



Dear Families and Friends

As we finish today for the Easter holidays, I want to share with you, as promised, a little more news from this half-term and look ahead to the summer term. Before I do, I want take this opportunity to say a special "thank you" and "good luck" to Miss Helen Fleet, one of Early Years teaching assistants, who leaves us today for a new job as a Deputy Manager in a Trafford nursery. Miss Fleet has been with us for a relatively short time but during that time her expertise, lovely manner with the children and hard work has been much appreciated. We have recently advertised to recruit a new Key Worker in our nursery. In the meantime, Mrs Sheila Singh will take over as Key Worker for the 'Clouds' group until a new Key Worker is appointed.

Have a lovely Easter break and see you back in school on Monday 16th April.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

Friday 30th March

School Closes for the Easter holidays

Monday 16th April

School opens for the summer term

Tuesday 24th April

Year 4 class visit to Manchester Airport

Wednesday 25th April, 6.00pm

Year 5 performance at the Bridgewater Hall

Thursday 26th April

Year 4 performances at Manchester Health Academy

Thursday 3rd May

School closed for Election Day / Staff Training

Friday 4th May

Year 3 Ancient Greeks Workshop

Monday 7th May

School closed for Public Holiday

Thursday 10th May

Year 3 class visit to Debdale Activity Centre

Friday 11th May

Early Years Class Assembly

Week Beginning 14th May

Year 6 SATs Tests

Week Beginning 21st May

Year 2 SATs Tests

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



<i>Friday 25th May, 7.30pm</i>	<i>Jubilee Quiz Night (adults)</i>
<i>Week Beginning 28th May</i>	<i>Year 2 SATS Tests continued</i>
<i>Wednesday 30th May</i>	<i>Queen's Diamond Jubilee Day</i>
<i>Friday 1st June</i>	<i>Year 3 Class Assembly</i>
<i>Friday 1st June</i>	<i>School closes for the half-term holiday</i>

Please remember that Friday 1st June is no longer a staff training day and that all children should attend school on that day.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2012 – 2013 (FAMILY HOLIDAYS)

Hopefully, everyone received a copy of the school calendar for the next school year when it was sent out a few weeks ago. If you did not, copies are available from the school office and via our website. We would like to remind everyone that family holidays **should not** be taken during term-time. Please look carefully at next year's calendar when planning and booking your holidays. It is extremely important that children attend school at the beginning of the new school year. Any family holidays taken at the beginning of September will be 'unauthorised' without exception and parents will face a penalty notice and a fine up to £100 per parent for each child for taking holidays during term-time.

MUSIC AND MYTHOLOGY PROJECT (YEAR 5)

Year 5 are currently involved in a project called 'Music and Mythology'. The project started a few weeks ago on a Sunday evening when most of Year 5 attended a concert at the Bridgewater Hall. This concert was a performance of Henry Purcell's King Arthur which is an opera, written in 1691, about the battles of King Arthur told by his magician, Merlin. Although it was an operatic performance, children and parents enjoyed the music, the narration, the singing (even though some of it was hard to understand) and, of course, the ice cream during the interval



The project continued in school with a visit from Terry Caffrey, a poet from Liverpool. He shared his love of poetry and made the children of Year 5 laugh so much their eyes started to water. Last week, the children worked with Kate Pearson, and her assistant Chloe, from the Bridgewater Hall to compose three verses of a song about King Arthur. They will perform this song and other music on the stage of the Bridgewater Hall for parents on Wednesday 25th April.



TESCO VOUCHERS – PLEASE COLLECT

We are once again collecting TESCO vouchers which we can use to buy sports and other equipment for the school. Please remember to ask for the vouchers when you shop and send them into school as soon as you can. The collection box is near the school office. Thank you for your support – Every Little Helps!

THE QUEEN VISITS MANCHESTER

You may have heard in the news (and in assembly) last Friday that the Queen visited and officially opened the new Children's Hospital in Manchester and the BBC's new Media City buildings at Salford Quays. This is good news for Manchester in itself but even better news is that one of our own pupils was invited to be part of the celebrations. Jack Norfolk in Year 5 was one of only five children invited by the hospital to be part of the Queen's visit. Already used to television as one of the stars of the series 'Children's Hospital', Jack appeared on the BBC Northwest Tonight news on Friday evening saying "it had been a privilege" to see the Queen. Well done, Jack!



