



Dear Families and Friends

This half-term is proving to be very busy, particularly with all of the arts events and workshops that have been taking place. The children have been involved in a number of arts projects during the past few weeks including Indian dancing, African dancing, Samba drumming and art lessons taught by Mrs McAffer. All of our projects have had a multicultural theme. Our arts projects finish this week and our art displays around school are being refreshed in time for everyone to see the children's wonderful new art work at parents' evening next week. Well done everyone!

Best wishes

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

<i>Friday 15th March</i>	<i>Red Nose Day</i>
<i>Tuesday 19th March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Short, 3.30pm – 5.30pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 20th March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Long, 3.30pm – 7.30pm)</i>
<i>Friday 22nd March</i>	<i>Year 5 Class Assembly</i>
<i>Monday 25th March, 9.15am</i>	<i>Morning Concert (Y4 recorders, brass, woodwind, choir)</i>
<i>Wednesday 27th March</i>	<i>Year 6 visit to The Yorkshire Sculpture Park (Bretton Park)</i>
<i>Thursday 28th March</i>	<i>School closes for the Easter Holidays</i>
<i>Monday 15th April</i>	<i>School opens for the Summer Term</i>
<i>Thursday 25th April, 2.30pm / 6pm</i>	<i>Year 4 performance at Manchester Health Academy</i>
<i>Friday 26th April</i>	<i>Fundraising Day for the Children's Hospital</i>
<i>Friday 3rd May</i>	<i>Staff Training Day (School Closed)</i>
<i>Monday 6th May</i>	<i>Public Holiday (School Closed)</i>
<i>Thursday 9th May</i>	<i>Class Photographs</i>
<i>Friday 10th May</i>	<i>Year 1 Class Assembly</i>



Don't forget that tomorrow is Red Nose Day and that the children can come to school dressed in as much red clothing as they wish in exchange for donations of £1.00 or more to Comic Relief.

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



<i>Week Beginning 12th May</i>	<i>Year 6 National Curriculum tests (SATs)</i>
<i>Tuesday 21st May, 2pm</i>	<i>Learning Walks</i>
<i>Wednesday 22nd May, 9am</i>	<i>Learning Walks</i>
<i>Friday 24th May</i>	<i>School closes for the half-term holiday</i>
<i>Monday 3rd June</i>	<i>School opens for the remainder of the summer term</i>
<i>Tuesday 25th June</i>	<i>Visiting Theatre Company : Alice in Wonderland</i>
<i>Saturday 29th June</i>	<i>Summer Fair (provisional date at this stage)</i>
<i>Wednesday 3rd July</i>	<i>Sports Day (Infants AM, Juniors PM)</i>
<i>Wednesday 10th July</i>	<i>Reserve Sports Day (if postponed on 3rd July)</i>
<i>Friday 12th July</i>	<i>End of Year reports to Parents</i>
<i>Tuesday 16th July</i>	<i>Year 6 leavers' party (venue to be confirmed)</i>
<i>Wednesday 17th July</i>	<i>Class Transition</i>
<i>Wednesday 17th July, 3.30pm</i>	<i>Parents' Drop-In (optional discussion about report)</i>
<i>Friday 19th July, 9.15am</i>	<i>Year 6 leavers' assembly</i>
<i>Friday 19th July</i>	<i>School closes for the summer holidays</i>

HALLE ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

I would like to give Year 5 a special mention in this newsletter for their involvement in the Hallé on the Orient Express music and dance project. Over a period of four weeks, Year 5 worked with members of the Hallé Orchestra and dancers from the Northern Ballet school to create both a piece of music and a dance focused on Germany, one of the countries visited by the famous Orient Express train. The children had opportunities to perform on two occasions at the Bridgewater Hall. The first occasion was a performance alongside the three other schools involved in the project and was attended by family and friends. The second occasion was again on the stage of the Bridgewater Hall but this time seated alongside the famous Hallé Orchestra. The Bridgewater Hall was filled with over 2,000 children and students from across Manchester, including our own Year 4 and Year 6 children who watched the Hallé perform a range of pieces.



HALLÉ
YOUTH

Miss Whittaker and I were very proud of the children and of their performance and their behaviour on stage and backstage. I would like to thank all the children and the Year 5 staff involved for their hard work in making this high-profile project a great success. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity as the Hallé are obliged to offer future opportunities to other schools.

