



Dear Families and Friends

In this newsletter, we bring you news of forthcoming events and news about our celebration of books which takes place next week.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

<i>Monday 17th March</i>	<i>Year 6 Class Visit : Wythenshawe Hospital (IMPS)</i>
<i>Tuesday 18th March</i>	<i>Year 4 Class Visit : Halle Orchestra Concert</i>
<i>Tuesday 18th March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Short, 3.30pm – 5.30pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th March</i>	<i>Book Character Day</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th March</i>	<i>The Pop Project Assembly (Children's Books)</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (Long, 3.30pm – 7.30pm)</i>
<i>Friday 21st March at 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 4</i>
<i>Wednesday 26th March</i>	<i>Year 5 Class Visit : The River Mersey</i>
<i>Wednesday 26th March</i>	<i>Teachers' Strike Action (to be confirmed next week)</i>
<i>Friday 28th March at 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly / Presentation : Year 6</i>
<i>Monday 31st March, 9.15am</i>	<i>Morning Concert : Year 4, woodwind, brass and choir *</i>
<i>Thursday 3rd April, 2pm/6pm</i>	<i>Year 4 performances at Manchester Health Academy</i>
<i>Friday 4th April at 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly / Presentation : Nursery</i>
<i>Friday 4th April</i>	<i>School closes for the Easter Holiday</i>

MORNING CONCERT – MONDAY 31ST MARCH, 9.15AM

It has become a tradition that at the end of the spring term, we 'showcase' the talents of our musicians, including our Year 4 class who have been learning to play the recorder for the past year. Parents of our Year 4 class, brass players, clarinetists, flautists and current members of the school choir are invited to attend this concert which takes place on Monday 31st March starting at 9.15am. Tickets are not required.



CELEBRATION OF BOOKS (BOOK CHARACTER DAY)

You may be aware that Thursday of last week was national Book Day. We marked the event with a class assembly focussed on books presented by Year 5 and a promise to the children that we would celebrate in a more significant way next week.

We are aware that many children want the opportunity to dress up as book characters as we have done before. We are therefore planning a number of events which will take place during the week beginning 17th March and will coincide with parents' evening and other planned events. At parents' evenings, we will host a sale of used books (both adults and children), giving you an opportunity to donate books you no longer want or need and buy others (see below). We are also pleased to welcome back *'The Pop Project'* musicians, who this year will present the children with a show of music related to children's literature. **On this day, Wednesday 19th March, we invite all children to come to school dressed as a book character. This is optional and should not involve you going out and buying expensive costumes.**



BOOK BRING AND BUY SALE – PLEASE DONATE and BUY

We will be hosting a second-hand book sale during the week beginning 17th March, including at parents' evenings. This has been very successful in previous years. **We are asking families to donate good quality adults' and children's books that they no longer need or want.** We will re-sell these in the school hall, including at parents' evening. This is a great opportunity for you to sort out and clear your bookshelves, making way for some new titles which can be bought at a cheaper price. **Please send all of your donations of books to the school office by Monday of next week. Thank you for your support.**

LIBRARY BOOKS (SUGGESTIONS PLEASE!)



At this time of year, we like to buy new books for our school library, including books which interest the children and new titles which have been published since our last spend. With this in mind, we have issued with this newsletter a form for completion by you or your child to let us know of any books, titles, series or authors that you feel we should add to our library stock. You can find out the range of books we already have in stock by accessing our library system online, the link for which is on the front page of our website. Please return your suggestion forms to the school office by Monday of next week and we will endeavour to add them to our purchase list.

SCHOOL UNIFORM (SHOES PLEASE)

We would like to remind everyone that training shoes (trainers) are NOT part of our school uniform and should not be worn for school. We realise that some children prefer to wear trainers or that parents are reluctant to buy new shoes for their children before the end of the school year. However, trainers are not an option and we ask everyone to support us with this matter. On Monday of this week, there were a number of children wearing footwear that was not part of our school uniform.



