

Northenden Community School News

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Dear Families and Friends

As we finish tomorrow for the summer holidays, I want to draw to a close the 2017-2018 academic year and look forward to September. This year has gone so quickly!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole staff team for their hard work and support throughout the year and say a "thank you" and "well done" to all of our children for their efforts and achievements in and beyond their classrooms. Pupil outcomes (results) in Early Years, Year 2 and Year 6 have improved this year alongside a record number of children taking part in extra-curricular activities (including allotment, cookery and British Sign Language) and competitive team sport. At the same time, our musicians and choir have gone from strength to strength.

I would again like to acknowledge the work of the Friends of Northenden Community School (PTA) who have continued to organise events and, through your generous support at these events, raise funds for the school. £8,000 has now been donated to the school to contribute to the refurbishment and upgrade of the computer suite which will benefit every child in school. Special thanks go to the handful of regular committee members who keep the Friends going and particularly to Rachel Binnie, the Chair of the PTA, who is stepping down from the Chair's role at the end of the year. Thank you, Rachel, for all your hard work during your time at the helm of the PTA. We will be looking for a new chairperson to co-ordinate the PTA's work from September. Look out in September for our first meeting date of the new school year.

In my letter of last week, I acknowledged the work of our Year 6 teacher, Mrs Donoghue, who is leaving us on Friday. We wish her every success in her new post. As mentioned, Mr Mallinson and Mrs Matthews are joining the teaching team in September.

Do not forget that we finish for the school holidays tomorrow and that on this day, the After-School Club and the school will close at 4.30pm. I wish you all a very happy summer holiday (fingers cross for continued sunshine, with perhaps a few days of rain to avoid that hosepipe ban) and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 4th September. Thank you everyone for a great year.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher

KEY DATES for your DIARY for EARLY SEPTEMBER



Monday 3 rd September	School Closed – Staff Training day
Tuesday 4 th September	School opens for the 2018- 2019 academic year
Wednesday 12 th September, 6.30pm	Parents' Welcome / Information Evening

YEAR 6 SATS RESULTS – VERY WELL DONE!

We are pleased to share with you our Year 6 National Curriculum test (SATs) results. These results are again all above the national average figures which are also shown below.

	School	National
Achieved Expected Level		
Reading (R)	97%	75%
Writing (W)	90%	78%
GPS *	97%	78%
Mathematics (M)	86%	76%
Combined R,W,M	79%	64%



* Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

YEAR 6 LEAVERS



On Friday, we say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 pupils. This year, the children are moving to no less than 12 different secondary schools, with the majority moving to Sale High School (Trafford) or The Kingsway School (Stockport).

Altrincham Grammar (Boys)
Chorlton High School
Chorlton High School South
Knutsford Academy
Manchester Health Academy
Newall Green High School

1
1
1
1
2
1

Priestnall School
Parrs Wood High School
Sale High School
St Ambrose College
The Kingsway School
Trinity High School

1
4
9
1
6
1



Year 6 very much enjoyed their party at the Britannia Hotel on Tuesday (let's not mention the conga). We wish all of our Year 6 pupils 'good luck' for the future. For 18 of our 28 Year 6 families, this is the 'end of an era' and to those families we say "thank you" for your support over the years your child has been with the school and wish you every success for the future.

CHANGES TO CHARGES

Our Governing Body have recently reviewed the school's Charging and Remissions Policy and have determined that some of our charges for services and tuition will be increasing with effect from 1st September 2018. These are:

Dinner Money and Milk Money

Looking ahead to September, the cost of school meals will be increasing to **£2.30 per meal**, that is **£11.50 per week**. This change is due to increases in the charge made to us by Manchester Fayre, our school meals provider. The cost of milk will remain at **£7.00** (£20 if paid in cash for the whole year in September). 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 to avoid letter invoices being issued during the school holidays.



