



Dear Families and Friends

In this, the first newsletter of 2018, we bring you news of some recent events and look forward to the term ahead and the school holiday dates for next year!

WELCOME MRS DAVIES

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Barbara Davies to the school team. Miss Davies (not to be confused with Mrs Davies, our School Business Manager) joined us in January, effectively replacing Mrs Jones who retired at Christmas. Miss Davies has joined the team as a Teaching Assistant, primarily working in Year 1, and as a lunchtime organiser.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher

KEY DATES for your DIARY
SPRING TERM 2018



Friday 9th February, 9.10am

Thursday 15th February

Friday 16th February

Monday 26th February

Wednesday 28th February

Thursday 1st March

Friday 2nd March, 9.10am

Friday 2nd March, 7.30pm

Tuesday 6th March, 6.45pm

Friday 9th March, 9.10am

Wednesday 14th March

Friday 16th March, 9.10am

Year 2 Class Assembly

School CLOSES for the half-term holiday

School CLOSED for Staff Training

School opens for the remainder of the Spring Term

Year 3 Class Visit : Manchester Art Gallery

Year 5 Class Visit : Central Library (Peterloo Workshop)

World Book Day Assembly (not Year 5 class assembly)

Friends / PTA Quiz Night (adults only)

Friends / PTA meeting at school

Year 4 Class Assembly

Year 2 Class Visit : Staircase House (Great Fire of London)

Year 1 Class Assembly

KEY DATES for your DIARY SPRING TERM 2018



<i>Monday 19th March</i>	<i>Year 5 Class Visit : Manchester MOSI</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>
<i>Friday 23rd March</i>	<i>Sport Relief Day</i>
<i>Wednesday 28th March</i>	<i>Year 4 Arts Performance at MHA (including evening)</i>
<i>Thursday 29th March</i>	<i>School CLOSES for the Easter Holidays</i>
<i>Monday 16th April</i>	<i>School OPENS for the Summer Term</i>
<i>Thursday 26th April</i>	<i>Class Photographs</i>
<i>Friday 27th April, 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly : Year 5 (please note change of date)</i>
<i>Friday 4th May, 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly : Year 3</i>
<i>Friday 18th May</i>	<i>Friends / PTA Event : Children's Discos</i>
<i>Friday 25th May, 9.10am</i>	<i>Class Assembly : Nursery</i>

GOVERNING BODY NEWS

YOUR NEW PARENT GOVERNOR : HAFIZAH ISMAIL

On behalf of the Governing Body, we would like to announce the results of our Parent Governor Election for which letters were sent to every family a few weeks ago. As you know, the school received three nominations for the one position available. A secret ballot of parents was carried out with a closing date of Friday 26th January. 137 (43%) of 322 issued ballot papers were returned by parents.

On this occasion there was only one parent governor position available and Mrs Hafizah Ismail, having received the most votes, was duly elected to the Governing Body. We would like to congratulate Hafizah on her appointment. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank and extend our commiserations to Charlotte Lennox and Russell Miller who also stood for election. Regardless of the result, the Governing Body appreciated the interest of all three parents in working more closely with the school and for providing information for parents to make an informed decision in this election. Thank you to everyone who returned a ballot form and took part in this process.

Our three parent governors are now Helen Gollins, Rebecca Shearer and Hafizah Ismail.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

We would like to remind you that the school has a new telephone line and number which is being used for outgoing calls from the school. This means that instead of the usual number (0161 998 4825) number showing on your mobile telephones when we call, you may see our new number 0161 945 2057. Please add this number to your numbers for the school on your mobile phones. Thank you.



GAMBIAN SCHOOL LINK / FUNDRAISING

On behalf of the dance group who asked for our support in raising funds for The Gambia, we would like to say a huge “thank you” to everyone who supported this fundraising initiative. Firstly, our non-uniform day and the sponsored walk undertaken by Year 3 and Year 4 raised over £400 which has enabled the school to buy a range of good quality maths and sports equipment to be sent to children of The Kajabang School. Secondly, we were overwhelmed with the donations of clothes and shoes (Mrs Nelson had to fill her car at least 3 times), again to be sent to the families of the Kajabang project.