THE POP PROJECT ASSEMBLY

This morning all of the children were treated to a special assembly from three gentlemen calling themselves 'The Pop Project'. During the assembly, we were taken on a journey of pop music from the 1950s to the present day, including lots of multicultural music (reggae, calypso, Indian). The children had the opportunity to join in songs from the various decades and some had the chance to play instruments from around the world. It was great fun!

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

This year's chosen charity is the Children's Hospital in Manchester. We have chosen this as it is known to us and to many families who have used its services. We have also chosen it because the children have agreed to support Mrs Tessa Singh in her fundraising for the hospital. She is doing so by running the London Marathon on 21st April! This is a huge undertaking by Mrs Singh and we wish her well. Try to spot her on television if you can!



If you wish to personally support Mrs Singh's efforts and donate money to the hospital, you can do so via her charity page www.justgiving.com/Tessa-Connolly

On Friday 26th April, we will be involving the children in some sponsored activities to help raise money for the Children's Hospital. In recognition of the 26 miles that Mrs Singh is attempting to run in the marathon, we would like the children to complete 26 attempts at different activities (e.g. 26 star jumps, 26 spellings). More information and sponsorship forms will be sent home with the children just before the Easter holidays. During next week, a representative from the hospital will talk about the work of the hospital and what how funds are used to help the children in hospital.



THANK YOU



David Bown of the local Methodist Church has asked school to thank all parents and children for the very kind donations of food items that were brought into school before the half-term holiday. We managed to fill four boxes with items that we know will be appreciated by other families. Thank you for your support.

PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Given that the parking situation outside school has not improved and that many parents are ignoring our requests not to park in Bazley Road and on the yellow markings, we are now working more closely with the local PCSOs to deter parents from doing so and to issue penalty notices to parents. This will include regular patrols by the PSCOs at the school premises. We have also joined a scheme which enables the local council to monitor parking by CCTV and fine parents whose cars are found to block residents' driveways or who have parked on the yellow markings in front of the school. We have asked so many times for parents to be more considerate to residents and to think about children's safety but feel that this has been largely ignored by many parents who are driving without care down Bazley Road and parking cars where they should not be parked. Our request to all parents is that you **do not** use Bazley Road at all during the school day.

SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERS

Our school uniform supplier has recently informed the school that they are no longer going to supply uniform to us. This has led us to look at the way in which we supply uniform to parents. We have signed up to the TESCO Uniform Embroidery Service which enables all parents to order uniform online via the TESCO website or by telephone. The school has its own page and most items are supplied with the school logo. To order school uniform, go to www.tesco.com/ues and select 'Manchester' from the Local Authority list and then Northenden Community School from the schools alphabetical list.



We will hold a limited stock of uniform in school. This will be mainly for new children joining the school. Parents are asked to order uniform products via the website rather than school. TESCO offer free delivery within 14 days. We believe this system will make it slightly easier for parents and the school to manage uniform orders, particularly in preparation for a new school year.

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

I am very encouraged by children's overall attendance at this time which is 96.7%. This is just 0.1% less than it was this time last year. Our target for the year is 97.0% which is achievable, particularly by reducing family holidays taken during term time.

Class	Attendance	Days Missed	Attendance Thresholds				Late Marks
			Pupils who have attendance more or less than the percentage shown				
			100%	97%+	<90%	<85%	
Nursery	94.9%	143	3	14	3	1	16
Reception	96.6%	111	4	15	1	0	69
Year 1	96.9%	102½	4	16	0	0	144
Year 2	97.6%	78	8	19	0	0	55
Year 3	97.3%	90½	8	20	1	0	100
Year 4	95.8%	142½	5	13	1	0	83
Year 5	96.0%	125	4	13	2	0	31
Year 6	98.1%	60	11	21	1	1	66
All	96.7%	852½	47	131	9	2	624



97.0%

Well done to all those year groups who have met the 97.0% target. Most other classes are very close with the exception of Year 4 and nursery whose attendance levels are below 96%.

Following discussions with some parents regarding the comments included on the recent attendance reports sent to parents, we will be reviewing the comments used alongside the grades in time for next year's half-year reports.