



Dear Families and Friends

As we approach the weekend, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the school is closed tomorrow (Friday 2nd May) for staff training and for the public holiday on Monday 5th May. We therefore look forward to seeing you on Tuesday of next week for another 4-day week for the children. Staff are in school on Friday for staff training. It has been suggested by government recently that schools inform parents of the purposes of staff training days so, with this in mind, I would like to share with you that tomorrow's training day will involve all staff in preparing for our new curriculum in plenty of time for September when all schools must meet the statutory requirements of the new National Curriculum. Whilst being quite clear about the key objectives to be taught in each year group (and making the maths a little harder for everyone), the new slimmed-down curriculum gives schools more freedom to do other things. We are therefore looking forward to improving what we already do as well as creating new topics and opportunities for the children.

Enjoy your weekend!

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

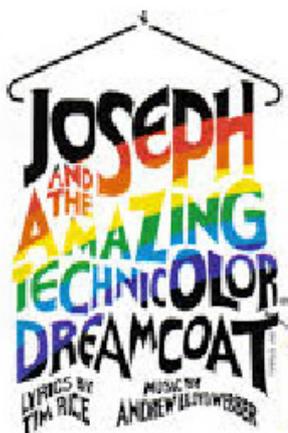
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| <i>Friday 2nd May</i> | <i>School closed for Staff Training</i> |
| <i>Monday 5th May</i> | <i>School closed for Public Holiday</i> |
| <i>Thursday 8th May</i> | <i>Class Photographs (correct uniform please)</i> |
| <i>Week Beginning 12th May</i> | <i>Year 6 National Curriculum Tests</i> |
| <i>Tuesday 13th May</i> | <i>Year 4 class visit to Castleton / Treat Cliff Cavern</i> |
| <i>Wednesday 14th May</i> | <i>Year 5 class visit to Quarry Bank Mill</i> |
| <i>Week Beginning 19th May</i> | <i>Year 2 National Curriculum Tests (see letter)</i> |
| <i>Thursday 22nd May</i> | <i>Year 6 class visit to Chester Zoo</i> |
| <i>Friday 23rd May</i> | <i>School closes for the half-term holiday</i> |

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



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|--|---|
| Monday 2 nd June | School opens for the remainder of the summer term |
| Friday 6 th June | Class Assembly : Year 3 |
| Tuesday 10 th June at 2pm | Learning Walks |
| Wednesday 11 th June at 9am | Learning Walks |
| Monday 16 th June | Year 1 Phonics Tests this week (with Mr Beard) |
| Tuesday 17 th June | Visiting Theatre Company : 'The Hobbit' |
| Friday 20th June | Class Assembly : Reception (note change of date) |
| Thursday 26 th June | Year 4 class visit to Manchester Airport |
| Saturday 28 th June | School Summer Fair, 12.00noon- 3.00pm |
| Wednesday 2 nd July | Manchester Music Showcase (the school band) |
| Friday 4 th July | Sports Day (reserve day provisionally Tue 8 th July) |
| Friday 4 th July | Children's evening discos (organised by the Friends) |
| Thursday 10 th July at 7pm | Key Stage 2 performance of 'Joseph' (see article) |
| Friday 10 th July at 7pm | Key Stage 2 performance of 'Joseph' (see article) |
| Monday 14 th July | Annual Progress reports issued to Parents |
| Wednesday 16 th July at 9.15am | End of Year certificate / awards assembly |
| Wednesday 16 th July, 3.30–4.30pm | Parents' Evening (opportunity to discuss reports) |
| Wednesday 16 th July at 6.30pm | Year 6 Leavers' Party |

SUMMER PRODUCTION – SHOWTIME!



You will probably by now be aware (if your child has been singing the songs at home) that we are intending to stage a performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat this summer. This will involve children in Years 3 – 6 and will be performed on the evenings of Thursday 10th and Friday 11th June, starting at 7pm.

We began work on the songs quite some time ago and are now about to start the auditioning process for all those children who want a character part. For those who do not want a character part but still want to join in the fun, there is plenty of singing to be done (the more singers the better) as nearly every word, including narration, is sung rather than spoken.

