



Dear Families and Friends

I hope you enjoyed the summer break and the fair weather we had for most of it. Judging by the change in temperature we are now experiencing, the summer is now clearly leaving us!

In this, the first newsletter of the academic year, I want to bring you some staffing news, share with you some information about our new approach to managing children's behaviour and remind you of a few ways in which you can be helpful to us and the children. I also want to share with you some key dates for the term ahead.

We have not had as much building work completed during this summer as in previous years but have enhanced all of our classrooms with much-needed new blinds and have installed new windows in our hall and meeting rooms. We are hoping to use 'Friends' funds to make some enhancements to the playground this year for the benefit of all children.

The governors, staff and I are looking forward to another successful year and hope that you will support us in everything we try to do to ensure that your children make excellent progress, particularly with their reading at home and developing very positive attitudes to school life. If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please do take the opportunity to arrange to discuss them with the class teacher.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY for SEPTEMBER

Mon 16th – Fri 20th September

Year 6 residential visit to the Isle of Man

Monday 23rd September

Year 6 class visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelters

Tuesday 1st October, 6.45pm

Meeting for Nursery Parents regarding reception admissions

Friday 18th October, 9.05am

Harvest Assembly

Tuesday 22nd October, 2pm

Learning Walks

KEY DATES for your DIARY for SEPTEMBER continued



<i>Tuesday 23rd October, 6.45pm</i>	<i>Meeting for Year 5 parents (Robinwood Visit)</i>
<i>Wednesday 23rd October, 9am</i>	<i>Learning Walks</i>
<i>Thursday 24th October</i>	<i>School closes for the half-term holiday</i>
<i>Friday 25th October</i>	<i>Staff Training Day (School Closed)</i>
<i>Monday 4th November</i>	<i>School re-opens Autumn Half-Term 2</i>
<i>Mon 11th – Wed 13th November</i>	<i>Year 5 residential visit to Robinwood (Cumbria)</i>
<i>Thursday 14th November</i>	<i>Visiting Theatre Company : Jack and the Beanstalk</i>
<i>Tuesday 19th November</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 5.30pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 20th November</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 7.30pm)</i>

STAFF NEWS

MS FIDDES

You may have noticed that Ms Fiddes has not returned to school this September. This is because during the summer holiday, Ms Fiddes made the decision, after many years of teaching, to leave the school. Given that she did not have the chance to say goodbye before the summer, Ms Fiddes has asked that we share this personal note with everyone.

Dear Parents

After many years teaching at Northenden Community School, I have made the decision to move on. I would very much like to thank all parents and your families for your continued support over the years (remember I taught some of you too!!)

I has been a joy and a pleasure for me to teach your children and I will greatly miss them. I take many special memories with me and I will always treasure them in my heart.

With love and kindest regards

Jennifer Fiddes

On behalf the governors and myself, I should like to thank Ms Fiddes for her long service to the school and wish her well for her future.

I am delighted to welcome **MR JONES** back to school after a long period of illness. Mr Jones has made a good recovery and is glad to be back working with the children and staff for 2 days each week, covering for teachers in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 while they take their planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time.

We welcome **MRS CHEETHAM** to the teaching staff. During this term, Mrs Cheetham will work with children in Early Years and Year 1 (PPA time) as well as taking Year 5 and Year 6 for music during this term.

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

We have now introduced a new approach to encouraging excellent behaviour in school and dealing with poor behaviour. This has been introduced and explained to the children and everyone seems to understand the new system. Our review of our Behaviour Policy came out of some children's concerns that the behaviour of some children, particularly in the playground, was not always helpful to a positive and enjoyable lunchtime and that sometimes it was not clear to all children how poor behaviour is dealt with.

The new system is based on the assumption that everyone wishes to behave in a positive way and follow our school rules which reinforce hard work in class and respect for one another at all times during the day. This is what we are now calling 'Green' behaviour and we are reinforcing that it is 'Good to be Green'. Children who achieve a 'green' status all week will receive one credit point which, along with credits points for attendance, can be exchanged for privileges or rewards later in the year. Your child may come home to you and say that they have been 'green all week'. This is a good thing!



