

# Northenden Community School News



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Website : [www.northendenprimary.co.uk](http://www.northendenprimary.co.uk)

Dear Families and Friends ....

It does not seem five minutes since I was writing my last newsletter and wishing everyone a happy Easter. Time certainly does fly, particularly when the weeks are full of assessment and testing. I want to take this opportunity to say "well done" to Year 6 and Year 2, who have all been involved in taking the new National Curriculum tests during the last few weeks.. It has been an interesting time, particularly given the headlines about the national publication of some of the test papers some weeks ago.

Don't forget that we finish tomorrow (Friday) for the half-term holiday. The school is CLOSED on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June for staff training. All of the staff, including administration, site and lunchtime staff, will be together on this day to look at Equality issues and the school's policy with regard to equality and discrimination, homophobic and other bullying, and the rights of the child as defined by UNICEF.

I look forward this term to writing two more newsletters, taking the total number of newsletters I have written to 100, a nice round number to complement the 10 years I have now been Headteacher at the school. By then, we might know whether we are 'in' or 'out' of the European Union. School will be used as a polling station on the day of the referendum (23<sup>rd</sup> June) but will be open as usual, with some changes to wrap-around care.

I would like to remind you that the deadline for returning your parent governor ballot papers is tomorrow, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, at 3.00pm.

I hope you enjoy what I hope will be a sunny half-term holiday. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June as we look ahead to the remainder of the school year, sports day and the Summer Fair (see article).

Kind regards

Ian Beard, Headteacher

## KEY DATES for your DIARY

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

*School Closes for the half-term holiday*

**School CLOSED for staff training**

*School opens for the remainder of the summer term*



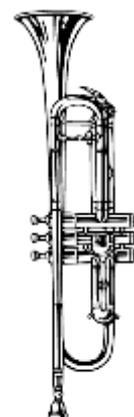
## KEY DATES for your DIARY continued ...



<i>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Year 4 Class Visit (Castleton, Treak Cliff Cavern)</i>
<i>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30pm</i>	<i>Early Years New Intake Meeting</i>
<i>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Year 2 Class Visit (Maritime Museum, Liverpool)</i>
<i>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Year 1 Phonics testing this week</i>
<i>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Sports Day (Infants 9.15am, Juniors 1.15pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Dress Down Day (Red, White and Blue) – Chocolates or gifts</i>
<i>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Year 5 Class Visit : Port Sunlight</i>
<i>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Sports Day Reserve (if cancelled on Tuesday)</i>
<i>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June</i>	<i>Year 5 Class Visit : Quarry Bank Mill, Styal</i>
<i>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</i>	<i>European Union Referendum (school used for polling)</i>
<i>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</i>	<i>Year 5 Class Visit : Manchester Health Academy (Science)</i>
<b><i>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 9.15am</i></b>	<b><i>Year 1 Class Assembly / Presentation</i></b>
<i>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Year 3 Class Visit : Crowden Outdoor Centre (Peak District)</i>
<i>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Pupil reports sent home to parents</i>
<i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 9.15am</i>	<i>End of Year Certificate Assembly (parents invited)</i>
<i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 11am</i>	<i>Class Transition (pupils spend time with new teachers)</i>
<i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1.30pm</i>	<i>Early Years Graduation Party (parents invited)</i>
<i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 6.30pm</i>	<i>Year 6 Leavers' Party (Britannia Country House Hotel)</i>
<i>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 3.30pm</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (one-hour 'drop-in' for report discussion)</i>
<i>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 9.15am</i>	<i>Year 6 Leavers' Assembly and Presentation</i>

## MORNING RECITAL – WELL DONE, EVERYONE

I would like to thank all of the children who took part in this morning's concert. This has become an annual event at this time of year when Year 4 children show what they have learned in their music (recorder) lessons with Mr Storey; this year the quality of sound and musicianship was outstanding, especially as playing the recorder is harder to do than many people think. The choir, although small in number was great in voice, and the joint forces of the brass and woodwind players, performing as a single ensemble, were impressive. Thanks and "well done" to all of the children involved, including the woodwind soloists, some of whom performed the pieces they will play in their Grade 1 examinations in just a few weeks time.



## WEBSITE

We are still experiencing some issues with our website which has now, apparently, been included on a list of unsafe websites. This is why you may be seeing a red warning screen when you try to access it. The service provider has now suspended the site for a few days so that it can be "cleaned" and hopefully restored to becoming a safe website once again.