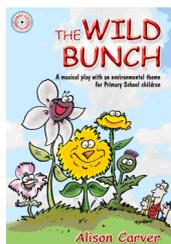
We will be asking for parents to help and support nearer the time, including helping us source and create costumes (waistcoats, cowboy hats, false beards – there will be a long list!). In the meantime, please put the dates in your diary. All children who want to be part of the production will be expected to perform on both nights. Those who are given a character part will be expected to attend some rehearsals on Thursdays after school. These rehearsals will start after the half-term holiday. Tickets (limited at first) will be on sale the week beginning 23rd June.

MORNING CONCERT – THANK YOU and WELL DONE!

We would thank all those children who took part in the morning concert just before Easter and congratulate them on their musicianship and the progress they have made. It was great to see the brass and woodwind players joining forces to form a wind band for the first time. It may interest you to know (parents of brass and woodwind players please put the date in your diary) that the players have been invited to join two other schools to form a larger wind ensemble and play their pieces in a ‘showcase’ concert on Wednesday 2nd July at a venue in Manchester.



YEAR 4 – THANK YOU and WELL DONE!



We would also like to thank all of Year 4 and to congratulate them on their fine singing, acting and dancing in the performance of “The Wild Bunch” at the Manchester Health Academy. Mr Beard had the pleasure of thanking all of the schools involved at the end of the afternoon performance but we know that the children performed just as well in the evening. Well done everyone, and thank you parents for your great support for this event.

NORTHENDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

It has to be said that attendance at the first meeting of the new Northenden Neighbourhood Forum, which was held at school on 2nd April, was disappointing. This was a shame because the Forum aims to represent the views of local people and work in partnership with all those who live and work in Northenden to help shape the future of the village. However, we understand that many of you may have engaged with the Forum in other ways and understand that everyone has busy lives.

The next meeting of the Forum, the first Annual General Meeting (AGM), will be held next **Thursday 8th May** at St Wilfrid’s CE Primary School on Patterdale Road. Again, all parents are invited to attend. A leaflet and a window poster (“I love Northenden”) has been sent out with this newsletter on behalf of the NNF.



CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS – CORRECT UNIFORM PLEASE

Our photographer will be in school on Thursday morning of next week to take class photographs. All being well with the weather, these will be taken outside. We want to remind all parents that the colours of our school uniform are RED and BLUE, not to be confused with the green and yellow of our neighbouring school! Green and yellow dresses should NOT therefore be worn at this school as they are not part of our school uniform, not just for our school photographs but at any time.



Please ensure that your child is dressed smartly and in the correct school uniform for our class photographs next week – it really does make a difference to some parents’ decision to purchase the photograph when they see children not in school uniform. Thank you for your support.

PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like to thank everyone who returned their parents' questionnaire before the Easter holiday. We had over 40 questionnaires returned. It is not too late to return your questionnaire if you have not already done so. Although there is much analysis and reading of the questionnaires to do, it is encouraging to note from the first glances we have taken at your responses that the vast majority of parents are very happy with the provision at the school. However, there are some areas of concern and some very good ideas that we aim to work on in the future.



We will provide you with overall feedback about the questionnaire after the half-term holiday when our governors have also had a chance to read your comments and suggestions. Thank you again.

INTERNAL STAFF PROMOTIONS

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Angela Charlton on her recent appointment to the post of School Business Manager. You are all familiar with the work Angela does in the school office but you may not know that she now has a wider role in school, including responsibility for the school's finances and premises, including Health and Safety. We are currently advertising for a suitably-experienced person to work alongside Angela in the school office on a permanent basis, the closing date for which is Friday 9th May.

I would also like to congratulate Hillary Moran on her promotion to Senior Lunchtime Organiser. Hillary's second role in school (as well as being one of two caretakers) will involve leading the lunchtime team and working with the children to create even better and safer playtimes. Some of our lunchtime staff have recently changed supervision roles (some having been with the same age group for quite some time) and are enjoying their time with a different group of children. The children are enjoying using new equipment and some new markings in the playground.

ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance is still above target at 97.3%. This is great achievement and we would like to congratulate everyone for their efforts and commitment to school life. All classes, except Year 4 and reception, are achieving 97% attendance at this time whilst Year 3 have achieved over 98%. Attendance for the past few weeks is as follows:

| <i>Week Beginning</i> | <i>Attendance</i> |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 31 st March | 97.7% |
| 21 st April | 97.4% |



REMINDER : CHILD SAFETY / MORNING ROUTINE

We would like to remind parents that our younger children (Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2) must not arrive at school and in the playground without their parents or an older sibling. Parents are asked to accompany children of this age group to the playground rather than leave them at the school gates. Thank you for your support.