



Dear Families and Friends ....

In this, newsletter, I want to bring you up to date with news from school and to look ahead to the remainder of the spring term and to the beginning of the summer term. I would also like to draw your attention to the article on Page 4 about school funding.

## "FAREWELL" AND "THANK YOU" MRS NESBITT

At the end of this term, in just a few weeks' time, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Nesbitt, our Year 2 teacher and SENDCo who will be moving to a Special Educational Needs post at a Stockport school in April. We will be sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Nesbitt as much as she is sad to be saying farewell, particularly part way through the academic year, to her Year 2 class and the school. I want to thank Mrs Nesbitt publicly for her hard work, positive encouragement for our children and her SENDCo work with children, parents and outside agencies during her time at Northenden. I am sure that you will want to join me in the next few weeks in wishing Mrs Nesbitt the very best of luck in her new post. As we move forward, Mrs Howell be taking over the teaching of the Year 2 class for the summer term (Miss Walsh will be remaining in Year 1 for the remainder of the academic year) and Mrs Gray, our Deputy Headteacher, will be remaining out of class for the foreseeable future and will be taking responsibility, as SENDCo, for all matters relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities from April 2017.

As you know, Angela Charlton left us just before the half-term holiday. Whilst Carole Nelson is holding the "office fort", assisted by Eryl Hewlett and Hillary Moran, for the remainder of this term, we look forward to our newly-appointed School Business Manager, Carolyn Davies, joining us after the Easter holidays.

Kind regards

Ian Beard  
Headteacher

## KEY DATES for your DIARY (see website for all events)



*Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March*

*Class Visit : Year 5 (Crowden Centre, Peak District)*

*Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March*

*Morning Concert (Year 4, brass, woodwind and choir)*

*Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March*

*Class Assembly : Year 2*



## KEY DATES for your DIARY continued ...

Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents' Evening (Short Session, 3.30pm – 5.30pm)
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Parents' Evening (Long Session, 3.30pm – 7.30pm)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Local Schools Mathematics Bee/Quiz (Y2-6)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Class Workshop : Year 4 (Egyptians Workshop)
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March, 1.30pm	Year 4 Performance at Manchester Health Academy
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm	Year 4 Performance at Manchester Health Academy
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Reception Class Health Screening
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>School Closes for the Easter holidays</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>School Closed for Public Holiday (Easter Monday)</b>
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>School Opens for the Summer term</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April, 2.00pm	Theatre Visit : 'Running Wild' at The Lowry (Years 3 – 6)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April, 6.45pm	Year 6 Parents' Meeting : Isle of Man Preparation
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Class Visit : Year 3 (Macclesfield Forest)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Class Photographs
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm	Friends of NCS / PTA Meeting (Summer Fair planning)
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April, 9.15am	Class Assembly : Year 1
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>School Closed for Public Holiday (May Day Holiday)</b>
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6.45pm</b>	<b>Parent / Governor Forum Meeting (letter to follow)</b>
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Class Assembly : Reception
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>School Closes for the Half-Term (Whitsun) Holiday</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>School Opens for the remainder of the summer term</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>School Closed for Staff Training</b>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Class Assembly : Nursery
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> June, 12noon – 3pm	Summer Fair

Details of other events are available on our website.



### REMINDER – BICYCLES AND SCOOTERS

We would like to remind everyone that, in the interest of everyone's safety, that children (and parents) should dismount bicycles and scooters at the school gate and not ride them into the car park or playground, either entering or exiting the school premises. Thank you for your support.

We would also like to remind all parents and children to always use the PEDESTRIAN GATE rather the vehicle gate at all times, even if the vehicle gate is open. Thank you.

## E-MAIL AND REGULAR NEWS



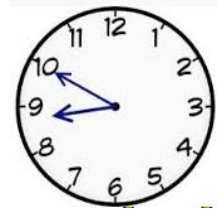
In wanting to improve communication with families about school events and provide more regular reminders, updates and information to either all parents or parents of specific classes or age groups, we will be introducing a regular (hopefully weekly) bulletin which will be sent to parents by e-mail.

This will include events and reminders for the following weeks; a rolling diary of events; key information, announcements or information about school or class events, assemblies and meetings; and other feedback about what is happening in school. We will also include links to pages of our website so that parents are directed more often to the information that is available or updated.