Instrumental Tuition (Brass and Woodwind)

Due to increases in the charges made to us by our music provider and ongoing budget challenges, we are having to increase our charges for instrumental tuition, that is tuition for brass, clarinet and flute lessons. Charges are increasing by £10 per half-term, from £25.00 to £35.00 per half term. Due to budget constraints, we have had to reduce the subsidy offered by the school for instrumental tuition this year. We do appreciate that these charges were increased last year but they still represent good value for money compared to private tuition.

SCHOOL UNIFORM for SEPTEMBER

We have noticed some 'slippage' in the school uniform worn by some pupils during this year. When you are buying new uniform and shoes, please have in mind that trainers and shoes with flashing lights (they are distracting for everyone) are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn for school. Also, children should not bring large bags to school as we simply do not have enough space to store them. Thank you for your support.

HEALTHY SCHOOL : No Birthday treats please

As part of our aim to improve the health and well-being of our children, we are committed to the Manchester Healthy Schools Framework and to the Government's agendas for increasing children's physical activity and reducing child obesity. We are also committed to supporting the national Change4Life programme (see 'Star Wars' pack sent out with this newsletter).



As part of this aim, from September we will no longer be allowing or supporting the distribution of sweets, cakes or other treats for children's birthdays. Many schools stopped this practice years ago as part of the national Healthy Schools Award initiative. We know that some parents and children will be disappointed by this change but we also know that there will be parents who will welcome it, not least because it reduces the pressure to buy treats for the class and that parents want more control over what their children are given and are eating. This change will mean that potentially 7,000 portions of sweets will no longer be given out at school; this can only be good for the children's health and we ask for your support.

SINGING SUCCESS!



We want to take this opportunity to congratulate and say “very well done” to all of the children who performed in our evening concerts last week. We were so impressed and proud of the children, all of whom sang their hearts out or played solos from *Les Misérables*, *The Greatest Showman*, *Grease*, *South Pacific*, *My Fair Lady*, *Oliver*, *Titanic* and *Phantom of the Opera*, among many others. Thank you, parents, for your lovely feedback regarding our performances.

We would also like to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of our choir, who in addition to performing in our school concerts last week also performed at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM). Their set included the rock ballad *Day by Day* from the 1971 musical *Godspell* which was sung beautifully with impressive harmonies. Everyone, including the organisers of the event, was so impressed with the choir, particularly as some of our choir members have only just turned seven years of age and were the youngest performers on the stage at the RNCM. Very well done, choir, and, of course, to their director, Mrs Cheetham.

Now, talking of singing It is not often we get to hear about or mention the success of former pupils of Northenden Community School but we would like to take this opportunity to say “well done” to Natasha Seth (now in Year 8 at Parrs Wood High School and who sang alongside the choir from Parrs Wood with Ariana Grande at the One Love Concert last year) who has recently appeared on *The Voice Kids* (ITV) and reached the Battle stage this week, having had the pick of all three judges and choosing Will.i.am to be her coach. Well done Natasha!



This will hopefully be an inspiration to others who, during their time at Northenden, have performed on our stage – Natasha played the part of Pharaoh in our 2014 production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and sang *Castle on Cloud* in one of our concerts .

SCHOOL SPORT



This year, more pupils than ever before have taken part in competitive sport, including swimming, football, tag rugby and rounders. We want to say “well done” to all those children who have either taken part in team sport or an after-school sports activity during the year. There will be more of the same next year, including a new partnership with Wythenshawe Rugby Union Football Club (see flyers sent out with this newsletter and by email).

Our thanks go to Mrs Moran, Mrs Whittle, Mrs Johnston, our staff and visiting coaches, our team captains and all those who have taken part in team sport this year. Well done, everyone.

SUMMER BUILDING WORK – SCHOOL ROOF REPAIRS



After a number of years of waiting for more funding to be available, the City Council have now committed to funding further repairs to the school roof. These repairs will be carried out during the summer holidays.

HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER!