



Dear Families and Friends

In this newsletter, I want to remind you of the many events happening this term and look ahead to next term. In addition, I want to make you aware of some local news and proposed changes which will affect Northenden children and families in the near future. I will be writing another newsletter next week but in the meantime I would like to remind you that the children finish for the half-term holiday on Thursday of next week as the staff have a training day on Friday 15th February.

Given the unpredictable cold weather we are having at the moment and the calls we have received from parents, I want to let everyone know that we will always let you know by text message in the event that we have to close the school because we cannot operate safely. This is very unlikely.

Regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

Friday 8th February

Year 3 Class Assembly

Tuesday 12th February

Shrove / Pancake Tuesday (food donations please)

Tuesday 12th February

Year 5 performance at the Bridgewater Hall

Wednesday 13th February

French Day

Wednesday 13th February

Mid-Year Reports to Parents

Thursday 14th February

School closes for the half-term holiday

Friday 15th February

Staff Training Day

Monday 25th February

School opens for remainder of Spring Term

Week Beginning 25th February

Arts Week 1 (Arts Projects)

Friday 1st March

Year 4 Class Assembly

Week Beginning 4th March

Arts Week 2 (Arts Projects) / Book Week

Tuesday 5th March

Visit and Workshops by children's author, Steve Hartley

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued ...

<i>Thursday 7th March</i>	<i>Year 5 performance with Hallé Orchestra (also Y4 and Y6)</i>
<i>Friday 8th March</i>	<i>Year 6 Class Assembly</i>
<i>Week Beginning 11th March</i>	<i>Arts Week 3 (Arts Projects)</i>
<i>Wednesday 13th March</i>	<i>Year 2 Class Assembly (note Wednesday not Friday)</i>
<i>Thursday 14th March (AM)</i>	<i>The Pop Project (Special Music Assembly)</i>
<i>Friday 15th March</i>	<i>Red Nose Day for Comic Relief</i>
<i>Tuesday 19th March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Short, 3.30pm – 5.30pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 20th March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Long, 3.30pm – 7.30pm)</i>
<i>Friday 22nd March</i>	<i>Year 5 Class Assembly</i>
<i>Wednesday 27th March</i>	<i>Year 6 visit to The Yorkshire Sculpture Park (Bretton Park)</i>
<i>Thursday 28th March</i>	<i>School closes for the Easter Holidays</i>

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SUMMER TERM ...



<i>Monday 15th April</i>	<i>School opens for the Summer Term</i>
<i>Thursday 25th April, 2.30pm / 6pm</i>	<i>Year 4 performance at Manchester Health Academy</i>
<i>Friday 3rd May</i>	<i>Staff Training Day (School Closed)</i>
<i>Monday 6th May</i>	<i>Public Holiday (School Closed)</i>
<i>Friday 10th May</i>	<i>Year 1 Class Assembly</i>
<i>Tuesday 21st May, 2pm</i>	<i>Learning Walks</i>
<i>Wednesday 22nd May, 9am</i>	<i>Learning Walks</i>
<i>Friday 24th May</i>	<i>School closed for the half-term holiday</i>
<i>Friday 14th June</i>	<i>Nursery Class Assembly (new date)</i>
<i>Friday 21st June</i>	<i>Reception Class Assembly (new date)</i>

FRENCH DAY

On Wednesday of next week, we will be having a French Day during which the children will be involved in activities to do with France and the French language taught by Miss Avanesian. We also have a visiting dance group joining us for the day and they will share some French country dancing with a number of classes.

On this day, we would like children to come to school dressed in the colours of the French flag – this should not be too difficult as these colours are red, white and blue. Alternatively, children may come to school dressed in a 'French' theme. Please keep it simple, s'il vous plait!



ARTS PROJECTS

After half-term, the children will be involved in a number of arts projects. Mrs McAffer, our Art Co-ordinator, has been busy planning a number of activities for all age groups, including spending more of her time developing art and design projects across the school. We are working in partnership with Manchester Art College who are delivering projects in Year 3 and Year 6 and to provide an after-school art club for Year 2. We also have a book illustrator joining us for a day as well as a dancer and samba teacher who will develop rhythm and dance across our multicultural theme. Year 4 are already involved in preparing for a performance with other schools at Manchester Health Academy. Their pieces are about Brazil and will involve singing and Samba. Year 5 are very nearly prepared for their dance and music performance at the Bridgewater Hall. Their theme is Germany and the journey of the Orient Express.