We already have a record of a number of parents' e-mail addresses, particularly for parents who use our After-School Club or Parent Pay. We will use these e-mail addresses to create our newsletter distribution list. If you think that we do not have your e-mail address and want to sign up for the newsletter, send an e-mail to [news@northenden.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:news@northenden.manchester.sch.uk) including your child(ren)'s names and any additional e-mail addresses you want to be included on our mailing list. We hope to be sending you bulletins by e-mail starting after the Easter holidays, if not before.

## PUNCTUALITY for SCHOOL : SCHOOL STARTS AT 8.50am

Thank you to everyone who is making a greater effort to ensure that their children arrive at school on time, that is for 8.50am (or 8.45am in the nursery). We have noticed that the vast majority of children are now arriving on time and that we can secure the gates and grounds before 9.00am in readiness for the school day ahead. Thank you for your support.



## NUT FREE ZONE



We would like to remind parents that this school is a **nut-free zone**. Some of our children have allergies to nuts and nut-based products. We therefore aim to restrict children's exposure to products containing or made from nuts. Please do not include nut-based products (including 'Nutella', peanut butter, cereal bars containing nuts) in your children's lunch or snack boxes. Thank you for your consideration and support

## HALLÉ FOR YOUTH CONCERT

All children in Years 3 – 6 enjoyed a visit to the Bridgewater Hall recently to see the famous Hallé Orchestra perform a selection of pieces about or written by composers of the British Isles. This included Handel's '*Music for the Royal Fireworks*', *Londonderry Air* and the familiar (you would know it if you heard it) *Palladio* by Welsh composer, Karl Jenkins. In addition, the children were given a musical tour of the whole orchestra, with Tom Redmond, narrator, introducing the sounds and qualities of each orchestral family and instrument in turn. This visit was funded by the school's arts budget and in part by the Community Relations Department at Manchester Airport. We would like to acknowledge their generous support for the school and this event.



## AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

Application forms for places at our After-School Club for April-May are now available. They have been e-mailed to parents registered on our e-mail list and have been sent home via the children. The Governing Body have reviewed the current limit on places and the booking process and have agreed that the booking arrangements we have introduced recently will remain in place until such time that we can offer more places and consider how this will be managed in terms of staffing and accommodation. This is not possible at this time and the limit remains at 45 places in the interests of offering a safe and quality environment for the children. We are looking ahead to offering more places in September.



## SCHOOL BUDGETS

You might be aware of recent reports in the national and local press that schools across the country are facing budget cuts this year and in the years ahead. This is a result of a freeze or cut in some of the funding allocated to schools this year as well as the introduction of a 'National Funding Formula' for schools which aims to determine at national (rather than council) level the funding that each school will receive from next year. Historically, Manchester City Council has funded its schools at a higher level than councils in other areas but will, unfortunately, no longer be able to do this under new funding proposals for 2018. It is suggested that Manchester primary schools will lose a significant amount of funding by 2020, the greatest impact on any area outside London.



The implications for Northenden Community School will be significant over a period of time, particularly given that the school does not benefit greatly from the Pupil Premium funding which will continue to provide additional funding for disadvantaged pupils. This is because the number of pupils entitled to Free School Meals at our school is relatively low. Already for April 2017, our new budget represents a negligible increase but significant increases to our staffing costs, utilities (gas and electricity charges are likely to increase this year), the new 'Apprenticeship Levy' and general increases to the cost of materials and services (whose costs are also increasing). Although there will be some funding protections to soften the immediate impact of any changes to our funding, our budget will be much 'tighter' than it has been in previous years and we will, inevitably, be able to do and offer less to the children over time.

### How can Parents help?

There are a number of ways in which parents can help the school at this stage:

- Please contribute to all voluntary contributions for educational visits (class trips), including considering paying the full amount for the activity. Without these voluntary contributions, the school will not be able to arrange as many trips for each class in the future;
- If you are receiving benefits (income support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, child tax credit but not working tax credit or universal credit) please make sure that you register your child as **entitled to free school meals**. You should do this even if your child receives a free meal because they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 (this is a different entitlement) or your child does not have a school meal – **every child registered for free school meals potentially increases our budget by £1,300 per year**
- Take look at the website [www.schoolcuts.org.uk](http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk) (which includes an online petition) and the Manchester Evening News online article of 18/12/2016 (direct links on our website) to find out more. Whilst one website indicates a potential cut of £23,000 in actual terms, the other suggests a deeper cut in real terms (taking into account other factors, and additional costs for schools which have not been funded) since 2016 of £106,942 by 2019. Thank you for your support.