



Dear Families and Friends

In this newsletter, we bring you news and updates from this term and look ahead to Christmas events. But first ...

STAFFING NEWS – MRS JONES IS LEAVING US!

I want to take this opportunity to let everyone know that Mrs Brenda Jones will be leaving the school at Christmas to start what will hopefully be a long, happy and well-deserved retirement after a commitment of 26 years to Northenden Community School. Mrs Jones is currently working in Year 1 (but has worked across the school during her time here) and also has long-established roles in school as a lunchtime organiser, as a familiar face greeting children and parents every morning in our morning club, and as a First-Aider. There will be opportunity for me, as we approach Christmas, to thank Mrs Jones and say farewell officially but for now I want to acknowledge her huge long-term commitment and contribution to school life here at Northenden. I am sure that many of you (particularly those who have known her a long time) will want to join me in wishing Mrs Jones good luck and farewell in the coming weeks.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher

KEY DATES for your DIARY AUTUMN TERM



Tuesday 14th November

Tuesday 14th November, 6.30pm

Wednesday 15th November

Thursday 16th November

Friday 17th November

Wednesday 22nd November

Thursday 23rd November

Friday 24th November

Year 4 Class Visit : Gita Bhaven Hindu Temple

Friends of NCS / PTA Meeting (see article)

Year 2 Class Visit : Stockport Hat Works Museum

Year 6 Class Visit : Chester Zoo

Children in Need Day (see article)

Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 5.30pm)

Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 7.30pm)

School CLOSED for Staff Training

KEY DATES for your DIARY AUTUMN TERM



<i>Monday 11th December, 1.45pm</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Play (afternoon performance)</i>
<i>Tuesday 12th December, 9.30am</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Play (morning performance)</i>
<i>Thursday 14th December, 1.30pm</i>	<i>Early Years visit to The Lowry Theatre ('The Gruffalo')</i>
<i>Thursday 14th December, 1.45pm</i>	<i>Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (afternoon performance)</i>
<i>Friday 15th December, 9.30am</i>	<i>Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (morning performance)</i>
<i>Tuesday 19th December, 7.00pm</i>	<i>Christmas Concert (Years 3 – 6)</i>
<i>Thursday 21st December</i>	<i>Christmas Lunch (and Christmas jumper day)</i>
<i>Friday 22nd December</i>	<i>Christmas Parties</i>
<i>Friday 22nd December</i>	<i>School CLOSES for the Christmas holidays</i>
<i>Monday 8th January 2018</i>	<i>School OPENS for the spring term</i>

Event dates for the remainder of the year can be found on our website.

WELL DONE MRS MORAN!

As you know, Mrs Moran was nominated by the school recently for a Manchester Sports Champion Award and we asked you to support our nomination by voting for Mrs Moran online for an event which took place at the end of the October. We are delighted to announce that thanks to the tremendous support and votes cast by parents and all those who recognise Mrs Moran's commitment to school sport at Northenden, Mrs Moran won the overall vote and was awarded with a (very modern) trophy as Manchester Sports Champion. This is a great achievement and one which spurs Mrs Moran onto the final 'Greater' Manchester Sports Awards on 17th November. There are no votes required for this event as the overall winner Sports Champion (amongst other categories) will be decided by a panel. Well done, Mrs Moran, and thank you for all your commitment and hard work for school sport.



FRIENDS OF NCS / PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING on Tuesday 14th November at 6.30pm



All parents are invited to attend the next meeting of the Friends of NCS (PTA) which will be held on Tuesday 14th November from 6.30pm – 8.00pm in the school hall. This meeting aims to encourage more parental interest in joining and working with the Friends to organise events and raise funds for the school. At this meeting, we will be aiming to fill vacant positions and 'official' roles, look at establishing the Friends as a charity (to attract more funding), plan future events and share ideas about the work of the Friends and other opportunities for the year ahead and beyond. Please come along to the meeting to be part of the work of the Friends and share ideas as we move forward. For more information, please get in touch with Rachel Binnie, Chair of the FNCS, via mobile **07713 744758**, or e-mail friends@northenden.manchester.sch.uk or via the Friends' Facebook page.

