



Dear Families and Friends

In this, the first school newsletters of 2017, I want to bring you up to date with news from school and to look ahead to the remainder of the spring term which is already feeling as busy as ever. There is lots happening this term, including visits to the Halle Orchestra and drama sessions as part of our planned Arts month, some workshops for parents, Internet Safety Week, class assemblies and musical performances. But first ...

"FAREWELL" AND "THANK YOU" MRS CHARLTON

I am really sad to be letting you know that Angela Charlton, our School Business Manager (SBM), will be leaving us at February half term to take up a similar role at another school in Manchester. It is a much larger school and presents a promotion and a new challenge for Angela after 16 years at Northenden Community School. During this time, she has had a significant impact on the school, not only in improving administration but making sure that our 108 year-old building is well looked-after and safe. I want to thank Angela publicly not only for her enormous commitment to and work for this school, its staff, pupils, parents and governors, but for the support she has given me as Headteacher during the past 11 years. I am sure that you will want to join me in the next few weeks in wishing Angela the very best of luck in her new post. We have not yet appointed a new SBM but interviews are taking place shortly and we hope to have someone in place soon.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher

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



Thursday 2nd February

Week Beginning 7th February

Tuesday 7th February

Friday 10th February, 9.10am

Friday 10th February, 7.30pm

Year 1 Class Workshop : Early Learning for Safety

Internet Safety Week

Year 5 Class Visit : Manchester People's Museum

Class Assembly : Year 6

Quiz Night (Friends event, adults only)

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued ...



<i>Thursday 16th February, 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly : Year 5 (note Thursday date!)</i>
<i>Thursday 16th February</i>	<i>Local Schools Geography Bee/Quiz (Y5/6)</i>
<i>Thursday 16th February</i>	<i>School CLOSES for the half-term holiday</i>
<i>Friday 17th February</i>	<i>School is CLOSED for Staff Training</i>
<i>Monday 27th February</i>	<i>School OPENS for the remainder of the Spring Term</i>
<i>Monday 27th February</i>	<i>Year 1 and Year 2 Class Workshops : Toys</i>
<i>Tuesday 28th February, 6.30pm</i>	<i>Year 2 Parents' Meeting : National Curriculum Tests</i>
<i>Wednesday 1st March</i>	<i>Class Visits : Halle Orchestra / Bridgewater Hall (Y3-6)</i>
<i>Thursday 2nd March, 6.30pm</i>	<i>Year 6 Parents' Meeting : National Curriculum Tests</i>
<i>Friday 3rd March</i>	<i>World Book Day (dress up as Book characters)</i>
<i>Thursday 9th March</i>	<i>Class Visit : Year 4 (Manchester Museum – Egyptians)</i>
<i>Tuesday 14th March</i>	<i>Class Visit : Year 5 (Crowden Centre, Peak District)</i>
<i>Thursday 16th March</i>	<i>Morning Concert (Year 4, brass, woodwind and choir)</i>
<i>Friday 17th March</i>	<i>Class Assembly : Year 2</i>
<i>Tuesday 21st March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Short Session, 3.30pm – 5.30pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 22nd March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Long Session, 3.30pm – 7.30pm)</i>
<i>Thursday 23rd March</i>	<i>Local Schools Mathematics Bee/Quiz (Y2-6)</i>
<i>Wednesday 29th March, 1.30pm</i>	<i>Year 4 Performance at Manchester Health Academy</i>
<i>Wednesday 29th March, 6.30pm</i>	<i>Year 4 Performance at Manchester Health Academy</i>
<i>Friday 31st March</i>	<i>School Closes for the Easter holidays</i>
<i>Monday 17th April</i>	<i>School opens for the Summer term</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th April, 2.00pm</i>	<i>Theatre Visit : 'Running Wild' at The Lowry</i>

THEATRE VISITS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We really missed our traditional visit to the theatre following the Christmas holidays this year. This was because the theatres were not offering the usual schools-priced theatre experience, the Lowry instead, for example, presenting 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' for which we could not obtain tickets for less than £32 per child. So, we have booked two theatre visits for later in the year, the first of which is for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to see Michael Morpurgo's 'Running Wild' on Wednesday 19th April. We have also booked for all children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to visit the Lowry on 6th July to see Roald Dahl's 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. Please put these dates in mind and in your family calendar as they are both afternoon performances which means that all children will return to school between 4pm and 5pm on those days. We will ask for voluntary donations for these events nearer the time.