Thank you for your generous support and to the children, particularly those in Year 3 and Year 4, for supporting this worthwhile project. We will hear more about the impact of our donations (hopefully with some photographs) when the group return from The Gambia at the end of February. In the meantime, we wish them a safe and successful journey.

FRIENDS OF NCS / PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting : Tuesday 6th March 2018, 6.45pm



The next meeting of the Friends of Northenden Community School (PTA) will take place at school on Tuesday 6th March 2018. All parents are welcome to attend the meeting but please let the Friends know (friends@northenden.manchester.sch.uk) that you will be attending so we know to expect you and can let you know if we need to cancel the meeting. At the meeting, we will discuss charity status for the PTA and planning for future events, including more ideas for fundraising. Please note at this stage that the date of this year’s Summer Fair is Saturday 16th June, 12noon – 3.00pm.



The Friends’ current fundraising project is aimed at supporting the school to purchase new computers for the school’s ICT Suite. The existing computers are now nearly 8 years old and are showing their age. With a combination of Friends funding and a commitment from the school budget totally about £15,000, the computers will be replaced the ICT Suite will be refurbished and decorated during the summer holidays.

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 2nd MARCH, 7.00pm – 10.30pm



On Friday 2nd March, the Friends will be hosting a quiz night. We have not held a quiz night for a while so we are hoping that everyone will be excited by its return. Mr Beard will be your quiz master on this occasion so you can expect a few music questions! The entry fee per team is £15 for a team of up to six people. The evening is always great fun with a healthy competitive edge. Next week, the Friends will issue Team Entry forms for you to return to school. In the meantime, please put the date in your diary and gather members for your team! Refreshments, including an optional ‘chippy supper’ and a licensed bar will be available on the night.

ASSEMBLIES (HOT DRINKS)



We have noticed a number of parents attending assemblies with hot drinks purchased from the local coffee shops. It is in our Safety Policy that hot drinks are not permitted in the school hall and we therefore ask parents not to bring hot drinks into the school hall. Thank you for your co-operation.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB FOBS

Early this week, we deactivated all of the door access fobs issued to parents. This is with the aim of improving security and safety for children and staff. If you have a door access fob issued to you by our After-School Club, please collect a FOB RETURN envelope from the After-School Club or the school office and return your fob to school as soon as possible. We will then reimburse your £10.00 deposit to you.

PARKING / BAZLEY ROAD REMINDER

A few parents have clearly forgotten so we would, once again, like to remind all parents NOT to drive down Bazley Road, NOT to park on Bazley Road, NOT to reverse into the car park gates, NOT to park on the marked yellow lines and NOT to block our neighbours' driveways. Please park away from school at all times. We would appreciate a little more support from all parents and others (please tell grandparents and other carers) who bring children to school and collect at the end of the day. The road is becoming congested and a few parents have noted recently some dangerous driving and manoeuvres while children are walking to school. Thank you for your co-operation.



2018 - 2019 TERM DATES



Term and school holiday dates for the 2018 - 2019 academic year (from next September) are now available. We attach a copy for your reference and have updated our website pages. Please remember that the school does not authorise any holidays during term time and that parents who choose to take their children on holiday during school time could face a penalty notice (a fine) of £120 (per child per parent) which could be, and has been for some parents, very costly.

HEALTH SNACKS PLEASE



We have for many years been committed and signed up to the Government's Healthy Schools and Change4Life schemes and have also promoted the eating of health snacks and lunches in school. We have noticed that some children are bringing in snacks and have items in their lunch boxes which are high in fat, sugar or salt (or all three). Change4Life have recently launched their 100 Calories snacks advice and we would like you to consider that advice when providing snacks for your children. More information is available on the Change 4 Life website. We ask that you do not provide chocolate as a snack, chocolate spreads or send nuts into school any form, given that we have a number of children with allergies.