CITV NATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION CLOSING DATE : FRIDAY 2nd MAY 2014



We would like to let everyone know of CITV's national writing 'Share a Story' competition which opens on 20th March and closes on 2nd May. The competition is an opportunity for your child to 'show off' their creative writing by submitting a short story. Last year, one of our pupils, Jay Jackson, was one of two national winners in his age group for his story 'The Grumpy Pizza' which told of a Pizza's clever way of making money by renting out space in his oven to other foods. As a prize-winner, Jay was invited to spend a day at CITV and had his story turned into an animation which was shown on the CITV channel. CITV also visited the school. We have sent home a leaflet from CITV about the competition. More information, including the animation of Jay's story, is available on the CITV website. As Year 5 noted in their assembly on Friday, everyone in school has the potential to be an author. We know we have many good story writers in school and want to encourage children to take part. You never know, we may have another national winner in our midst.

PARENTS' USE OF FACEBOOK



We are aware that many parents use FACEBOOK as a means of communication and keeping in touch with other parents. However, we are also aware that some parents use this as an opportunity to share their thoughts, positive and negative, about our school.

As comments posted on FACEBOOK are available for many people to see, depending on your settings, we would like to suggest that sharing comments in this way is not always the most helpful nor best way to find out or complain about school life, particularly if parents are seeking a response from the school. We encourage you all to share your ideas, questions and comments about the school in an appropriate way. This includes by telephone, letter, via our suggestion box or by e-mail. Please do not use the 'Friends' Facebook page to ask questions about school policy or practice as this is not the purpose of this facebook page, nor is it the role of the 'Friends' to respond. This page is purely for the sharing of ideas and discussions relating to the fund-raising work and events of our PTA. Thank you for your support.

YEAR 6 VISIT TO MACCLESFIELD FOREST

Last week, Year 6 visited Macclesfield Forest to take part in an outdoor arts adventure linked to our current arts theme, *Art in the Environment*. The main purpose was to build 3D art works in the style of famous sculpture Andy Goldsworthy. We had to work in small groups to gather natural objects from the forest, such as sticks, moss, leaves, stones and pine cones. Our guides, Frances and Clare, did a nature walk with us and we did lots of activities, such as matching colours in the forest with the colour on our 'rainbow chip.' We learned that there were lots of different colours in the forest, about the differences between towns and the countryside, and about the art work of Andy Goldsworthy who uses natural materials from the environment in his art work. At the end of the day, we had all created a 3D sculpture made from forest items, all held together by mother nature.



Reporters : Ella Boden, Conner Pollitt and Ruby Wadbrook.

CHILD and ROAD SAFETY

We would like to make all parents aware that school expects parents of all of our younger children (ages 3 – 7) to walk their children to the playground each morning. We are aware that some of our younger children are being left at the roadside and asked to make their own way into school which may not be entirely safe. Older brothers and sisters can accompany their younger siblings to the playground.

We have also been concerned lately about reports that some parents are leaving their much younger children (toddlers) unaccompanied in their cars while bringing their older children into school. There are several issues here, first and foremost being the risk to the children's safety from a wide range of potential dangers. Children of this age are not able to take care of themselves and should not be left at any time, even if it is for a few minutes. Anything, as you can imagine, has the potential to happen in that time. Whilst the law with regard to this is a grey area, it would be classed as neglect or abandonment should the child be found to be left at risk. Please do not leave your children in your car whilst you pop into school. Thank you.



Finally, we insist that all children who bring a bicycle to school, particularly our older children who use the roads, wear a **safety helmet**. We enable all children in Years 5 and 6 to complete the Bikeability course which promotes bicycle and road safety. There is little point in children doing this course if they then ignore the basic safety rules they have been taught. Any child who does not wear a safety helmet when using their bicycle for school must NOT bring their bicycle to school. Thank you for your support.

SWIMMING GALA / SPORTS COMPETITIONS

We would like to congratulate all those children who participated in the swimming gala which took place just before the half-term holiday. The team represented our school very well indeed. This is one of many sports competitions that we are hoping to arrange in the coming months. The Government has given all schools additional funding to encourage more children to be active and take part in competitive sports. This funding has recently been extended until 2020!



ATTENDANCE

Although there was a 'dip' in attendance just before half-term due to a lot of illness, our attendance is still above target at 97.2%. All classes are achieving 97% with the exception of our reception class at this time. Attendance for the past few weeks is as follows:

<i>Week Beginning</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
3 rd February 2014	95.7% (the first time weekly attendance has been below 96%)
10 th February 2014	94.2% (lowest weekly attendance to date)
24 th February 2014	97.1% (back on track!)
3 rd March 2014	97.9% (and again, thank you!)

