



Dear Families and Friends

Apart from a few teachers leaving us during the year, the odd water leak and a power cut, I am glad to say that 2015-2016 was certainly far less 'dramatic' than the previous academic year. In this final newsletter, my 100th newsletter of my headship here, I want to draw this academic year to a close and look ahead to September and to what is already becoming a busy diary for 2016-2017.

As usual, I would first like to take an opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the school's success this year, including our team of teachers, teaching assistants, administrators, caretakers, childcare workers and lunchtime organisers who work so well together to support the children in our school. I would particularly like to thank Mrs Gibson, Mrs Matthews and Miss Eaves for their work in school, stepping in to teach Year 5, Year 3 and Year 1 partway through the year.

Thank you to you as parents - It is clear that you are committed to our school and want what is best for your children, helping and supporting in so many ways, not least by ensuring that we have a good level of attendance. I want to recognise again the work of the 'Friends', particularly given that many of the key members of the team were new to the group and to the projects they were running. The £2,500 we raised from the Summer Fair for school funds was fantastic. Thank you, everyone.

Do not forget that we finish for the school holidays on THURSDAY of this week, not Friday. The school will be closed on Friday. I wish you all a very happy summer holiday and look forward to seeing you on Monday 5th September.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY for EARLY SEPTEMBER

Thursday 1st September

School Closed – Staff Training day

Friday 2nd September

School Closed – Staff Training day

Monday 5th September

School opens for the 2016 – 2017 academic year

Wednesday 14th September, 6.30pm Parents' Welcome / Information Evening

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



Tuesday 20th September

Year 6 Class Visit : Chester Zoo (longer day)

Tuesday 4th October, 6.45pm

Parents' Forum Meeting with Governors

YEAR 6 SATS RESULTS – VERY WELL DONE!

As we always do at this time of year, we are pleased to share with you our Year 6 National Curriculum test (SATs) results. As you may have heard, performance across the country has slipped significantly this year due to the more demanding nature of the tests. Only 66% of Year 6 pupils nationally reached the expected level in reading. This is even lower in some schools, including Manchester schools. I am therefore very pleased and proud to present our children's results in reading, writing, mathematics and GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) alongside the national results. There are no levels this year, just whether or not the pupils have reached the expected level.

	School	National
	Achieved Expected Level	
Reading (R)	73%	66%
Writing (W)	83%	74%
GAPS *	90%	72%
Mathematics (M)	90%	70%
Combined R,W,M	73%	53%



I know the children could not have worked any harder or have been more committed to their progress. Very well done, everyone.

ROAD SAFETY – IMPORTANT NOTICE

Given that many parents have ignored our requests NOT to drive down Bazley Road and that in recent weeks we have had parents reporting to us the very dangerous driving habits of other parents (driving at speed round the corner of Bazley Road, ignoring the 20mph traffic signs and mounting the pavement doing a three-point turn while children are walking to school) we will, from September, be monitoring and carrying out random traffic surveys both before and after school. To avoid the unnecessary abuse or arguments that are often directed at our staff, we will not enter into a discussion with parents who ignore our request but simply write to them on a weekly basis and report them to the police in the hope that a written or stronger message has more impact. This lack of respect for the safety of our children and for the school's requests has to stop before someone is seriously hurt.

DINNER MONEY and MILK MONEY

Looking ahead to September, the cost of school meals will remain at **£2.25 per meal**, that is **£11.25 per week**. The cost of milk will be **£5.25 per term**. Please do not forget that dinner money, milk money and fees for all other activities should always be paid in advance. Thank you for your co-operation. Please do not forget, particularly Year 6 parents, to pay any debts you have remaining with the school before we finish on Thursday.



PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE – THANK YOU



We would like to thank everyone who returned their parents' questionnaire. We had over 50 questionnaires returned, 12 of which were completed online. It is not too late to return your paper copy but the online version is now closed.