LIBRARY BOOKS



Once again, there seem to be many books missing from the library as children are forgetting to return their library books on time (every loan is a maximum two week loan) or books are not being returned in the correct way to the library and library system. Our policy is that children who do not return their library books during their session and still show outstanding library loans on the system are not allowed to take out another book until the book is returned or a replacement fee is paid by parents.

Please note that the procedure for returning library books is now that all books must be returned by the child during their library session. Returned books must be scanned by a member of staff during the children's library session, usually while the child is standing alongside. This is so the book is in the possession of the child until the point of actual return on the system so we can be sure it has been returned in the correct way.

From this week, we will be giving children a printed note to take home if they do not return their library book during their library session. This note is to be taken home to alert parents, sooner rather than later, that a book has not been returned and may be 'lost' at home. We may also, from time to time, send a text message. At this time there are 23 children who have books which are more than 5 weeks overdue!



NEW LIBRARY BOOKS ... PLEASE HELP

We have recently allocated a small budget to purchase new book titles for our library. Since we stocked our library with hundreds of new titles this time last year, there have been many new books published or some now available at a cheaper price in paperback. With this newsletter, children have been given a request sheet for families to suggest titles for purchase. Please return these during this week or next week so that we can place an order shortly after that.

We would also like to raise some money to buy new information books for the library and will be hosting a second-hand book sale during Book Week in March. This was very successful last year and helped us to raise over £300 for new books. Essentially, we will be asking families to donate good quality adult and children's books that we will re-sell in the school hall during Book Week. We will send more information to you about this after half-term but in the meantime, please think about having a sort out at home of any good quality books you or your children no longer use.

FOOD DONATIONS ... PLEASE HELP on TUESDAY of next week

Please cast your minds back to October when we held our annual harvest assembly and children and families brought in items of food to donate to a local food distribution centre. David Bown, the Minister at the Methodist Church came to that assembly and told the children that their contributions were so important. He explained that he has a big 'cupboard' in which he stores food and other items for needy families and that this 'food bank' helps families throughout the year.

David has recently spoken to us and mentioned that his stores are already almost bare as many more families this year have needed to access the food bank. His cupboard needs filling again. Our last contribution was so much appreciated and we worked well as a whole-school team that I think there is an opportunity for us to help again.

On Tuesday of next week, which is Pancake or Shrove Tuesday and traditionally a time before Lent to use up foods in your cupboard, we would like children to bring to school items of food (tins, packets, boxes) or other items (toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.) so that we can make a large donation to David for his big cupboard. We know that this will be very much appreciated by him and all those families who rely on their support. Thank you very much for your support. We will remind you by text about this on Monday of next week and collection boxes will be placed at the school office and in the school hall.



COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS – POSSIBLE PUBLIC LIBRARY CLOSURE

I am hoping everyone has seen the recent media reports regarding the Council's plans to make further cost savings this year and that this includes proposals to close a number of libraries and swimming baths. Unfortunately, for us, there are proposals to close both Northenden Library and Withington Baths, both of which will affect our children (More about the baths next week).

Some parents, I know, are already aware about the library closure and have begun to campaign for it to remain open. The school is happy to support this campaign and to support opportunities for parents and local residents to share their views with the Council. Whilst we understand the need for the Council to make essential savings, we must not forget that the library at Rackhouse Primary School was closed two years ago and that the children's next nearest public library is at the Manchester Health Academy in Baguley.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

We have been asked by the City Council to host a public consultation meeting about the closure of the library here at school. This meeting is likely to take place in early March and I will confirm the date and details as soon as I have more information about this event. In the meantime, please think about any views you might want to share with representatives from Manchester City Council. Before then you can contribute to an online petition, the web link for which is:

<https://www.change.org/petitions/manchester-city-council-keep-northenden-library-open>

I spoke to children in assembly on Friday morning of last week about this matter and we will be encouraging the children themselves to get involved in this public consultation exercise, including asking them to write letters to ask for the library to remain open on behalf of children and local residents.