## FRIENDS OF NCS



I would like to say “thank you” to the existing and new members of the ‘Friends’ who ran the quiz night event some weeks ago. It was an enjoyable night and there were some lessons learned along the way; did you know, for example, that there is only one Friday 13<sup>th</sup> during the whole of 2016 (a week last Friday) and that the ice cream you might have with a flake is known as a ‘99’? My team did but alas, we still didn’t win. Congratulations to the winning team and thanks to everyone who took part to raise £400 for the school.

## SUMMER FAIR – SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 12noon – 3pm

The next event organised by the ‘Friends’ will, of course, be the summer fair. This takes place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June between 12noon and 3pm. Let’s hope for great weather, so that we can enjoy the many stalls and games that will be on offer, together with barbecue and other food. Please support the school by coming along at any time to join in the fun and raise money for the school.

Have you been watching Britain’s Got Talent which aims to select an act for the Royal Variety Performance? Well, we will be hosting our own Royal Variety Performance on the day of the summer fair. Children, individually or in groups, are invited to perform something of their choice (song, dance, magic, etc) at different times during the afternoon. A performance should last no more than three minutes. If your child would like to take part, watch out for the flyer coming home in book-bags and return it to School by 15th June.

If you can help in any way on the day, particularly to run a stall or game, please get in touch with Rachel Binnie, current Chair of the Friends, to let her know of your availability and interest. You can do so via email to [friends@northenden.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:friends@northenden.manchester.sch.uk) After half-term, there will be a ‘sign-up’ sheet at the school office for you to register your commitment to support a stall, activity or time slot. Thank you for your support.

In the meantime, we would like to thank you for the many bottles and gifts we received yesterday on a ‘dress down’ day. The next dress down day is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June. On this day, children are invited to come to school dressed in red, white and blue in recognition of the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and our Summer Fair theme. On this day, please contribute items of chocolate or a gift for the tombola.

## HALL ART DISPLAYS

In the April newsletter, I thanked the children and Mrs McAffer for their efforts in producing new art work. This work, which celebrates the style of different artists, is now taking pride of place in the school hall, alongside the wonderful multicultural banners which were created last year. The upper levels of the walls have never looked so colourful, a fitting tribute to the very sorry state we saw the school hall in just 18 months ago.



## SCHOOL GATES – Please use the PEDESTRIAN GATE only

We remind everyone that pupils and parents **MUST NOT** use the vehicle gate when entering or leaving the school premises, even if the gate is open. This request is in place to 1) ensure that the car park is free of pedestrians when the gate is open for vehicles, 2) to keep everyone safe and 3) to encourage the children to use the correct gate at all times. It is not helpful when parents choose to ignore this request as this simply gives the message that the request and safety is not important.

## HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

You will have heard of the recent case in the High Court in which a parent from the Isle of Wight challenged the fine he received for taking his daughter out of school for a family holiday during term time. The High Court ruled in his favour and this has caused some confusion regarding the law and pupils' attendance at school.



The law is clear in stating that parents must ensure that their children attend school on a regular basis. Whilst it does not define what is 'regular', it is expected that parents will ensure that their children attend school on each of the 190 days of the year they are expected to do so unless there are exceptional circumstances why they cannot. A family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance. Exceptional circumstances are those which are unforeseen, do not happen regularly and could possibly have been arranged at another time. Examples include family funerals, weddings (one day) and medical appointments which cannot be rearranged.

All schools in Manchester have been advised that any fines issued to parents have been done so with regard to the regulations and within the protocols defined by Manchester City Council. We have also been advised to continue to report to the Local Authority any pupil absence which is due to a family holiday taken during term time and that the Local Authority will continue to consider issuing penalty notices to parents on a case-by-case basis as they do now. Please do not assume, therefore, that fines will no longer be issued and that it is now permitted to take your children out of school during term time. **Family holidays remain an unauthorised absence.**

Our ambition for all children who attend Northenden Community School is that they attend school for at least 97% of the school year. This allows for 6 days of absence for illness or other exceptional circumstances during the year. Many of our children and families strive for 100% attendance and fully understand the impact that any absence from school can have.

Some parents have requested family holidays at the beginning of September. The school never authorises any absence at this time as it is so important that children return to school in September, ready to meet their new teacher and get underway with the new academic year alongside everyone else. It is during these first few days that the ground rules are set and the tone of the year is established by their new teacher. Please note that the school policy is that work is NOT provided to pupils who go on family holidays, either before or after the event.

**Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your children attend school each and every day. Please remember that 'every lesson counts'**



## ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

The attendance for each class at this stage of the year is as follows:

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>Reception</b>	<b>95.3%</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>97.3%</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>97.3%</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>97.3%</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>96.6%</b>
<b>All Pupils</b>	<b>97.2%</b>		

Most classes are 'on track' to achieve 97% or better attendance. Well done, everyone.