CHARITY CD – DESTINATION FLORIDA

We are delighted to let you know that the selling of the Christmas CD and proceeds from the ticket sales for a wonderful Christmas concert raised an impressive £2,275 for the charity, Destination Florida. We want to thank the children again for their hard work and commitment to this project during last term, which concluded with a special concert at St Hilda's Church where we were joined by tenor Martin Toal and guest musicians Francesca Richardson (violin) and Eleanor McKenna (soprano).



We hope that everyone who came to this event enjoyed it as much as we did. We will be presenting our donation to Paul Bailey from the charity in assembly on Friday morning of this week. We shouldn't ... but we might have to sing a Christmas song before we put the project finally to rest at school, although I know some of you are still playing the CD.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

Booking forms for places for our After-School Club will be available from today. All those parents who are now registered with our After-School Club by email (these parents will have received emails regarding bookings before Christmas) will receive a booking form by email. This can be printed and return by hand or completed in MS Word and returned by email. This half term we have managed to offer places to most families, given some flexibility created by children attending extra-curricular activities. However, places are limited in the interests of providing a safe and quality environment for all children. Paper copies of the booking forms are available from the school office or from After-School Club. Please ensure that you complete and return your booking form as soon as possible. Places will be confirmed on an ongoing basis.

MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

We want to take this opportunity to remind or make clear to parents that the school does not administer medication to children during the school day unless the medication is prescribed by a doctor. We receive many requests for children to be given Calpol and other over-the-counter medicines during the school day, either because they are recovering from an general illness or 'just in case' they do not feel particularly well. However, we do not administer medication to children on this basis and parents need to make arrangements for non-prescribed medicines to be given at other times outside of the school day or by coming into school to administer it themselves. Where a child needs prescribed medication during the school day, this requires a formal arrangement between the school and home and parents must complete a request form and have it agreed by a member of staff. Please do not send your child to school with any medication for them to administer themselves (other than asthma inhalers) or without making formal arrangements with the school office. Thank you for your support.

QUIZ NIGHT – NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER A TEAM

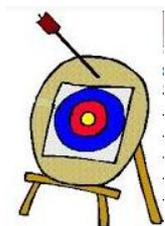


At this stage, we have had a limited response to the quiz night event which is planned for Friday 10th February. In order to plan ahead in plenty of time, the final deadline for team entries has been extended to this coming Wednesday 1st February. If by then we have not had a sufficient response to make the evening a success, we will cancel it and look ahead to the summer term instead. If you would like to take part and enter a team, complete and return your team entry form to the school office.

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY FOR 2016 - 2017

Our class attendance for the year up to **Friday 27th January** is as follows ...

Class	Attendance	Days Missed	Attendance Thresholds				Late Marks
			Pupils who have attendance more or less than the percentage shown				
			100%	97%+	<90%	<85%	
Nursery	95.7%	76	11	17	5	2	75
Reception	96.6%	93	9	21	3	1	51
Year 1	97.0%	77	12	21	2	1	12
Year 2	97.6%	64	13	22	1	0	82
Year 3	96.4%	95	4	17	3	0	29
Year 4	96.1%	107	7	19	5	1	38
Year 5	95.9%	112	4	15	3	1	48
Year 6	97.2%	73	7	21	1	0	55
All	96.6%	969	67	153	23	6	390



97%

TARGET
MISSED
WHOOOPS!

Only 3 of our classes have achieved the 97% target for attendance at this stage of the year. 150 days of absence across the school are due to family holidays taken during term time. If these children had been in school rather than on holiday, attendance would be 97.3%. Year 5 has been significantly affected by illness (80 days affecting 24 pupils) whereas 6 children in Year 4 have had 30 days of authorised family holidays since September. This time last year, our attendance was 97.4%. There has clearly been a decline in our attendance compared to last year, mainly due to parents taking their children on family holidays during term time, all of which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, remain unauthorised

PUNCTUALITY for SCHOOL : SCHOOL STARTS AT 8.50am

We want to remind all parents that school starts at 8.50am (8.45am in the nursery). This is the time at which the bell rings and teachers collect children from the playground to enter school. This is therefore the time by which all children should arrive at school to start the school day. The children have five minutes to organise themselves (coats, bags, waster bottles, homework, etc.) and registration (the time at which all children should be sitting in their classrooms) starts at 8.55am. Unfortunately, we are noticing a number of children are arriving late for school on a daily basis.

Please support us by ensuring that your children are in the playground by 8.50am every morning. Thank you for your support.

