



Dear Families and Friends

As we approach the Christmas season, I want to bring you up to date with forthcoming events and news. First though, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your patience and understanding on Tuesday of this week when we had to close the school due to a power cut in the area. The closure was necessary as the school could not operate safely. Apologies for any inconvenience this caused, particularly at short notice.

As you know, Tuesday's parents' evening has been rearranged for next week, Tuesday 24th November. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday and at the first meeting of this year of the Friends of NCS, which takes place on Wednesday at 7.00pm.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

<i>Tuesday 24th November</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 5.30pm – rescheduled)</i>
<i>Wednesday 25th November, 2.00pm</i>	<i>Reading Workshops for Reception Parents(rescheduled)</i>
<i>Wednesday 25th November, 7.00pm</i>	<i>Meeting of the Friends of NCS (at school)</i>
<i>Thursday 26th November, 9.00am</i>	<i>Reading Workshops for Reception Parents (rescheduled)</i>
<i>Friday 4th December, 2.30pm</i>	<i>Family Detective Reading Project Meeting (Years 3-5)</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>
<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>

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



Monday 4 th January 2016	School Closed for Staff Training
Tuesday 5 th January 2016	School opens for the Spring Term 2016
Wednesday 6 th January 2016	Lowry Theatre Visit : Mr Popper's Penguins (N,R,Y1)
Thursday 7 th January 2016	Lowry Theatre Visit : Hetty Feather (Y5 and Y6)
Friday 8 th January 2016	Lowry Theatre Visit : Mr Popper's Penguins (Y2,Y3,Y4)

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

REMINDER : 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 at school. 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 fundraising throughout the year. 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.

CHRISTMAS PLAYS AND EVENTS *

As we look forward to Christmas, rehearsals will soon be under way for our Christmas plays and concerts which this year will be performed at school. Our Early Years children will be performing on two occasions and this year bring you the story of *The Bossy King*. Children in Years 1 and 2 will be performing *It's a Party*, again on two occasions. Our Christmas Concert which involves children in Years 3-6, will be performed in the final week of term. There will be an evening and a morning performance.



Tickets for all events will cost **£1.00 for adults** and **50p for children**. (Children performing do not need a ticket.) Tickets for all events will be available from the school office from Monday of next week, 23rd November. Please note that tickets may initially be restricted per family to enable fair distribution. Please ensure that you obtain your tickets in plenty of time as you may be disappointed if you leave it until the last minute.

MORNING CLUB NOW STARTS AT ... 7.45AM

The demand for morning childcare at the school has increased recently. With this in mind, Carol Brown (known to the children at lunchtimes and at After-School Club) has joined Mrs Stefaniw and Mrs Jones as part of our morning team. This has also enabled us to arrange an earlier start for our morning club – **we now open at 7.45am**. We hope this helps to support those parents who need an earlier start to their journey to work. There is no additional charge for this. As always, please ensure that your children do not arrive earlier than this time and are not left unsupervised.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



This week is anti-bullying week and we have taken the opportunity (as we do throughout the year) to make it clear to the children that bullying at school is not acceptable. Bullying at this school is very rare but we recognise that it does happen and in different ways. The important thing for all to remember is that when it does occur, the children affected report their feelings and experiences immediately to an adult. The school will then undertake an investigation of any incidents. The children themselves are all aware of the different forms of bullying and know what to do if they feel that their safety or happiness at school is being affected by someone else.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING ONLINE?

Technology is a wonderful thing if it is used appropriately. However, we all know that the internet, mobile devices and social media can present the opportunity for some to engage in behaviours and contact which is not appropriate. This includes bullying others online, sharing inappropriate images, accessing material which is not appropriate for the age group or having contact online with people who are not trusted or known. We advise all parents to be very clear with their children about the appropriate use of any family laptops, mobile devices (tablets and phones), online gaming or internet access and to be very aware of children's activity, particularly if they are using equipment away from parental supervision or appear to be in regular contact with others (do you know who they are contacting and why?). We are currently updating our printed guidance for parents. In the meantime, please contact Mr Beard if you need advice or have concerns about a child's online activity, particularly if it abusive or threatening to another child.



