



Dear Families and Friends

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year and to thank everyone, on behalf of staff, for the many cards and presents we received at Christmas. The term ahead is a relatively short one (12 weeks) but is very busy and includes our spring parents' evening, arts month, class assemblies, book week, a concert and a PTA quiz night. The dates of all these events are included in our calendar below.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

<i>Tuesday 4th February</i>	<i>Year 4 Class visit to Manchester Museum (Egyptians)</i>
<i>Friday 7th February at 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 2</i>
<i>Friday 7th February</i>	<i>Friends Event : Quiz Night (see article)</i>
<i>Friday 14th February at 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 1</i>
<i>Friday 14th February</i>	<i>School closes for the Half-Term Holiday</i>
<i>Monday 24th February</i>	<i>School opens for the remainder of the Spring Term</i>
<i>Friday 28th February at 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 3</i>
<i>Thursday 6th March</i>	<i>Year 6 Class Visit : Macclesfield Forest (Arts)</i>
<i>Friday 7th March at 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 5</i>
<i>Friday 14th March</i>	<i>Red Nose Day</i>
<i>Monday 17th March</i>	<i>Year 6 Class Visit : Wythenshawe Hospital (IMPS)</i>
<i>Tuesday 18th March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Short, 3.30pm – 5.30pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th March</i>	<i>The Pop Project Assembly (Children's Books)</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Long, 3.30pm – 7.30pm)</i>
<i>Friday 21st March at 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 4</i>
<i>Friday 28th March at 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 6</i>

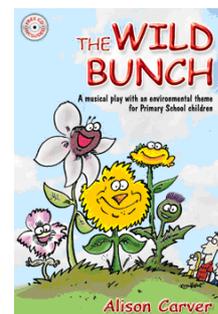
KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



Friday 28 th March at 9.10am	Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 6
Monday 31 st March, 9.15am	Morning Concert : Year 4, woodwind, brass and choir
Thursday 3 rd April, 2pm/6pm	Year 4 performances at Manchester Health Academy *
Friday 4 th April at 9.10am	Class Assembly / Presentation : Nursery
Friday 4 th April	School closes for the Easter Holiday

YEAR 4 ARTS PROJECT *

We would like to let all Year 4 parents know that Year 4 children will be involved this term in an arts project which culminates in a performance at the Manchester Health Academy on Thursday 3rd April (afternoon and evening) of their music and drama work based on the musical “*The Wild Bunch*”, which has an environmental theme. This is the fifth year in which we have worked with MHA and other local schools in a joint performance project. Please put the date in your diary. We are expecting all children to take part in both performances unless we hear otherwise from parents before the event.





**friends of
ncs**

Friday 7th February

Quiz Night

Drum roll please ... the Friends' Quiz Night is back! On Friday 7th February, the Friends will be hosting a quiz night. We have not held a quiz night since 2012 so we are hoping that everyone will be excited by its return. The entry fee per team is £15 for a team of up to six people. The evening is always great fun with a healthy competitive edge. Next week, the Friends will issue Team Entry forms for you to return to school. In the meantime, please put the date in your diary and gather support for your team! Refreshments, including Mrs Singh's popular curry, will be available during the evening.

MORNING ROUTINE / PUNCTUALITY

We would like to thank everyone for the support we have received in introducing the new morning routine. We realise it was a big change after years of the open-door policy but we are now more confident in our safeguarding arrangements and feel we are giving the children a calmer and safer start to the school day. The children are settling down to registration and lessons much more quickly and independently. It seems that the majority of parents welcome the change but we accept that some will miss the old routine for a while. 'Home School Message' books (orange cover) were sent home last week. Please use them to exchange messages with your child's class teacher.



The new routine has highlighted the number of children and parents who arrive late for school. Please do not forget that children should be in their classrooms by **8.55am** each morning for registration and lessons which start at 9.00am. Children and parents arriving after 8.55am should report to the school office.

PAUL GOGGINS MP : A Tribute

I am sure that you will have heard already the very sad news that our Member of Parliament, Mr Paul Goggins, passed away last week following his collapse during the previous week whilst out running. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Paul and his work for the people of Wythenshawe, Sale East and Northenden.



