



Dear Families and Friends

As the end of the first half term of the school year draws near, I want to bring you news of events happening next week and beyond.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to announce the results of our Parent Governor election. By the deadline of 4.00pm on Wednesday of this week, I had received only 2 nominations from parents interested to stand as parent governors. These were received from our current governors, Lisa Beattie and Paula Wadbrook. Given that the number of nominations received does not exceed the number of vacancies, there is no need for a formal election by secret ballot and I hereby announce, on behalf of the Governing Body, that Lisa Beattie and Paula Wadbrook are re-elected to the Governing Body for a further four years. Congratulations to them both.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who contributed an item of food to this morning's Harvest assembly. David Bown from Wythenshawe Methodist Churches and Wythenshawe Oasis joined us for assembly this morning to receive the items and thank the children and parents for their contributions. My thanks also to the many parents who joined us for assembly this morning ... and for your samba clapping!

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

<i>Monday 22nd October</i>	<i>Year 5 visit to Bramhall Hall</i>
<i>Tuesday 23rd October, 2.00pm</i>	<i>Learning Walks</i>
<i>Wednesday 24th October, 9.00am</i>	<i>Learning Walks</i>
<i>Wednesday 24th October, 10.00am</i>	<i>Individual Photographs (see article)</i>
<i>Friday 26th October</i>	<i>Year 5/6 Maths Workshops (sponsored by the Airport)</i>
<i>Friday 26th October</i>	<i>School closes for the half-term holiday (no assembly)</i>

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 (Residential visit)
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)
Friday 14 th December	Christmas Discos (Friends event)
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 we have booked for all of our children in Years 3 – 6 to go and see Arabian Nights at the Lowry in January. Information about this event will be sent home after the half-term holiday.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Our **new** school photographer will be in school next Wednesday morning (24th October) to take individual photographs of the children and family groups. As it is also **learning walks** during that morning, the photographer will start the session at 10.00am.



If you wish your children to have their photograph taken with younger siblings who do not attend school, please come in to school at 10.00am on Wednesday morning. During the morning, photographs will be taken of individual children and of family groups. You will receive small printed samples of the photographs on the day together with an order form which must be returned to school shortly after the half-term holiday for delivery in time for Christmas. You can also order online direct from the company.

LEARNING WALKS

On Tuesday afternoon (2pm) and Wednesday morning (9am) of next week you have the first opportunity of this year to join your child in school for a 'learning walk'. This is time for you and your child to share and talk about some of the work they have been doing in class and for you to see the progress your child is making in their work.

Parents of children in Early Years have an opportunity to observe some literacy teaching in action on Tuesday morning (Nursery) and Wednesday morning (Reception).



THE CHRISTIE CHRISTMAS CONCERT TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER at 7.00PM

As you know, we have been asked this year to take part in the annual Christmas Concert organised by the Christie Charitable Fund in aid of The Christie Hospital. This concert takes place at The Monastery, Manchester (formerly Gorton Monastery) on the evening of Tuesday 11th December starting at 7.00pm. We are honoured to have been asked to take part in this event and work alongside another school (Beaver Road Primary School) and professional singers and musicians. It promises to be a very enjoyable evening



We are asking children from across Years 3 – 6 to take part in this concert. We understand that not everyone will want to take part so it is by choice, although we do need at least 50 children to commit to being part of our special choir for this event. Some children, but not as many as we expected, have chosen to take part so we would like more commitment from our children, particularly those who we know enjoy singing and performing. If you have not already discussed this with your child, please do so to encourage their involvement and return the reply-slip to school. Rehearsals will take place as soon as we return from the half-term holiday. These will take place during the school day and there will be a final rehearsal on the afternoon of the concert.

We have made a commitment to The Christie to try and sell at least 100 tickets which are priced at £10.00 for adults and £5.00 for children, all of which goes to the Christie Charitable Fund. Tickets are available to **all** families and friends of the school, including families of children who are not taking part in the concert. **Order forms for tickets have been sent home with this letter. Please return your order forms and any payment to the school office. Tickets are available now and will be sent to you nearer the time.** Please offer your support on this occasion ... it is great way to celebrate Christmas and to give a little something to a very hard-working charity and hospital.

LIBRARY SESSIONS



Now that we have completed our audit of library stock, all children can now use the library again. All classes have a weekly timetabled slot to change their library books. Please ensure that your child returns their library book to the school office or to the member of staff running their library session. Books must not be returned to the shelves by the children. Please look after all of our library books and return them when your child has finished reading them.

FRIENDS : RACE NIGHT



As you know, we have cancelled Friday's planned Race Night due to a low level of interest from parents. This is a shame because we planned this in response to parents' suggestions that we should plan an alternative to a quiz night, given that there was low response to our last quiz night in May.

We understand that people have other social and financial commitments but we are also wondering if our timings are wrong, if parents want a very different kind of event or if there is simply very little interest in supporting evening events. If you want to share your ideas for future events or give us some feedback regarding these events, please get in touch. We are happy to organise social events but only if there is a level of interest from parents which makes the planning worthwhile. We do raise money from these events which, in the past, we have used to pay for visiting theatre productions which benefit all the children in school. Without this support, it is likely that school will have to ask parents to contribute to these optional extras.

If you want to share your ideas or give feedback please contact Lisa Beattie (07810 448817) or Paula Wadbrook (07875 509939) or visit the facebook page of "The Friends of Northenden Community School"

REFUGE FOR WOMEN : CAN YOU HELP?

Can you help support a local refuge for women and children escaping domestic violence? There are currently 5 refuges within the Manchester area and in the last year alone they have provided safety to over 100 women and 96 children. Many of the residents find themselves having to leave their homes at very short notice and therefore cannot take many, if any, of their personal belongings with them. This means there is a constant demand for the following items: Children's Indoor and outdoor toys (up to age 16), children's and women's books and magazines, DVDs, Baby clothes and equipment (including prams/pushchairs, cots, sterilisers), children's clothing, women's and maternity clothing, bed linen, curtains, towels, toiletries (e.g shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste) and house accessories, e.g toasters, kettles, cutlery, pictures, lamps

Many women are having to start whole new lives from scratch so anything to help them do this with dignity would be welcomed. All we ask is that donations must be clean, complete and in full working order. If you would like to offer any items please contact **Natalie Baguley** (Early Years and Year 6 parent) on natbaguley@yahoo.co.uk. This is an ongoing request so if you are not able to help at the moment please bear it in mind for the future. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE

School attendance for the last two weeks was as follows:



Week 5	01/10 – 05/10	97.3%	On Target
Week 6	08/10 – 12/10	96.0%	Below Target
	TO DATE	97.5%	On Target