From first glance, it is good to note that many parents are happy with so many aspects of the school and think that their children are supported well and make good progress. It was also good to read the honest (and sometimes frank) responses of some parents who have shared some concerns, issues they feel need considering or ideas for the school's development, some of which are certainly possible and can easily be considered. Among the concerns of some parents is some of the 'bullying' that might be happening in school and the way in which the school manages it. We hope that we deal with every incident of reported bullying but will take these comments seriously and look at how we follow up issues with parents and monitor any further issues with the children. Among some of the ideas shared was the introduction of breakfast at morning club. Given that there might now be a higher demand for this than there has been in the past, we will seek a further response from parents about this in September. There were also some suggestions from parents regarding communication, the website, parents' evenings, reports, class visits and parental involvement. We will look at these as a staff team when we return in September.

I will be working with staff and governors to draw up an action plan based on parents' responses to our questionnaire and we will talk parents through these responses at both our Parents' Welcome/Information evening on Wednesday 14th September (briefly) and, in more detail, at the Parents' Forum meeting with governors, which is planned to take place on Tuesday 4th October. Some parents felt that they were not involved in the development of the school – both this questionnaire and the opportunity to meet with senior leaders and governors at this meeting is your chance to do just that if you want to.



YEAR 6 LEAVERS



On Thursday, we say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 pupils, many of whom have been with us since nursery. This year, the children are moving to 10 different high schools, grammar schools and academies.

Altrincham College of Arts	1	Sale High School	5
Parrs Wood High School	7	The Barlow RC High School	1
Manchester Health Academy	7	Sale Grammar School	1
The Kingsway School	5	Whalley Range High School	1
Ashton-On-Mersey School	1	Weaverham High School	1

Year 6 are now looking forward to their leavers' assembly and presentation on Thursday morning. Year 6 parents are reminded to join us for this at 9.15am. For half of our Year 6 parents, Thursday will be the last time they see their child appear in an assembly at this school. To these families, we say "farewell" and "thank you" for your support during the years we have known you. Best wishes for the future.



SPORTING ACTIVITY

I would like to thank and congratulate all those children who have had an involvement in school sport this year. The school took part in many more competitions than in previous years and far more than most local schools. Thanks to the commitment of pupils and staff, we took part in competitions in athletics, dodgeball, football (different age groups and girls), hockey, rounders, swimming, tag rugby and futsal. No less than 70 children in Key Stage 2 took part in these competitions during the year. We didn't win them all but I know that Mrs Johnston, Mrs Moran and Mrs Whittle are very proud, as am I, of the children's efforts, team spirit and fair play. Next year, we are introducing a programme to encourage more physical fitness in school. Watch out for our invitation to attend "Wake up, Shake up" sessions before school starts!



MUSIC SUCCESS and CHRISTMAS CD

I would like to thank and congratulate all those children who have had an involvement in music-making and performance during the year. The morning concert in May showed off a wide range of our children's musical talents, the choir recently performed at the Royal Northern College of Music in front of an audience of over 400 people, and four of our woodwind players have recently taken their Grade 1 examinations in clarinet or flute. Thanks are due to Mrs Cheetham and Mr Storey for all their hard work with our musicians and singers this year.

In September, we are embarking on the making of a Christmas CD, working with tenor singer, Martin Toal, whom some of you may remember from our past Christmas concerts at the Monastery. This is a charity project (Destination Florida) and we are hoping that all of you, your family and friends will buy the CD in time for Christmas. This does mean (sorry!) that we will be rehearsing Christmas songs soon after we return to school in September as our recording day is scheduled for Thursday 20th October. Please note that this is a whole-school project, not just for choir, so we will try and feature as many children as possible on the CD recording.



ATTENDANCE FOR 2015 - 2016

Our whole school attendance for the year up to mid-July was **97.3%**. Well done, everyone. This is very much a team effort. We are very pleased with this level of attendance but there are many more children this year who have attendance of below 90% compared to last year when we had very few children with 'persistent absence'. Our aim is that no child has attendance of less than 90%.

SUMMER BUILDING WORK



During the week first of the summer holidays, our Early Years conservatory will be demolished and a new one, with a brick foundation and tiled (rather than glass) roof, will be built in its place. Other than internal improvements to some classrooms and the annex building ("The House"), and the installation of a new wireless network, no other major building work is planned for the summer holidays this year. The funding for the completion of the school roof did not materialise this year as we understand that much of the money available at local level is contributing to the building of new secondary schools across the City. Maybe next year!