Having met Paul a few times, including when he last visited our school in March 2012, I can wholly agree with the many tributes that have been made, including those of the Prime Minister, following his death, many of which describe him as “*one of the good guys*”. He was very committed to the needs of children, having started his career as a children’s social worker, and to the needs of the people of this area. It was clear during his talk with the children here that he loved his role and considered it a privileged position. He will be missed by everyone who worked with him and those, including schools, who benefited from his time and commitment to our community.

WANTED : ROBIN HOOD

We hope that all of our Key Stage 2 children enjoyed their visit to The Lowry Quays Theatre last week to see a performance of the tale of the Sheriff of Nottingham’s pursuit of Robin Hood. It was a great performance. As always, our children behaved wonderfully and were excellent ambassadors for the school. The staff at The Lowry were very impressed by their conduct and said, as they have before, that we are “always welcome.” We even tidied up after ourselves! Usually by this time, we have already booked our theatre outing for next year but at this stage neither the Lowry nor Library Theatre (who are moving into their new home next Spring) have announced their Winter programme.



SCHOOL EVENT PHOTOGRAPHS : GUIDANCE FOR USE



We would like to remind all parents of our guidance that photographs you may have taken of children other than your own, or school staff, should not be published on any social networking site without the permission of those included in the photograph. Some families do object to this and we may have to stop parents from taking photographs at events if they are published in this way.

NURSERY APPLICATIONS : REMINDER

We would like to remind all parents who have a younger child eligible for a nursery place next year (4 years of age after September 2014) to ensure that they have registered their need for a nursery place at our school office by the half-term holiday. Applications for nursery places will be considered in April but if you have not applied you will not be offered a place.

PE KITS (and the Weather)

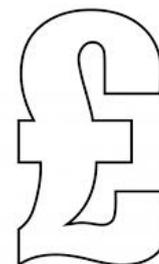
Given the colder weather, we would like to remind all parents that children may bring outdoor PE kits to school for games lessons which take place outside. Children may wear tracksuit or jogging bottoms and a trackshuit or sweatshirt top, including their school sweatshirt if nothing else is available. However, these are not suitable for indoor PE lessons, particularly gym lessons.

SCHOOL MEALS SCHEME FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

A number of parents have asked about the Government's newly announced scheme to provide all younger children with a free school meal. All we know at this stage is that the scheme is planned to start in September 2014 and will include children who are in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at that time. We will let you know more as soon as the scheme and the funding is confirmed.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS / PUPIL PREMIUM

You may know that the school receives additional funding for children who are entitled to free school meals. This is significant funding and helps to booster our overall budget which enables us to pay for additional staffing, resources, school visits and other events. If you are claiming benefits, including income support or unemployment benefit, but not claiming free school meals for your child, please get in touch with Mrs Charlton and complete an application form. This does not mean that your child has to have a school lunch but it does mean that the school receives much-needed additional funding. Thank you for your support.



2014 – 2015 TERM DATES



Term and school holiday dates for 2014-2015 are now available. We attach a copy for your reference. Please remember that the school **does not authorise any holidays during term time** and that parents who choose to take their children on holiday during school time will face a penalty notice (a fine) of £120 per child per parent which could be very costly. Parents who do wish to seek permission for children's leave of absence during term time should use the application form which is available at the school office.

LABELS FOR CLOTHES

We would like to remind all parents of the importance of labelling children's clothing, including coats, sweatshirts and polo shirts. This helps us significantly when identical items become lost (they can be easily returned rather than placed in lost property) or fall on the corridor floor and need hanging up on the correct peg. You can order a range of labels (sewed, ironed or tagged) from the school office, with prices starting at £2.50 which, we are sure you will agree, is much cheaper than a new sweatshirt or coat. In the meantime, a handwritten name on a coat or sweatshirt label would be very helpful.

PAYMENTS for SCHOOL MEALS / AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

We would like to remind all parents to pay for school dinners and after-school club fees in advance. **The school cannot allow parents to accrue arrears.** Our policy is that after two weeks of arrears for dinner money, we stop provision of a school meal until all arrears and an advance payment have been paid. Dinner money can be paid at the school office or via our morning club or after-school club staff. We also ask for **two weeks' notice** of any changes to school meals or packed lunches. Given that meals are now ordered in advance by the children, it is not possible to simply change to a school meal or a packed lunch on the day. Thank you for your co-operation.