A TRIBUTE TO MARION O'NEILL (LOLLYPOP LADY)

On Friday morning of last week, Mr Beard led a small ceremony to commemorate the work of Marion O'Neill, our lollypop lady who sadly died in January. It was an unusual ceremony in that it took place by a bench at the roadside near "Marion's crossing" on Palatine Road. If you are wondering why this ceremony took place there, you will find the answer in the words of a small plaque which has been placed on the bench directly opposite the crossing. It reads:



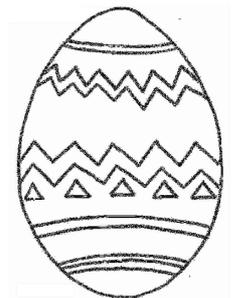
IN MEMORY OF MARION O'NEILL

**As you sit here and cars go by
Think of me with watchful eyes
Please cross the road with great care
Just think of me still standing there
As children grow and pass each day
Here my watchful eyes will stay.**

Four children from school, Korey, Kate, Lily and Kieron, shared readings about Marion at the roadside and, along with Marion's grandchildren, released yellow balloons into the sky. The short commemoration was attended by Marion's family, friends and staff from school. The words of the plaque are particularly important as children (and parents please) should remember to cross the road safely at the crossing. We would like to thank Kirsty Lynton, Councillor Richard Cowell and Manchester City Council for helping to make this possible.

EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Thank you to all those children who entered our Easter Egg Competition. It is always difficult for us to choose winners amongst many creative designs. Nevertheless, our winners are Alex and Ruby (Nursery), Harry and Abigail (Reception), Harriet and Finn (Year 1), Molly and Aimee (Year 2), Jacob and Ella (Year 3), Tegan and Elliot (Year 4), Beth and Lewis (Year 5) and Rose and Jessica (Year 6). Well done to all of our winners, all of whom received an Easter Egg in assembly this morning. Well done too to everyone who entered the competition – it really was difficult to judge the winners.



ART EXHIBITION

We hope that you noticed at parents' evening the wide variety of art work that was displayed in classrooms and around school. During the two weeks prior to parents' evening, the staff and children worked on various art projects which had a common theme of 'pattern'. Most of the projects were planned and taught by Mrs McAffer (Year 3) and we would like to say a special "thank you" to her for all of her hard work in planning, supervising and displaying the art work around school.



COMMUNITY COHESION PROJECT (YEAR 6)



As previously reported, our Year 6 children are currently taking part in a 'community cohesion' project which aims to bring together children from very different schools through a common project. Our partner school is St Philip's CE Primary School in Hulme. The second project day was held last week when all of our Year 6 children joined the St Philip's children at the Didsbury Campus of Manchester Metropolitan University, famous for its teacher training.

The day started with a talk from the Head of Department in the campus lecture hall and then the children were divided into groups to complete five different activities throughout the day. The activities focussed on government, the needs of the community, road safety, skills and aspirations and rights and responsibilities. The children worked well at the activities and enjoyed the opportunity to visit a university and work with over 50 degree students.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB CHARGES

We will be increasing the charges for our after-school club after Easter. Parents who are regular users of the club should have already been given a letter about this. On this occasion, we have decided to increase the charge for the longer session (beyond 4.15pm) only. With effect from 16th April 2012, the charge for this session will be £8.00. The charge for the shorter session (up to 4.15pm) will remain at £5.00. This is the first time we have increased our charges since October 2009 and have only done so to ensure that our after-school provision remains financially viable and is not subsidised by the school budget. The after-school club does not make a profit for the school and all income above staff salaries is spend on resources and activities for the children.

ATTENDANCE – 96.8%

The overall school attendance is now 96.8% and has fallen somewhat this term mainly due to illness and some children taking unauthorised family holidays during term-time. Although 96.8% is good, it would be wonderful if we could once again breach the 97% barrier by the end of May. Thank you to everyone for your support in making sure children attend school every day.

This term, we said we would offer prizes to any child who achieved 100% attendance for the whole of this term. There are 88 (36%) children who have achieved this and they will receive a small age-appropriate prize when we return after the Easter holiday. Well done everyone.

