## Site

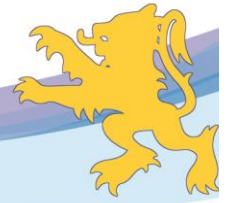
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The builders have been working 12 hour shifts and at weekends to make great progress with the new building.

As we mentioned in previous Newsletters and at our 'Afternoon Tea' it is clear now that the main new building will not be completely ready to move into on 3<sup>rd</sup> September so we will be using Finham Park School's 'D Block' for some lessons (D block is the building that we used successfully on Transition Day and is a separate building to that of the rest of Finham Park).

*Our new Science and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) rooms will be ready and we will continue to use Finham Park's PE facilities and food, music and ICT rooms as planned.*



## Transition from year 6 to 7

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We will continue to do everything we can to ensure our new Year 7 students settle into secondary school life as quickly as possible. Please continue to keep in touch if you have questions or concerns and we will always do our best to help. The best way to contact us is via email- all email contacts can be found on our website here:

<http://finhampark2.co.uk/index.php/contact-us>

## School lunches

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- At Finham Park 2 we are a cashless school and use 'Parent Pay' for you to be able to top up your child's lunch money or pay for trips.
- **However, we allow year 7 to bring money (or preferably cheques made payable to "Finham Park Multi Academy Trust" in for the first week or so to top up their account until you have chance to log in and top it up yourself.** Parents usually allow approximately £2.50 for lunch and extra if they want to purchase anything at break time.
- Lunch money for students with free school meals will be automatically credited to your child's account and so students do not need to bring money in (unless you want to add to it).
- You will receive a letter in the first few days of term giving you more details about Parent Pay.
- For further information please go to <https://www.parentpay.com/>



## First day back in September (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September)

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| 8.40am | Students to arrive by this time and go to the Fieldside Café (staff will be around to guide students to where they need to be) |
| 8.40   | Assembly & Mentor time   |
| 11.25  | Lessons start  |
| 4.15pm | School ends  |

- ✓ Students will need to be in full uniform
- ✓ There are no PE lessons scheduled for the first day so they will not need their PE kit

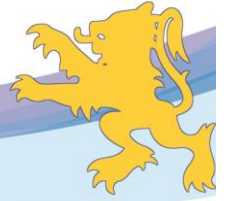
## Important dates for the first half term 2015

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| 3 <sup>rd</sup> September                   | First day of term   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> September                  | Meet the Mentor evening ( <b>all parents/ carers to attend</b> )          |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> September                  | Finham Park School open evening- early close for all students (FPS & FP2) |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> October                    | Staff training day- school closed to students                             |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                    | Last day of half term (school finishes at normal time)                    |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> October | <b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>  |

Important dates for the complete year can be found on our website here:

[http://finhampark2.co.uk/images/files/Calendar\\_for\\_website.pdf](http://finhampark2.co.uk/images/files/Calendar_for_website.pdf)



## Attendance- advice to parents

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We take attendance and punctuality very seriously and expect students to be in school on time every day. All absences are followed up. The majority of absences from schools are parentally condoned. This advice mainly concerns repeated absences for less serious medical reasons.

The view of the Department for Education attendance expert is that “some parents think they’re being a good parent by keeping their child off school. If in doubt send them to school. There is a difference between minor ailments and the sort of illness that warrants a day off”.

What is meant by a “minor ailment”? A useful rule of thumb is whether the illness would keep parents and teachers away from work.

**FACT:** if children are taken away for a two week holiday every year and have an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, by the time they leave school aged 16 they will have missed an entire year of school! This will clearly have a significant negative effect on the child’s education.

In summary:

- If your child is ill, please don’t send them.
- If they have a ‘minor ailment’ please send them in
- We do not approve any holidays taken in school time
- Please contact the school straight away to let us know if your child is absent
- If there are ongoing medical problems, please keep us informed

If you have any questions or suggestions, please get in touch via email or :



[www.finhampark2.co.uk](http://www.finhampark2.co.uk)



Finham Park 2



@FinhamPark2