Children who do not meet our expectations will be reminded verbally by staff (as they do now) of how they should behave. Where reminders are ignored, children are given a warning (yellow card) or, if behaviour does not change, a consequence (orange card). These stages are shown against each child's name on a special chart in the classroom. As a result of a consequence, children may lose playtime, have to write an apology or lose their credit point for the week which means that they will have fewer credit points to exchange for rewards later in the year. We will let you know if your child has reached the consequence stage so that you can discuss the matter at home.

Further stages include a referral to the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher (red stage), a meeting with parents and a behaviour plan (purple stage) and finally, our blue stage, which may result in a child being excluded from school. An instant exclusion would be considered when a child causes injury to another child or for swearing at a member of staff or failing to carry out their instructions. The children are well-aware of the colour they should aim for and the colours they need to avoid.

We are hoping that our new approach will be fair to everyone and that we will achieve more consistency across the school. We are very proud of the way in which the vast majority of our children conduct themselves in school. Many children are a credit to the school and to their families. Parents should also be aware that the government have given schools new powers to sanction children for poor behaviour outside of school, particularly where the reputation of the school is affected in the community or children are involved in bullying or inappropriate use of social media (e.g. Facebook) outside of school. Should you have any comments regarding our new approach, please share them with us. I do hope that you will support us in moving our behaviour to 'outstanding'.

LIBRARY BOOKS AND READING BOOKS

If your child still has a library book or reading scheme book at home from last year, please return them to school. Children will not be allowed to have another library book until their last book has been returned or, if lost, parents have paid for its replacement. Thank you.

CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME TO HELP WITH READING?

We would be very grateful to hear from any parent or friend of the school who would be willing to spare a few hours each week to help with reading in our school. Our teachers simply do not get the time to share books with individual children as often as they would like so we very much value the support of volunteers to listen to children read and help them change their books. If you can spare a few hours each week to work with one or more classes, please leave your name at the school office, letting us know how much time you can offer. To work with us on a regular basis, you would need to agree to completing a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. Thank you very much for your support

PUPIL PARLIAMENT

Last week, we held the first meeting of our Pupil Parliament. A lot of ideas were shared by the children with many (including some of our quieter children who may not otherwise have a chance to shared their ideas) having an opportunity to take the microphone and put across a point of view in front of more than hundred other children. Our focus last week was improving lunchtimes. The children suggested a number of ways to improve our lunchtimes, including more games and choices for lunchtime food. It was suggested also that we should have our own swimming pool. This is a lovely idea but as you can imagine a number of factors, not least space and funds, would prevent us from doing this. However, we do respect all of the children's ideas and they all written down for the future. You never know!

The children were reminded that the blue post box in the school foyer can be used to post ideas and concerns. This post box is also available for parents to share ideas and concerns. Some parents shared their ideas about the timing of sports days last summer and we have taken those ideas on board when planning our summer schedule.



MCMILLAN CANCER CARE – COFFEE MORNING



On Friday 27th September, Macmillan Cancer Care are once asking people across the country to support their annual coffee morning. We are intending to host a coffee morning here at school on this date between 9am and 11am. Please join us if you can. Assembly will also take place on that morning so our coffee morning will be held in our upstairs meeting room.

PARKING REMINDER

It is usual at this time of year to issue a reminder about parking and the traffic situation which at times can be chaotic outside school. Please park your cars away from Bazley Road and take just the extra few minutes to walk the remainder of the way. It is not safe for our children (or parents for that matter) for so many cars to use the cul-de-sac at busy times. Nor is it helpful when people park on the yellow lines or block our neighbours drives or fail to co-operate when asked to move from a restricted space. We would also like to remind everyone that there are speed restrictions of 20mph on both Bazley Road and Lingard Road. Thank you for your co-operation.

