



Dear Families and Friends

Such as lot has happened since our last newsletter, including a very successful Year 6 visit to the Isle of Man (despite an unexpected 2.15am sailing from Heysham rather than Liverpool!) and a number of class visits to various places, including Stockport Air Raid Shelters, Manchester Art Gallery and the local area. There is, of course, more to come in the second half of the autumn term as Year 5 look forward to their residential visit to Robinwood and we look ahead to parents evenings and our Christmas events. With these in mind, I have included the key dates for the remainder of this term in this newsletter.

As predicted, the summer weather has definitely left us now. Despite this, I hope everyone has an enjoyable half-term break. Do not forget that the school is closed to children tomorrow (staff training). We return to school on Monday 4th November.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher

KEY DATES for your DIARY



Friday 25th October

Staff Training Day (School Closed)

Monday 4th November

School re-opens Autumn Half-Term 2

Mon 11th – Wed 13th November

Year 5 residential visit to Robinwood (Cumbria)

Wednesday 13th November

Year 3 class visit to Pooles Cavern, Buxton

Thursday 14th November

Visiting Theatre Company : Jack and the Beanstalk

Tuesday 19th November

Year 2 class visit to Staircase House

Tuesday 19th November

Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 5.30pm)

Wednesday 20th November

Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 7.30pm)

Tuesday 26th November

Year 5 class visit to Ordsall Hall

Monday 9th December, 1.45pm

Early Years Christmas Play (1st performance)

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



Tuesday 10 th December, 9.30am	Early Years Christmas Play (2 nd performance)
Thursday 12 th December, 1.45pm	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play (1 st performance)
Friday 13 th December, 9.30am	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play (2 nd performance)
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Discos (times to be confirmed by the 'Friends')
Tuesday 17 th December, 7.00pm	Christmas Concert (at school)
Wednesday 18 th December, 9.30am	Christmas Concert (at school)
Wednesday 18 th December, 7pm	The Christie Christmas Concert at Gorton Monastery
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Parties (afternoon)
Friday 20 th December	School closes for the Christmas Holiday
Monday 6 th January 2014	School opens for the Spring Term 2014
Wednesday 8 th January	Years 3 – 6 visit to the Lowry to see 'Wanted! Robin Hood'

STAFF NEWS : JACKIE VALENTINE IS RETIRING after 25 YEARS

Some of you may already know that Jackie Valentine, our Finance Officer, will soon be leaving the school as she retires after 25 years of service to this school. For the majority of that time, Jackie has, amongst countless other duties, managed the school's finances, making sure that our budgets are well spent and that we do not go overdrawn at the bank! During her 25 years here, she has seen many changes, including many children, parents and staff come and go, developments in the way schools are funded and how technology has revolutionised the school office. In that time, she has worked for only two headteachers, Mr Brendan Treanor and myself, to whom she has given tremendous support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jackie publicly for all of her work and support for the school, and for me personally, and wish her a very happy and well-earned retirement.

Jackie's final day at the school will be Friday 15th November so there is plenty of time after the half-term holiday for you to join staff and pupils in wishing Jackie good luck and farewell if you wish to do so, including a presentation during our assembly on Friday 15th November.



GOVERNING BODY NEWS

On behalf of the Governing Body, we would like to announce the results of our Parent Governor Election for which letters were sent to every family a few weeks ago. The school received only one confirmed nomination from a parent interested in standing as a parent governor. This was received from Natalie Baguley who stood again after already serving 8 years as a governor. Given that the number of nominations does not exceed the number of vacancies, there was no need for a formal ballot of parents. Natalie Baguley was therefore re-elected to serve as a parent governor for a further four years. We would like to thank Natalie for her continued interest and commitment to the school. We remind you that our parent governors are Lisa Beattie (Chair of Governors), Paula Wadbrook and Natalie Baguley.

