



Dear Families and Friends

I am writing this first newsletter of the new academic year slightly later than expected. The first few weeks of term have proved to be much busier than usual, including a 5 day residential to the Isle of Man with Year 6 which already seems in the distant past. I want to take this opportunity to make you aware of school events for this term and remind you of one or two important issues, including attendance.

Now that all of our new children have joined us, I would like to welcome them and their families to the school. Our nursery children have made a good start to their time in school and have settled in really well, as have those children who have joined us in other classes from other schools.

The summer holidays (also in the dim and distant past) were busy for us in school, with work being carried out both indoors (new disabled toilet) and outdoors. You will all have noticed the work we have had done to the school car park. Despite losing some green space, we hope that the new surface and layout offers a safer (and less smelly now that the bins have been moved!) route to the playground. We ask all parents to ensure that children do not run or chase around the car park, climb on walls or railings or use our play equipment before or after school. Thank you.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

Wednesday 10th October

Year 6 visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelters

Friday 19th October, 9.15am

Harvest Assembly (information to follow next week)

Friday 19th October, 7.30pm

Race Night ('Friends' event) – see article

Monday 22nd October

Year 5 visit to Bramhall Hall

Tuesday 23rd October, 2.00pm

Learning Walks (Parents)

Wednesday 24th October, 9.30am

Learning Walks (Parents)

Friday 26th October

Year 5/6 Maths Workshops (sponsored by the Airport)

Friday 26th October

School closes for the half-term holiday (no assembly)

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



Monday 5 th November	School opens after half-term holiday
Wed 7 th – Fri 9 th November	Year 5 visit to Robinwood
Tuesday 13 th November	Year 1 visit to the Museum of Science and Industry
Thursday 15 th November	Polling Day (Police Commissioners) – School Open!
Thursday 15 th November	Year 6 visit to Wythenshawe Hospital (IMPS)
Friday 23 rd November	Visiting Theatre Company : Aladdin
Tuesday 27 th November	Parents' Evening (Short), 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Wednesday 28 th November	Parents' Evening (Long), 3.30pm – 7.30pm
Monday 10 th December, 1.45pm	Early Years Christmas Play (1 st performance)
Tuesday 11 th December, 9.30am	Early Years Christmas Play (2 nd performance)
Tuesday 11 th December, 7.00pm	Carol Concert in aid of The Christie at Gorton Monastery
Thursday 13 th December, 1.45pm	Years 1 & 2 Christmas Play (1 st performance)
Friday 14 th December, 9.30am	Years 1 & 2 Christmas Play (2 nd performance)
Tuesday 18 th December, 7.00pm	Years 3 – 6 Christmas Concert (1 st performance)
Wednesday 19 th December, 9.30am	Years 3 – 6 Christmas Concert (2 nd performance)
Thursday 20 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 21 st December	School closes for the Christmas Holiday
Monday 7 th January	School opens for the spring term
Wednesday 9 th January	All Years 3 – 6 children to see Arabian Nights (The Lowry)

Please note that the school will be used for voting on Thursday 15th November (Police Commissioners) but will remain open.



Friday 19th October Race Night



RACE NIGHT EVENT – 19th October 2012

The PTA are holding a **Race Night** on Friday 19th October starting at 7.30pm in the school hall. In line with previous events we will be having a fish and chip supper.

For those who are not familiar with the format of a race night, it is a fantastic fundraiser and a great way to spend the evening with friends betting on pre-recorded races shown on a large screen. Tickets will need to be bought in advance. Tickets will cost £2.00. More information about this event has been sent home by the 'Friends' with this newsletter.

