



Dear Families and Friends

In this newsletter, we bring you news about recent events and look ahead to the new year 2018!

HAPPY RETIREMENT MRS JONES!

As this is likely to be the last newsletter we publish before the Christmas holidays, I want to take this opportunity to say a final "thank you" and "farewell" to Mrs Brenda Jones who is retiring from her position as a teaching assistant, lunchtime organiser, member of our morning club team and first-aider. Brenda has worked at the school for 26 years and is now looking forward to putting her feet up a little more, spending more time with her family and fewer early mornings. If we know Brenda though, she will be busier than ever! We thank Brenda for her long commitment to Northenden Community School and her wonderful care and attention to the needs of our children during many years at the school. We wish her well for her retirement.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher

KEY DATES for your DIARY AUTUMN TERM 2017



<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, brass, woodwind and choir)</i>
<i>Thursday 21st December</i>	<i>Christmas Lunch (and Christmas jumper day)</i>
<i>Wednesday 20th December</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Party</i>
<i>Friday 22nd December</i>	<i>Christmas Parties (Years 1 – 6)</i>
<i>Friday 22nd December</i>	<i>School CLOSES for the Christmas holidays</i>

KEY DATES for your DIARY SPRING TERM 2018



<i>Monday 8th January 2018</i>	<i>School OPENS for the spring term</i>
<i>Tuesday 23rd January, 6.30pm</i>	<i>Friends of NCS / PTA Meeting</i>
<i>Friday 26th January, 9.10am</i>	<i>Year 6 Class Assembly</i>
<i>Friday 9th February, 9.10am</i>	<i>Year 2 Class Assembly</i>
<i>Friday 2nd March, 9.10am</i>	<i>Year 5 Class Assembly (World Book Day)</i>
<i>Friday 2nd March, 7.30pm</i>	<i>Friends / PTA Quiz Night (adults only)</i>
<i>Friday 9th March, 9.10am</i>	<i>Year 4 Class Assembly</i>
<i>Friday 16th March, 9.10am</i>	<i>Year 1 Class Assembly</i>
<i>Tuesday 20th March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 5.30pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 21st March</i>	<i>Parents' evening (3.30pm – 7.30pm)</i>

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



We would like to say “thank you” for your generous support of our fundraising for Children in Need on 17th November. The total amount raised on this occasion, a combination of donations for our spotty clothes day and our bake and cake sale, was an impressive £424.52 . Thank you everyone for your support.

OFFICE REFURBISHMENT

Our office refurbishment is taking slightly longer than expected but we are hoping that the majority of the work will be completed for next week when we welcome you to our Christmas plays. During the Christmas holidays, we are having a new telephone system installed and hope to have everything up and running for when we return after the Christmas holidays. When we do, Carole Nelson will work from the new front office to deal with your enquiries and payments. Children will have their own access point to the school office on the other side of the new doors.



WAKE UP, SHAKE UP!

Our ‘Wake Up, Shake Up’ sessions have ceased now until after Christmas. When we start the sessions again in the new year, we are asking all those taking part to be at school for 8.40am so that they can benefit from a full 10 minutes of exercise. Some children arriving for the sessions nearer to 8.50am are just about taking their coats off before the end of the session and not benefiting from the whole session. From January, we are also inviting our Nursery children to take part in the sessions. The first ‘Wake Up, Shake Up’ will take place on Tuesday 9th January.

GAMBIAN SCHOOL LINK / FUNDRAISING

Our Year 3 and Year 4 classes are involved in a project which will provide a link with a school in The Gambia, a country in West Africa. Amy Nelson from Warrington Westies/Steps in Time Dance Group, who are visiting the Kajabang School in February, came to school recently to talk with the classes about the ways in which we can support their project and visit, including exchanging information about our schools and donating clothing and educational resources to the children of the school. We want to support the project as much as possible and involve the whole school where we can.



