



Dear Families and Friends

With the change in the weather, darker nights and signs of Christmas everywhere, there is no doubt that we are heading into the Winter season. It has been a while since my last newsletter, so there is much to report and look forward to at this time, not least the launch of our Christmas CD (see article and separate letter) and our forthcoming Christmas events.

First, I would like to thank everyone who attended our Learning Walks (before the half-term holiday) and gave us and the children great feedback using our new activity and feedback forms. Although we know it was early in the academic year, many of you appreciated the chance to work with your children in class and find out a little more about what they have been studying. We hope that the arrangements for those children not taking part in the learning walks provided more space and a quieter atmosphere for your visit. We would also like to thank all those who attended last week's parents' evening. A number of parents have asked us to run some sessions about the teaching of Mathematics and English. With this in mind, we will be arranging a number of workshops to take place when we return after the Christmas holiday.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY (see website for all events)

<i>Friday 25th November</i>	<i>Friends of NCS : Children's Discos (5.30pm and 7pm) *</i>
<i>Friday 2nd December, 9.15am</i>	<i>Class Assembly : Year 4</i>
<i>Monday 12th December, 1.45pm</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Play (afternoon performance)</i>
<i>Tuesday 13th December, 9.30am</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Play (morning performance)</i>
<i>Thursday 15th December, 1.45pm</i>	<i>Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (afternoon performance)</i>
<i>Friday 16th December, 9.30am</i>	<i>Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (morning performance)</i>
<i>Monday 19th December, 7.00pm</i>	<i>Christmas Concert at St Hilda's Catholic Church</i>
<i>Wednesday 21st December</i>	<i>Christmas Lunch</i>

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



<i>Thursday 22nd December</i>	<i>Christmas Parties (afternoon)</i>
<i>Thursday 22nd December</i>	<i>School closes for Christmas holiday (2 weeks)</i>
Friday 23rd December	School CLOSED for Staff Training
Monday 9th January	School opens for the Spring Term
<i>Tuesday 17th January</i>	<i>Year 2 Class Visit (Staircase House)</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th January</i>	<i>Year 6 Class Visit (Stockport Air Raid Shelters)</i>
<i>Tuesday 7th February</i>	<i>Year 5 Class Visit (Manchester People's Museum)</i>
<i>Friday 10th February</i>	<i>Class Assembly : Year 6</i>
Thursday 16th February	Class Assembly : Year 5 (please note Thursday date!)
Thursday 16th February	School Closes for Half-Term holiday

CHRISTMAS PLAYS

This year's Christmas plays will take place as shown in the diary above. Our Early Years children will be performing the play '*We Three Kings*' and our Year 1 and Year 2 children will be performing '*Baubles*'. Tickets for these events will be available from Thursday of this week priced at £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT : YEARS 3 – 6

With apologies for the delay, we can now confirm the date and venue for our Christmas concert. This will take place on the evening of Monday 19th December at St Hilda's Catholic Church on Kenworthy Lane. For this year's concert, we will be joined by a special guest singer, the tenor Martin Toal, who has worked with the children to produce our special Christmas CD and whom some of you will remember from our concerts at Gorton Monastery in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Martin will sing with the children during the concert and perform some solo pieces from his Christmas repertoire. Tickets for this concert will be priced at £4.00 per person and all proceeds from this concert will go to the charity Destination Florida alongside all monies raised from the sale of the Christmas CD. 200 tickets will be made available for this concert.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING – THANK YOU!

September, October and November saw a number of charity fundraising events come and go. First, in September, £251.91 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support via the coffee morning, cake sales and cake competition organised by Lana, our After-School Club Manager. Thanks to Lana for her commitment and to you for supporting this important charity.



In October, an impressive array of food and other items was brought in by the children for our Harvest offering. All of the goods were taken to the local church to be distributed to families in need of food and basic items. In November, via the sale of novelty items and the wearing of spots and stripes, children and parents raised £310.00 in support of Children in Need. Again, thank you for your support.

There is just ONE MORE charity we would like you to support this year with the promise of over 50 minutes of fine singing and Christmas cheer in return ...