LIBRARY BOOKS



During the summer holidays, we undertook a stock-take of all of our library books. Unfortunately, we have found that there are over 100 books missing. These are books which are not currently on loan to anyone. They are simply missing. We are not sure why these books are not currently sitting on our library shelves – we can only assume that children have taken books without checking them out using the library system. We also have a number of books which appear to be still on loan and have not been returned. If you have any of our library books at home, please return them to the school office (not directly to the shelves please) as soon as possible. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE

The overall school attendance so far this year is as follows:

Week 1	03/09 – 07/09	99.6%	On Target
Week 2	10/09 – 14/09	97.4%	On Target
Week 3	17/09 – 21/09	97.9%	On Target
Week 4	24/09 – 28/09	96.6%	Below Target
	TO DATE	97.8%	On Target

Our attendance target this year is **97.0%**. We were so close to this last year and we are sure that this is achievable. We are also aiming this year to ensure that the majority of children have good (96%) attendance and that no child has less than 90% attendance. There are still far too many children who have less than 90% attendance which, on average, means that they have missed half a day each week of school during the year.

ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME (FAMILY HOLIDAYS)

We need all parents to understand the implications of taking children out of school during term time. Parents do not have a right to take their children out of school during term time except for **exceptional** circumstances. Holidays are **not** exceptional circumstances, even if parents suggest that they cannot take their holiday at any other time. The school does not authorise family holidays during term time. Parents who take their children out of school during term for a holiday will be issued with a Penalty Notice and a fine from Manchester City Council. From September 2012, the fines have increased to **£120 per child** which is **applied to each parent**. Therefore, a family of two parents with two children at our school would face a total fine of **£480** (£120 per child per parent). This is reduced by 50% if paid within 28 days. A family holiday taken during term time could therefore be very costly, perhaps even more so than paying the extra during the school holidays.

If you wish to ask for permission for your child to be absent for any reason (even for one day), you must complete the absence request form which is available from our school office or website. Our updated attendance policy will be sent out to all parents within the next few weeks. Thank you for your support.

YEAR 6 VISIT TO THE ISLE OF MAN

As mentioned, the majority of our Year 6 children took part in our annual visit to the Isle of Man in September. This year, the group stayed in the capital of the island, Douglas, and stayed in a hotel new to us, the Sea View Hotel. The week began with a journey to Liverpool and a ferry crossing across the Irish Sea. The outgoing crossing was, at times, a little windy but most braved a trip to the outside deck for a photo opportunity.

During the week, we visited many places including the old village of Cregneash, Castle Rushen, Rushen Abbey, Silverdale boating lake, the Venture Centre (for archery, assault course and zip wire), Peel Castle, two museums and Curragh's Wildlife Park where the children got the opportunity to feed some of the animals, including the penguins.



DISCOVER
*The Story
of Mann*

Despite a little wet weather, we had a great time. The return ferry crossing was kind to us and the children tucked in to pizza on board our ferry, the Mannannan, before arriving back at Liverpool.

PE KITS

Please make sure that your child has the correct PE kit in school every day. Already this year, some children have been unable to take part fully in PE lessons because they have not brought the correct PE kit to school.

LOST PROPERTY – PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHES!!!!

At the end of last year, we were left with a large amount of lost property, some of which still has not been claimed. Please make sure that all of your child's belongings are **clearly labelled** with their name so that we can identify and return them if lost. You can order sew-in and iron-on labels from the school office but in the meantime, simply write your child's name on the label.

DOGS ON PREMISES

For the safety of our children, we ask that parents do not bring dogs, however small or tame they may be, on to the school premises. We also ask that dogs are not tied up at the railings near the pedestrian gate. This is for the safety of our children. There are many children who are frightened of dogs.

AND FINALLY ... CARS AND PARKING

We remind all parents again to avoid driving into or parking on Bazley Road or using the school car park. We know this is convenient and saves a little time but it is not particularly safe. With regard to parking, we have had a complaint from a neighbour when a parent parked across their driveway, preventing essential access for a vehicle. The parent involved seemed unconcerned about the problem she was causing. Please consider our neighbours and do not park across their driveways. This is respectful to them and avoids them coming into school to complain to our office staff who can do little to help. Thank you for your support.