



Dear Families ...

In this newsletter, we share with you recent news from school and look ahead to the busy Christmas period and all of the events that are taking place.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Mrs Julie Bowpitt to the staff team. Mrs Bowpitt, known to some of you as a parent and a volunteer, has recently been appointed as a Teaching Assistant in our Early Years team.

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher

KEY DATES for your DIARY AUTUMN/SPRING TERMS



<i>Saturday 1st December, 2.00pm</i>	<i>School choir singing in Northenden (Christmas light event)</i>
<i>Monday 10th December, 1.45pm</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Play (afternoon performance)</i>
<i>Tuesday 11th December, 9.30am</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Play (morning performance)</i>
<i>Thursday 13th December, 1.45pm</i>	<i>Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (afternoon performance)</i>
<i>Friday 14th December, 9.30am</i>	<i>Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (morning performance)</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th December</i>	<i>Early Years Christmas Party</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th December (PM)</i>	<i>Years 5 and 6 visit to Home Theatre ('Slapstick')</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th December, 7.00pm</i>	<i>Christmas Concert (Years 3 – 6)</i>
<i>Thursday 20th December</i>	<i>Christmas Lunch (and Christmas jumper day)</i>
<i>Friday 21st December</i>	<i>Christmas Parties (Years 1 – 6)</i>
Friday 21st December	School CLOSES for the Christmas holidays
Monday 7th January 2019	School OPENS for the spring term
<i>Wednesday 16th January 2019</i>	<i>Year 3 Workshop (Greeks)</i>
<i>Thursday 24th January 2019</i>	<i>Year 6 Class visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelters</i>

Event dates for the remainder of the year are available on our website.

FRIENDS OF NCS / PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION



The Friends of NCS (PTA) have held two meetings during the autumn term. At these meetings it was possible to form a new committee to manage the PTA, plan some future events and look to establishing the PTA as a charity as we move forward. The PTA is now co-chaired by parents Charlotte Lennox and Ruth Byrne; the other committee members at this stage are Rebecca Holley, Nicola Duff and Ian Beard.

The new committee is very much looking forward to working with more parents to run fundraising and other events for the ultimate benefit of the children at our school. All parents of the school are effectively members of the PTA and can make a contribution by sharing ideas and helping to run specific events during the school year. In January, we will be inviting all parents to attend the first Annual General Meeting of the Friends of NCS at which the trustees of the new charity will be officially elected. We will publish the date of this meeting before Christmas. In the meantime, please note the following dates of future events in your diary.



<i>Friday 8th March 2019, 7.30pm</i>	<i>Quiz Night (for adults)</i>
<i>Friday 29th March 2019, 5.30pm – 8.00pm</i>	<i>Children's discos</i>
<i>Saturday 22nd June 2019, 12noon – 3.00pm</i>	<i>Summer Fair</i>

PARENT VOLUNTEERS WANTED – READING



Can you spare some time to volunteer in school? We are currently looking for a small team of parents or other adult family members who can spare one or two hours each week to read with children, particularly our younger children, during the school day. We have a number of children in school who would benefit from reading with an adult on a daily basis but, given the demands on our staff, we do not always find this possible. Reading volunteers can make a huge difference to children's progress and confidence in reading.

If you feel that you can volunteer your time on a regular (preferably weekly) basis, please let us know by leaving your name and availability at the school office. We will then contact you to arrange a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Once these are completed, all volunteers will receive some induction and training on reading with children from our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Gray. Thank you for your support.

RECENT CHARITY GIVING AND FUNDRAISING

October and November were months of charitable giving in school. This started with your very generous donations of food and other items for our harvest assembly. The many boxes and bags of donations were gratefully received by the 'Tree of Life' centre in Wythenshawe which works alongside the Wythenshawe Food Bank. In early November we raised money for the Royal British Legion through the purchase of remembrance poppies and other items. Our Year 6 pupils represented the school at a Children's Remembrance Service at the Northenden cenotaph. We received a very nice 'thank you' letter from the Royal British Legion thanking the children for their respect and contribution, and their poem read by four of our pupils. Finally, on Friday 16th November, we raised over £440 for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone, particularly our children, for your kind contributions and support for these charities and our local and wider community.



CHRISTMAS PLAYS AND CONCERTS

Tickets for our Christmas plays (week beginning Monday 10th December) and Christmas Concert (Wednesday 19th December at 7.00pm) are now available from the school office. This year, our Early Years children will be performing the play 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel' and our children in Years 1 and 2 will be performing 'The Bethlehem Star'. Tickets for all performances are priced at £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children.