2016 – 2017 TERM and HOLIDAY DATES



Term and school holiday dates for the 2016 – 2017 academic year (from next September) are now available. We attach a copy for your reference. The children will return to school on Monday 5th September 2016. Please note also the rather late return to school after next year's Christmas holiday on Monday 9th January 2017.

Some parents have asked us about introducing a shorter summer holiday in exchange for a 2-week holiday at Whitsun. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer this at this time as all community schools (which we are) must adhere to the term dates published by their Local Authority. We are sorry to disappoint – we too see the advantages of having two weeks holiday at Whitsun, not least to take advantage of what can be a cheaper week away or some early June sunshine.

SCHOOL MEALS

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. The menu now features soup served with sandwiches on a weekly basis. We would like to remind all parents **that two weeks' notice** needs to be given when children change from one meal arrangement to another. Children who are currently having a packed lunch (and children who have a Wednesday/Friday meal) have today taken home a letter inviting them to have a cooked Christmas lunch on Thursday 17th December.





VISIT OF MUSICIANS from CHETHAM'S SCHOOL of MUSIC

We were delighted on Friday morning to welcome back Dr Martyn Shaw and students from the Chetham's School of Music which is based in Manchester. We were treated to a fine performance of music from the 18th Century featuring the flute, Viol de Gamba, harpsichord, recorder, violin and soprano voice. Thank you to Dr Shaw and the very talented musicians (the oldest of whom was 18 years of age) of Chetham's.

DRIVING DOWN BAZLEY ROAD

Again, we want to remind parents about driving down and parking on Bazley Road. We have asked time and time again for parents not to drive down the cul-de-sac to drop off and collect children at the beginning or end of the day. Unfortunately, many parents choose to ignore this request and are often abusive when challenged by staff which is a shame, particularly when done in front of children. We have also recently had an incident of damage to a staff car because of careless driving and parking. **Please do not drive down Bazley Road at any time during the school day, block neighbours' driveways, park on the yellow lines outside school or use the staff car park at any time.** Please ensure that everyone in your family is aware of this message as it sometimes those who do not regularly drop off the children who are at fault. Thank you for your support – it is important to us even if it does not seem important to those rushing to work.



TACKLING EXTREMISM : DUTY OF SCHOOLS

You will have heard of the recent terrorist attacks by ISIS which have taken place in Paris and will, no doubt, be aware of the actions of extremist groups acting in the Middle East, particularly in Syria. The recruitment of young people into extremist groups is a growing problem and schools in this country have recently been given statutory duties by the Government work with the authorities in safeguarding children and young people from becoming involved in violent activity or acts motivated by hatred. Whilst the risks at this school are relatively low, all staff have had training in how to raise concerns about children who may be at risk or influenced by others involved in or promoting extremist views. Perhaps more important, all schools also have a duty to promote Fundamental British Values which includes respect for and understanding others, contributing positively to the local and wider community, developing an understanding of different cultures and faiths, rights and responsibilities, and respect for the law and democracy. We know that Northenden parents want to and do encourage and support these principles very well; we have lovely children at Northenden who show respect for others and the qualities of good citizenship. However, if, as a parent, you are ever concerned about the behaviours or influences of others, which may be violent or extremist, please contact Mr Beard for advice.

GROUNDS PROJECTS

We are delighted to report the completion of two projects in the school grounds; the installation of a new canopy for the Early Years building and the installation of soft-surfacing and a games boundary (known as 'Smooga') to create a more attractive and enclosed space for PE lessons and playtime games. We are grateful for the support of Sport England who awarded the school a grant of more than £20,000 to partly fund this expensive project.