CHILDREN IN NEED – Friday 17th November 2017



On Friday 17th November (next week), we will be supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal. We support this charity every year. This year, the theme is ‘The Big Spotacular’. On this day, we are asking children to come to school dressed in ‘spotty’ clothes. This could be a whole outfit or simply one item of clothing. To do so, children should bring a £1.00 donation for the charity. If every child makes this contribution, we could raise over £250. In addition, we are asking families to bake or provide cakes for a cake sale which will take place on that day. All children will then be invited to buy cakes for their breaktime snack or at the end of the school day. Children should therefore, if they want to buy one or more cakes, bring some additional money to school on the day. All cakes will be priced at 20p. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

HARVEST ASSEMBLY and COLLECTION



We would like to thank all those who contributed food and other items to our Harvest assembly. There was a huge number of items donated generously by our families, all of which were taken to the St Aidan’s Parish Centre in Northern Moor which acts as a collection and food bank centre for the Wythenshawe Food Bank which operates six centres across the area. Our many boxes of food and toiletries were very gratefully received by the Food Bank centre. Thank you for your support.

PARENTS’ EVENING AND HOME LEARNING RESOURCES

Parents evening will take place this term on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd November. Letters and reply slips about this will be sent home on Monday of next week for return by Wednesday so that we can confirm appointment times by Friday 17th November. If you do not return your reply slip, you will be allocated an appointment in a remaining time slot. We will be offering a crèche facility (for our pupils only aged 3-11 years) in our school hall as usual. Learning resources for each class will be given out at parents evening.



HOUSE POINTS

We would like to congratulate all those children in the CEDAR house on winning the trophy for achieving the highest number of house points for the first half term period of the year. Well done, Cedar, and to all children to have been awarded house points and weekly house point certificates.

SCHOOL MEALS MENUS

New school meal menus are now available on our website. Copies are also displayed in our outdoor notice boards and are available from the school office on request. We would like to remind all parents **that two weeks’ notice** needs to be given when children change from one meal arrangement to another.



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD



Our aim for our children to learn more about cooking at school is gathering strength this term. This half term we are offering, in partnership with our cook, Mrs Kemp, and Manchester Fayre, an after-school cookery course. Our Year 3 children prepared food and hosted a wonderful afternoon tea just before the half-term holiday – thank you to all those parents who attended, we know you very much enjoyed it. This week all of our Year 5 children cooked bread and our Year 2 children prepared (including dough from scratch) delicious pizzas.

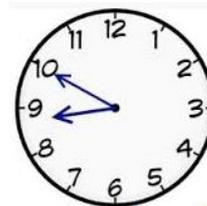
NORTHENDEN REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Thursday, our Year 6 children took part in a service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Northenden Village. They were joined by St Wilfrid's CE Primary School and members of the public. Every Year 6 child placed a named memorial cross (of Northenden residents who served in the armed forces and lost their lives in either WWI or WWII) at the Cenotaph. Royal British Legion items for Remembrance are still on sale at the end of each day or at the school office.



PUNCTUALITY for SCHOOL : SCHOOL STARTS AT 8.50am GATES will be LOCKED at 8.55am

Thank you to all those (parents and children) who are arriving 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 arriving on time, with just a few regular stragglers arriving after this time. Please ensure that your children arrive at school on time so that everyone makes a positive and punctual start to the school day. Thank you for your efforts and support. **We are now aiming to lock the gates at 8.55am rather than 9.00am each morning to encourage everyone to get to school on time and to secure the premises as soon as we can.**



OFFICE REFURBISHMENT

Many of you will have noticed that our office and foyer refurbishment is now underway. Whilst trying to work around builders, electricians and other contractors is not easy, we wanted to get on with this long-planned change this term and are looking forward to a new look, improved security and better working for Carolyn and Carole in our school office. We are hoping that the work will be fully completed in 3-4 weeks time. Thank you for your patience.



In the meantime, there are some changes in routines for parents to consider. Firstly, there is little room now for parents wanting to join us for assembly to wait in the foyer so from Friday of this week, chairs will be set out in the hall ready for parents to be welcomed to take their seats for assembly at 8.50am. Parents are asked not to stand in the area between the new set of doors and the school hall doors, that is the area immediately outside Mr Beard's office. These are fire doors and the area is now easily congested. It will take everyone a little while to get used to some new routines, not least the number of doors to be passed through for Mr Beard to get to the photocopier! When the work is complete, we will provide more information about new routines. Thank you.