2019 - 2020 TERM DATES



Term and school holiday dates for the 2019 – 2020 academic year (from next September) are now available. We attach a copy for your reference. 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. Note that we only have one week of holiday at Whitsun.

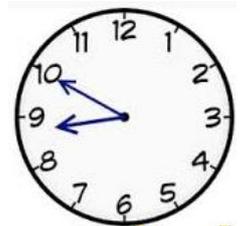
HEALTHY SNACKS PLEASE



We would like to remind parents of the school's commitment to the Government's Healthy Schools and Change4Life schemes. We have noticed again that some children are bringing in playtime snacks (and have items in their lunch boxes which are being eaten at playtime) which are high in fat, sugar or salt (or all three). These include crisps, cakes, chocolate bars and Pepparami (or similar) sticks. Staff do talk to children about making healthier choices, particularly for their playtime snack. More information about healthy packed lunches and snacks is available on the Change4Life website. Please take the time to consider your child's playtime snacks and the content of their packed lunch to provide a balanced and nutritious diet. Thank you.

MORNING ROUTINE (PARENTS in SCHOOL)

We remind all parents that only children and staff are allowed in school when the children enter the building at the beginning of the day. Parents are asked not to enter corridors or classrooms at the beginning or end of the day. If you need to discuss something with a teacher, please make sure that you arrive before 8.50am to be able to catch them before they start their teaching day. Alternatively, you can write a message in the Home-School Message book, leave a message at the school office or ask to make an appointment. Thank you for your co-operation.



READING BOOK AMNESTY (PLEASE RETURN BOOKS)

We have noticed that quite a few of our reading scheme books (coloured bands) are missing. We know that books can be left or lost at home quite easily. If you have any school reading books at home (not currently use), please return them to the school office or your child's class teacher – don't be embarrassed, we just need them back as replacing them with new books will be expensive. Please have a good look at home (in bedrooms, on book shelves, under seats in cars!) and return any books you may have to school. Thank you for your support.

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY FOR 2018 – 2019

Our class attendance for the year up to **Friday 23rd November 2018** is as follows ...

Class	Attendance	Days Missed	Attendance Thresholds				Late Marks
			Pupils who have attendance more or less than the percentage shown				
			100%	97%+	<90%	<85%	
Nursery	90.3%	113	4	7	13	7	4
Reception	96.5%	55	15	21	4	3	12
Year 1	97.0%	44	9	16	1	0	15
Year 2	96.6%	54	11	18	2	1	33
Year 3	96.4%	57	9	19	3	2	11
Year 4	97.4%	44	16	22	2	1	5
Year 5	97.2%	44	13	20	1	0	16
Year 6	97.6%	39	10	22	2	0	33
All	96.3%	449	87	145	28	14	129



97%

TARGET
MISSED
WHOOOPS!

4 of our 8 classes have achieved a target attendance of 97% so far this year. Others are close. Our nursery children have had a lot of illness so far this year. 112 children in total have had at least one absence due to illness. 14 children have had 58 days of absence due to holidays or other events taken during term time. Our Year 2 and Year 6 classes have the highest number of late marks. Overall, our Year 4 and Year 6 classes have the best attendance and the highest number of pupils with 97% or better attendance.

STRICTLY COME DANCING FOR CHARITY

We would like to congratulate Carole Nelson, our school administrator, on a recent out-of-school achievement which she shared in style with children in school last week. Carole has been dancing (and teaching dancing) for a number of years and was recently involved in training a novice dancer to perform a dance at the Hilton Hotel in Manchester in support of the charity, the Children Brain Injury Trust. Not only did they perform well on the evening but they won the People's Choice award for their modern jive dance. Mrs Nelson, and her dance partner, Mark, overcame their nerves to perform their dance for the children on Wednesday of last week. The children were mesmerised by their moves and impressed by their bravery! Well done, Mrs Nelson, keeeeeeeep dancing!

PARKING ON BAZLEY ROAD

We have had a number of complaints from neighbours of the school about the way in which parents drive and park on Bazley Road. We remind you that parents should not drive down Bazley Road to drop off children, park on Bazley Road at the beginning or end of the school day and certainly not park in front of our neighbours' drives. Please co-operate with this reasonable request, even if it might be inconvenient for you to park elsewhere and walk the short distance to school. Thank you.