



Dear Families and Friends

In this newsletter, we look ahead to Easter and the summer term. I would like to remind parents of our Nursery, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 that the children should not attend school tomorrow due to strike action by class teachers. All other children should attend school. With this newsletter, you should find a questionnaire which aims to gather your views about our school. The Governors and I would be grateful if you would complete and return the questionnaire before the Easter holidays. Many thanks for your support. This will be the last newsletter before the Easter holidays, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Easter and an enjoyable break.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

Wednesday 26th March

Wednesday 26th March

Friday 28th March at 9.10am

Monday 31st March, 9.15am

Wednesday 2nd April, 7.30pm

Thursday 3rd April, 1.30pm/6.30pm

Friday 4th April at 9.10am

Friday 4th April

Tuesday 22nd April

Friday 2nd May

Monday 5th May

Monday 12th May

Friday 23rd May

Friday 23rd May

Year 5 Class Visit : The River Mersey

Teachers' Strike Action (affecting Nursery, Y1, Y2, Y4)

Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 6

*Morning Concert : Year 4, woodwind, brass and choir **

Northenden Neighbourhood Forum Meeting at school

Year 4 performance at Manchester Health Academy

Class Assembly / Presentation : Nursery

School closes for the Easter Holiday

School opens for the Summer Term

School closed for Staff Training

School closed for Public Holiday

Year 6 National Curriculum Tests

Class Assembly / Presentation : Reception

School closes for the half-term holiday

MORNING CONCERT – MONDAY 31ST MARCH, 9.15AM

Do not forget that our brass, woodwind and recorder players (Year 4) and our current school choir will be performing in a morning concert next Monday, 31st March, starting at 9.15am.



CHANGE TO TERM DATES FOR 2014 – 2015

Please note that one of our staff training dates for next academic year has been changed to enable us to take part in a joint training day with other local schools. This means that our school will now be **closed on Friday 3rd October** but will be **open on Friday 24th October** which was originally planned as a training day. The children will now finish for the autumn half-term holiday on Friday 24th October rather than Thursday 23rd October.



Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused. If you have already booked a half-term holiday which starts on Friday 24th October, please contact us **before the Easter holiday** to ensure that it is authorised. Requests received after the Easter holidays will not be authorised. We attach a revised holiday list for your reference.

BOOK CHARACTER DAY – THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who supported our BOOK CHARACTER day last Wednesday. Nearly all of our children took the opportunity to dress up as a character from a book, fairy tale or comic and they all looked wonderful. The children also enjoyed the show given by our visitors *The Pop Project* who took the children on a journey of music associated with children's books. The visitors brought a range of instruments, including their electric guitars, to entertain the children. We will be inviting them back again next year for another of their great shows.

HALLE FOR YOUTH

In what was a busy week for Year 4, they visited the Bridgewater Hall last week to see the famous Halle Orchestra perform on stage. This was part of the Halle Orchestra special concerts designed specifically for school children. This year's theme was World War I and featured music associated with battle, including an orchestral medley and sing-along of the well known tunes '*Pack up your Troubles*' and '*It's a Long Way to Tipperary*'. On this occasion, tickets for this visit were offered free of charge to our school as they were sponsored by Manchester Airport. We would like to thank the Airport Public Relations team for their support.



It is our plan that all children attend at least one orchestral concert by the time they leave our school. This is alongside visits to the theatre, museums, art galleries and lots of other places of interest during their time with us. We do very much rely (and visits would have to be cancelled otherwise) on the voluntary contributions we receive from parents. Thank you for your support.

NORTHENDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

A new organisation has recently been established, giving those who live and work in Northenden a voice in how the village develops in the future. This is known as the *Northenden Neighbourhood Forum* (NNF) and has been established with Government approval and funding. The new Forum has a number of purposes and powers (including considering applications for planning permission). Membership is open to all those who live and work in Northenden.

There will be meeting held at our school on **Wednesday 2nd April starting at 7.30pm** at which the purpose of the Forum will be discussed. All parents are invited to attend. A leaflet has been sent out with this newsletter on behalf of the NNF.

ARTS ACTIVITIES

You will have hopefully noticed at parents' evenings that there were a number of new art displays in different parts of the school, celebrating and showcasing the hard work of the children during the past few weeks. This year's art theme was the *environment* and the children considered this from different points of view. The art work produced was either inspired by the work of landscape or environmental artists, or a living environment.



Of special note is the changed face of the Key Stage 1 corridor and the lovely mural which has been painted by Year 2. Well done everyone and a special thanks to Mrs McAffer and staff for their hard work. Some of the children have also been working with Mrs Cheetham to produce performance pieces based on the *Stomp* show. The children have used recycled materials, old milk bottles, tin cans and brushes to produce different sounds.

PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

With this newsletter, we have sent home a questionnaire for you to complete and return to school before the Easter holidays if you can. The questionnaire aims to gather your views about the school and is divided into three sections. The first section asks the same questions that you would be asked by OfSTED inspectors should the school be inspected. The second section aims to seek your views about communication and parental involvement in the school, whilst the final section aims to gather your thoughts about parents' evenings and the other ways in which we report your child's progress and provide advice for you to support your child at home.

We do value your thoughts and opinions so please spare a few minutes to complete the questionnaire and return it to school before we finish for the Easter holidays.

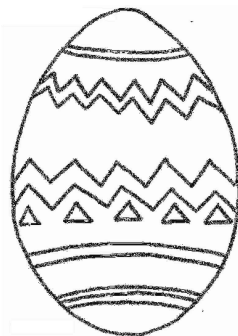


OLD PRAMS AND DOLLS

Some of our younger children like to play with prams and dolls at lunchtimes. We are asking parents to donate to school any dolls and prams that you no longer need or want. They do not have to be in perfect condition. Thank you for your support.

EASTER EGG COMPETITION

It is time again for our annual Easter Egg competition. We are inviting all children to use their imagination to create a scene or character using hard-boiled or blown eggs. As always, there will be Easter egg prizes for the winner in each year group. Please note that entries must be the *children's own work*. It is sometimes obvious that children have been given a significant amount of help and support from parents which makes it very difficult to judge and be fair to all children. We are looking for original ideas and creativity but at the same time that sense that the majority of the hard work has been done by the children themselves. Entries must be brought into school on Thursday 3rd April. Judging will take place that afternoon and winners will be announced on the Friday as we finish for Easter.



ATTENDANCE

Overall at this stage is attendance is 97.3%. All classes are achieving above 97% with the exception of reception (96.1%) and Year 4 (96.9%). Attendance for the past few weeks is as follows:

<i>Week Beginning</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
10 th March	97.8%
17 th March	97.6%



BOOK BRING AND BUY SALE – PLEASE DONATE

Unfortunately, we did not have enough book donations to run a successful bring and buy sale of second-hand children's and adults' books last week as planned. We still plan to do this at a later date (probably after Easter now) so please continue to sort out your book shelves at home and donate books to school in the next two weeks.

LIBRARY BOOKS (SUGGESTIONS PLEASE!)

We have had some response to our request for suggestions for new book titles for our library. There is still time to complete your suggestion forms and return them to school before we start ordering. Thank you for your support.

IMPORTANT : READING SCHEME BOOKS – PLEASE RETURN

A lot of our reading scheme books seem to be missing. This is probably because they have not been changed or returned by the children. Please have a look at home for any of our school reading books and return them to the school office as soon as possible. We invest a significant amount of money in our reading scheme books every year. When they are not returned by the children, this limits the choices available for other children and means we have to spend money simply replacing lost books. Thank you for your support.