We want to support the Gambian school in a number of ways. Firstly, we want to raise at least £250 to purchase good quality educational resources (pens, pencils, exercise books, maths equipment and other educational materials) which will help the teachers and children in the Gambian school teach and learn more effectively. I am sure that you will appreciate that the African school has very limited resources, and can probably only imagine having access to some of the resources we have available at Northenden, much of which we take for granted. Just a pack of 10 good quality rulers (costing just £0.88) and counting equipment would make such a difference to the school. We are hoping to fill a number of suitcases with mathematics, literacy (they are learning English) and sports equipment – you would be surprised the impact that a new football can have on a small village! To help raise money to do this (which will be matched by the school) we will be hosting a non-uniform day in January on which children can come to school dressed in the colours of the Gambian flag – red, blue and green. Whilst two of the colours are part of our uniform, children can come to school in their ‘own clothes’ and on this occasion we will allow football and sportswear; this in exchange for a donation to the fund-raising project.

The second way in which we want to help is by collecting and donating used but good quality clothes and shoes. We are asking our families for donations of second hand children’s (any age) clothing which we know would be appreciated by the families of Kajabang School. If, during the Christmas holidays, you are having a sort out of clothes or are thinking of donating some clothes to charity, please give our project a thought. Items of school uniform are particularly welcome. Again, we would love to fill a number of suitcases with clothing, including shoes and trainers, for all ages. This is the perfect opportunity to clear out your children’s wardrobes. We will be taking donations of clothes during the month of January.

FRIENDS OF NCS / PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting : Tuesday 23rd January 2018



The next meeting of the Friends of Northenden Community School (PTA) will take place at school on Tuesday 23rd January at 6.30pm. Only a handful of parents came to the last meeting so we are hoping for a little more interest next time from parents who are keen to help organise events, particularly in the spring and summer terms. Next term, the Friends are running a quiz night which will take place on Friday 2nd March. Please put the date in your diary and start thinking now about forming a team.



Raffle tickets to win a Christmas hamper will be on sale at all of our Christmas plays next week and at our Christmas concert. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Christmas concert. Please support the school by buying a raffle ticket or two, and be sure that we have your contact details.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas lunch this year will take place on Thursday 21st December. If your child normally has a packed lunch on that day, they have the option to have a cooked Christmas lunch instead. The cost of a meal on this day is £2.25 which needs to be ordered and paid for by Wednesday morning of next week, 13th December. If you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch (vegetarian option available), please complete and return the request form which has been sent out to all those children who have packed lunches. If you have not received a form, please call in at the school office to register your child and pay for the meal. As our cook needs to place the food order by Wednesday of next week, this day is the final deadline for ordering your child's Christmas lunch.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Thursday 21st December, the day of our Christmas lunch, children may come to school in a Christmas jumper or decorative Christmas top. Given the Christmas theme, children should not come dressed as characters or superheroes or in sportswear. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Christmas parties for Years 1 – 6 will this year take place on the last day of term, Friday 22nd December. Children may come to school in their party clothes for the whole or part of the day. Please watch out for the arrangements for class refreshments posted by class teachers.

TESCO 'DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CRACKER' COMPETITION

TESCO are running a 'Design a Christmas Cracker' competition. We have sent home with this newsletter a 'colouring in' sheet for the children to take part if they want to. All entries should be returned to school by next Wednesday morning, 13th December.



HATS, GLOVES AND SCARVES for the HOMELESS



We would like to support a lovely idea from one of our children to collect and donate hats, gloves and scarves to a charity which supports homeless people, particularly those living on the streets of Manchester. There are hundreds of people living without accommodation in Manchester, particularly in the city, and it would be great to support them by at least ensuring that they are perhaps a little bit warmer this winter. We know that the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has set about to provide more support for homeless people and that many strategies are beginning to be put in place across the area. It would be great if we could play a small part.

If you have any adult winter hats, gloves or scarves that you can spare and donate, please send them into school before the end of term so that we can donate them to a charity. Thank you for your support.