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA WRITING COMPETITION (YEARS 1 – 6)

We are running a writing competition based on the book *'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'*. To enter, children have to imagine what they would do if a tiger knocked at their door and asked to come inside. Children should write a story, poem or other piece of descriptive writing. Children can be as imaginative and creative as they wish but there is a word limit so every word counts: Year 1 : 50 words, Year 2 : 100 words, Years 3-6 : 200 words. Mrs Gray has already explained the competition to the children during assembly and gave examples of how children might go about writing their entry. The work can be either handwritten or typed and illustrations are welcome. We will be looking for originality and evidence of the children's own work. There will be two winners per class and all entries will be put on display.



MACMILLAN CANCER CARE : COFFEE MORNING



We would like to thank those parents who joined us for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning back in September in aid of MacMillan Cancer Care. The cakes were lovely! Thank you to everyone who also purchased a coffee 'to go' from our temporary outdoor coffee stand. This seemed to be quite popular. We raised over £130 for the charity. Thank you for your support.

HARVEST ASSEMBLY

We would like to say thank you to everyone who contributed an item of food or other product to last week's Harvest assembly. As always, there was a tremendous response. The items were collected that afternoon on behalf of the Wythenshawe Methodist Churches and Wythenshawe Oasis who will distribute them via their food bank. On Radio 2 that morning, it was reported that there are over 400,000 families in the UK now depending on food banks to help them at difficult times. Your contributions are, therefore, much needed and appreciated. As we did last year, we may collect for the food bank again in February of the next year.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Every year the children ask if we can support 'Children in Need' and this year we have decided to do so. After half-term, in support of Children in Need, the school will be selling an assortment of wrist bands for £1 each. These bands will appeal to all ages. You will see the bands available elsewhere but please bring £1 into school and buy your Children in Need wrist bands from us.



In addition to selling the wrist bands, we will be asking all children to bring in cakes/biscuits on Friday 15th November to be sold during and at the end of the school day. You could use the half-term to practise and perfect your baking recipes! Friday 15th November will also be an optional non-uniform day. Children can come to school dressed in a yellow and/or spotted item of clothing in exchange for a further donation of 50p. We will remind you about this after the half-term holiday. Thank you for your support.

CHILDREN'S BAGS

As you know, we have very limited space in our corridors and even less space for the children to hang up their coats and bags. We have a huge problem with coats and bags falling on the floor throughout the day which is becoming a real safety hazard, particularly in our Year 6 cloakroom.

We have asked the children to bring **only pull-string gym bags to school** as the larger bags being brought by some children are simply taking up too much room and causing other items to fall off the pegs. Named pull-string gym bags are available from the school office at a price of £3.50.

THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY / FRIDAY ASSEMBLY

For a number of reasons, we are currently reviewing the arrangements for the beginning of the school day with a view to improving security, safeguarding and the routines for the staff and children. This means that our current arrangements which enable parents to join their children in school for a period of time at the beginning of every day may have to change. We will write to everyone when a final decision has been made and we have put new routines in place. In the meantime, we would like to ask all parents who attend our Friday morning assemblies to wait outside the hall until 9.05am when all the chairs have been set up. In recent weeks, it has been difficult to set up the hall with so many adults in the hall space. This will be very helpful to Year 6 who are tasked with setting up the chairs and benches. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

We are encouraged by children's overall attendance at this time which is 97.8%. At this stage, this is higher than our target which is great. Well done.



Class	Attendance	Days Missed	Attendance Thresholds				Holiday Days	Late Marks
			Pupils who have attendance more or less than the percentage shown	100%	97%+	<90%		
Nursery	98.7%	8½	25	26	1	1	0	1
Reception	97.2%	30	18	22	2	2	0	10
Year 1	97.7%	24	18	25	1	1	9	12
Year 2	98.7%	13	24	29	1	1	7	10
Year 3	97.9%	21½	18	27	2	1	7	10
Year 4	96.7%	31	18	22	2	2	0	31
Year 5	98.4%	16½	21	26	2	2	4	9
Year 6	97.7%	23	21	24	2	2	7	10
All	97.8%	167½	163	201	13	12	34	93



97.0%

Well done to those classes who have reached the target, particularly Year 2 and Year 5 who have exceeded 98%! Year 4 is the only class at this time falling below the 97% target with 31 days missed mainly due to illness and medical appointments.