CHRISTMAS CD : In support of Destination Florida

We are delighted to announce the launch of our Christmas CD. It seemed very strange to be rehearsing Christmas carols and songs in preparation to record our CD in October. Such is the music recording business in which we found ourselves! I want to say how very impressed I was with the children's commitment to this project; they rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and professionalism, resulting in a very accomplished and enjoyable CD of 16 carols and songs performed by the children and three solos performed by our guest singer and organiser of the project, the tenor Martin Toal. You can listen to extracts of some of the songs on the CD via our website.



We have 500 copies of the CD to sell at £6.00 per CD or 4 CDs for £20.00. This will make a great souvenir or stocking-filler for members of your family and friends, and a wonderful keepsake for your children who can look back at this project with pride in years to come. Given that nearly every child is singing on the CD, we are hoping that every family will want to buy at least one copy.



Please support the children's endeavours by ordering your CD using the attached order form. The order form is also available on our website. We will supply by order only at this stage to ensure that every family who wants to purchase at least one CD will be able to do so. We will issue CDs purchased by order on Monday 5th December and release the remaining CDs for general sale.



Finally, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Frankie (Year 5), Dimitrios (Year 6) and Nancy (Year 6) whose Christmas pictures have been used for the CD cover designs. Their designs feature on the front and reverse of the CD cover and on the CD itself. Well done to everyone who took part in this competition – there were some great designs! Thank you.

Destination Florida is a charity based in the North West that specialises in bringing a bit of sunshine in to the lives of children who are suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Every two years the charity takes a group of 75 children to Florida for the holiday of a lifetime.



NUT FREE ZONE



We remind parents that this school is a nut-free zone. Some of our children have allergies to nuts and nut-based products. We therefore aim to restrict children's exposure to products containing or made from nuts. Please do not include nut-based products (including 'Nutella') in your children's lunch or snack boxes. Thank you for your consideration and support.

REMINDER : CHILDREN'S DISCOS

Friday 25th November at 5.30pm and 7.00pm



We look forward to seeing the children at our Disco's on Friday evening. Please note there will be one change this year! Any parent/carer who wishes to stay at School for the duration of the Disco they will be welcome in the upstairs meeting/music room upstairs where refreshments will be served in return for a small donation. As ever, all profits go to school funds and benefit all children at the school. We welcome any donations of home baking (or shop bought) cakes, etc. to make this event more successful.

Children will be welcome in the room, however buggies/prams will need to be stored in the uncovered bike/scooter area outside. Children will need to be supervised by their accompanying adult and must not be left unattended. Please ensure your child brings something to keep them busy. The School/PTA cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss to prams/buggies.



CHETHAM'S MUSIC SCHOOL VISIT

Last Friday, we enjoyed a visit from musicians from Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. Students from the school and their teacher Dr Martyn Shaw performed a selection of pieces for us in assembly. Some of the pieces were over 300 years old. The students, aged 11 – 16 years, performed as a recorder ensemble and played solo instruments including flute, oboe and recorder. We would like to thank the students and staff of Chetham's for visiting us again and their performance.

SCHOOL MEALS MENUS

New school meal menus are now available on our website. Copies are also displayed in our outdoor notice boards and are available from the school office on request. We would like to remind all parents **that two weeks' notice** needs to be given when children change from one meal arrangement to another.



HOUSE POINTS

We are sure that you will have heard by now from your children that we have introduced a system of houses and 'house points' in Years 1 – 6. The children have all been placed in one of five houses (named after trees – Cedar, Sycamore, Pine, Chestnut and Willow) and can earn points towards their house for good work, good manners and good behaviour. These houses will be used for cross-school competition, including sports daty.

SUPERVISION and SAFETY OF CHILDREN on SCHOOL PREMISES REMINDER for PARENTS

We would like to remind all parents to ensure that their children remain with them when entering and leaving the school playground. We are noticing every day that children, particularly young children, are not adequately supervised and are reaching the car park unaccompanied. Whilst we do have staff on duty in the car park, we do feel that the supervision of the children at this time should be the responsibility of the parents who are with them. Thank you for your support.