



Dear Families and Friends

As we arrive at the half-term holiday (school closes today for one week), I want to bring you up to date with forthcoming events and news from both our Governing Body and the Friends of Northenden Community School.

We wish everyone a pleasant and safe half-term holiday.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

<i>Friday 23rd October</i>	<i>School Closes for the Half-Term Holiday</i>
<i>Thursday 5th November</i>	<i>Bright Sparks Electricity Workshop (Year 4)</i>
<i>Friday 6th November</i>	<i>Bright Sparks Electricity Workshop (Year 4)</i>
<i>Monday 9th November</i>	<i>Year 5 Residential Visit to Robinwood (3 days)</i>
<i>Tuesday 10th November</i>	<i>Year 3 Class Visit : Poole's Cavern</i>
<i>Wednesday 11th November</i>	<i>Remembrance Day Cenotaph/Church Service (Year 6)</i>
<i>Thursday 12th November</i>	<i>Dick Whittington (Visiting Theatre Company)</i>
<i>Tuesday 17th November</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 5.30pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th November</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 7.30pm)</i>
<i>Friday 20th November, 9.15am</i>	<i>Assembly : Musicians from Chetham's School of Music</i>
<i>Tuesday 24th November, 2.00pm</i>	<i>Reading Workshops for Reception Parents</i>
<i>Wednesday 25th November, 9.00am</i>	<i>Reading Workshops for Reception Parents (as above)</i>
<i>Wednesday 25th November, 7.00pm</i>	<i>Meeting of the Friends of NCS (at school) – see article</i>
<i>Friday 4th December, 2.30pm</i>	<i>Family Detective Reading Project Meeting (Y3-5)</i>
<i>Monday 7th December, 1.45pm</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Play (1st performance)</i>
<i>Tuesday 8th December, 9.30am</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Play (2nd performance)</i>

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



<i>Thursday 10th December, 1.45pm</i>	<i>Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (1st performance)</i>
<i>Friday 11th December, 9.30am</i>	<i>Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (2nd performance)</i>
<i>Tuesday 15th December, 7.00pm</i>	<i>Years 3 – 6 Christmas Concert (1st performance)</i>
<i>Wednesday 16th December, 9.30am</i>	<i>Years 3 – 6 Christmas Concert (2nd performance)</i>
<i>Thursday 17th December</i>	<i>Christmas Lunch</i>
<i>Friday 18th December</i>	<i>Christmas Parties</i>
<i>Friday 18th December</i>	<i>School closes for the Christmas Holidays</i>
<i>Monday 4th January 2016</i>	<i>School Closed for Staff Training</i>
<i>Wednesday 6th January 2016</i>	<i>Lowry Theatre Visit : Mr Popper's Penguins (N,R, Y1)</i>
<i>Thursday 7th January 2016</i>	<i>Lowry Theatre Visit : Hetty Feather (Y5 and Y6)</i>
<i>Friday 8th January 2016</i>	<i>Lowry Theatre Visit : Mr Popper's Penguins (Y2, Y3, Y4)</i>

Please note that the school will not be involved in the Christie Charity Concert as other schools have been asked to contribute this year.

The calendar for the full year is available on our website.

GOVERNORS / PARENT FORUM FEEDBACK

The Governors would like to thank everyone who attended the Governors/Parent Forum meeting earlier this month. It was very useful for governors to hear directly from parents about their views of the school, including strengths and potential areas for development. Communication from school was a topic for discussion across all groups and the school is looking to improve how we get information to parents in a more timely way, including through Twitter and e-mail. Other discussion points included extra-curricular activities, school sport, international links and after-school club.



HARVEST ASSEMBLY : THANK YOU



We would like to thank everyone for the huge response to our request for food and other items to be brought to our Harvest assembly. We managed to fill (and then some) five tables with tins and packets. All goods will be taken to St Luke's church in Wythenshawe for their food bank. The Harvest Assembly focussed on the sources of the majority of our food (animals, earth and sea) and the importance of sharing. From the word HARVEST, we can find so many relevant words – EAT, STARVE, EARTH, SEA and, perhaps most importantly, SHARE. We discussed the importance of sharing with others. Thank you to all of the children who read poems in the assembly and to Year 6 who performed a short play.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS

First Meeting of the Year : Please join us on ...
Wednesday 25th November at 7.00pm



The Friends of NCS will be holding their first meeting of the year on Wednesday 25th November at 7.00pm. All parents are invited to attend and we would love to see both known and new parents joining the group to help organise and support a range of activities and some fund-raising throughout the year. We are looking for people to take on some key roles during next year so that we have an extended team to organise a range of events, including quiz nights and a Summer Fair. The success of our events and the additional funds they raise for the school very much depend on the contribution of parent, both working behind the scenes and attending events. Please support us and come along to the meeting to join the group and share ideas. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARDS

Deadline for Return : Monday 2nd November

We know it's still only October but, looking ahead to Christmas, we are inviting all children to create Christmas card designs for purchasing by their family. Designs need to be completed during the half-term holiday and returned to school no later than **Monday 2nd November**, the day we return to school. A template for your child's design, a practice sheet and an order for cards (or ceramic mugs) will be sent home this week. Please read the 'Design notes for Artists' very carefully and support your child in planning and creating their design, particularly if they include any wording – spacing and spelling are very important. Use the practice sheet to set out the design and get the spacing of the lettering right.



STAFFING NEWS

We are delighted to let you know that Kerry Healey, one of our Teaching Assistants (Year 4), got married last weekend. She has been away on her honeymoon this week and will return to school after the half-term holiday as **Mrs Yates**. We are sure that she will need reminding as much as the children about her new name.



We are also pleased to share with you that Mr Jones will be returning to Year 4 after the half-term holiday following a short period of paternity leave. He has recently become a father for the second time; he and his wife have welcomed their new daughter, Eleanor, into the world.

SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERS



We understand that TESCO are now accepting online orders again for our school uniform. Don't forget that DEBONAIR School Uniform Shop at Wythenshawe Civic Centre also sells our school uniform.

A LETTER FROM KENSINGTON PALACE

The children in Year 3 have this week received a letter from Kensington Palace thanking them for the lovely letters and pictures they sent on the occasion of the birth of Princess Charlotte. Although it was some time ago when the letters were sent, it is lovely to receive an acknowledgement (with an apology for the delay due to sheer volume of letters received) from the Royal Family once again. Well done, Year 3 (when you were in Year 2)!



ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY FOR 2015 – 2016

Attendance for the year up to 16th October 2015 is as follows:

Class	Attendance	Days Missed	Attendance Thresholds Pupils who have attendance more or less than the percentage shown				Late Marks
			100%	97%+	<90%	<85%	
Nursery	98.3%	10½	17	18	3	1	23
Reception	97.8%	21½	19	22	2	2	5
Year 1	99.4%	6	24	26	0	0	0
Year 2	97.9%	20	17	17	0	0	0
Year 3	97.2%	26	17	21	3	3	0
Year 4	98.7%	12½	19	21	0	0	0
Year 5	98.1%	17½	22	23	4	1	10
Year 6	98.0%	19½	16	20	1	1	0
All	98.2%	101½	151	168	13	8	38



97%

All classes are currently on track to achieve 97% attendance. This is excellent. Our attendance last year was the EIGHTH highest attendance in the city and we have received a letter of congratulations from the Director of Education. This was shared with the children in assembly this morning. Well done, everyone!

ATTENDANCE / ABSENCE POLICY

You may have heard in the news this week, following a court case in the Isle of Wight, that there is some confusion and controversy nationally about the law related to absence from school and the right of parents to withdraw children from school for family holidays. To clarify, at this time headteachers can only authorise pupil absences from school in ‘exceptional circumstances’. Family holidays during term time are not considered an exceptional circumstance and therefore absence due to family holidays is usually unauthorised. A period of unauthorised absence (for any reason) can result in a penalty notice being issued to parents.