



Dear Families and Friends

In this newsletter, I want to look ahead to the spring term. First though, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to thank parents and children, on behalf of staff, for the many Christmas cards and presents we received. You are very kind.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say "well done" and "thank you" to all of the children who gave great performances in their Christmas plays and concerts. It was not easy this year for staff and children to rehearse, given the change of venue, but everyone did a wonderful job.

Thank you again for all of your support during the last half-term and in adapting to our current circumstances. I have included a brief update in this newsletter about the roof and the work to be carried out during this term. We are looking forward to things getting back to normal after Easter. In the meantime, there is plenty going on in school to keep us busy ...

Kind regards

Ian Beard
Headteacher



KEY DATES for your DIARY

<i>Tuesday 13th January</i>	<i>Year 6 Class Visit : Stockport Air Raid Shelters</i>
<i>Monday 19th January</i>	<i>Science / Technology Workshops</i>
<i>Tuesday 20th January</i>	<i>Science / Technology Workshops</i>
<i>Friday 23rd January</i>	<i>Reception Class Assembly (St Hilda's Church)</i>
<i>Friday 30th January</i>	<i>Year 1 Class Assembly (St Hilda's Church)</i>
<i>Friday 6th February</i>	<i>Year 2 Class Assembly (St Hilda's Church)</i>
<i>Wednesday 11th February</i>	<i>Year 6 IMPS Visit to Wythenshawe Hospital</i>
<i>Friday 13th February</i>	<i>Year 6 Class Assembly (St Hilda's Church)</i>
<i>Friday 13th February</i>	<i>School closes for Half-Term Holiday (1 week)</i>
<i>Monday 23rd February</i>	<i>School opens for remainder of spring term</i>

KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



Friday 27 th February	Year 4 Class Assembly (St Hilda's Church)
Thursday 5 th March	Year 5 / 6 : NSPCC / Childline Safety Workshops
Friday 6 th March	Year 3 Class Visit : Manchester Museum (Egyptians)
Tuesday 10 th March	Year 6 Class Visit : Macclesfield Forest (Art Workshops)
Thursday 12 th March	Year 5 / 6 : NSPCC / Childline Safety Workshops
Friday 13 th March	Comic Relief / Red Nose Day
Friday 27 th March	Easter Assembly (St Hilda's Church)
Tuesday 31 st March, 6.30pm	Year 4 Performance at Manchester Health Academy *
Thursday 2 nd April	School Closes for the Easter Holiday
Monday 20 th April	School opens for the Summer Term
Tuesday 21 st April	Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 5.30pm)
Wednesday 22 nd April	Parents' Evening (3.30pm – 7.30pm)

* Year 4 parents please note this event date for your diaries. All children to attend please.

PARENTS' EVENINGS – CHANGE OF DATE!

Please note that we have changed the date of our next parents' evenings which were due to take place on 18th and 19th March. This is because the school hall will not be available before Easter (see update) and we felt that at our next parents evening we should offer the easier access to classrooms and popular crèche facility that we were unable to offer last time. We have therefore moved the date back just a few weeks to Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd April (first week back after Easter) in the hope that all will be back to normal by that time. Letters and appointment times for parents evenings will be sent out before the Easter holidays.

GOOD MANNERS, POLITENESS and RESPECT A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION FOR ALL

I took the opportunity in assembly last week to remind the children about good manners, politeness and respect for each other and their belongings. We have felt lately that some children are forgetting to show respect towards each other and to use manners when needed.



We have also noticed many more children taking little care of their coats and bags and walking over other's belongings. All children have been asked to remember their manners by saying "please" and "thank you" more often and about making way for others, particularly adults, to pass by if they need to. They have also been asked to take better care of their own belongings and those of others. Staff are going to focus on this during the next few weeks. It would be lovely if this could also be reinforced at home. As two children said in assembly "Manners are free ... they cost nothing." It has to be said that we have many children who always demonstrate respect for everyone, particularly adults, and have wonderful manners. They are a credit to themselves and to their families. Thank you for your support.

PREMISES (POST-FIRE) UPDATE

Work has now started to replace and repair the school hall roof. This will take approximately 6 weeks after which work can begin on the repair and refurbishment of the interior of the hall. This will include the replacement of the hall floor. We expect the whole project to be completed by April and for us to have full use of the hall when we return after the Easter holidays. In the meantime, the PortaKabin will remain on site and we will continue to use St Hilda's Catholic Church for our Friday morning assemblies.

All children have been reminded about their safety whilst on premises. This includes staying with parents at all times and NOT running up and down the ramp of the PortaKabin when entering or leaving the school grounds at the beginning and end of the day. Thank you for your continued support in keeping your children safe.

2015 – 2016 TERM DATES



Term and school holiday dates for the 2015 - 2016 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 very costly. Parents who do wish to seek permission for children's leave of absence during term time should use the application form which is available at the school office or via our website.

Please note that in 2016 (not to be confused with this year), the Easter weekend unusually falls outside of the two-week Easter school holiday. The school will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday, open for four days and then close for two weeks for the main Easter holiday. Pupils need to attend school for the the four days (Tuesday-Friday) between the Easter weekend (public holidays) and the two-week Easter holiday.

SCHOOL MEALS

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. Two weeks notice is required to enable the cook to order the right quantities of food and to ensure the school office are aware of payments to be made. Last week, a number of children changed from a school lunch to a packed lunch without the school knowing. Meals were therefore prepared for these children at a cost to the school. If you wish your child to move from one meal arrangement to another, please speak to Mrs Nelson or Mrs Charlton in the school office or complete and return the form which is available from our school office.

WATER BOTTLES

We would like to remind you that all children should have a named water bottle in school so that they can access chilled, filtered water during the school day. The school does not provide cups at the water machines. Thank you for your co-operation.



HOMEWORK – SUPPORT PLEASE!

We would like to remind parents and children that homework needs to be completed and returned on time. Whilst the vast majority of pupils complete their homework to a good standard and return it on time, there are a few children (mainly older children) who need more support at home in completing homework when they should. The homework set by the school is not excessive – it just requires some commitment from the children and a clear routine for its completion. Thank you for your support.

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

Attendance for the academic year up to Friday 19th December 2014 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	94.5%	79	5	17	4	3	34
Reception	97.7%	47½	12	22	0	0	23
Year 1	96.6%	69½	6	19	2	1	23
Year 2	97.5%	51	7	20	1	1	76
Year 3	97.4%	54	10	22	1	1	27
Year 4	97.7%	47	9	24	1	1	44
Year 5	95.5%	91	4	11	2	1	66
Year 6	97.0%	59½	10	21	2	0	47
All	96.8%	498½	63	156	13	8	340



97%

We are so close to our 97% target which, with hopefully less absence due to illness and family holidays, can be improved as we approach the end of the spring term. Well done to those classes which have achieved the target. Year 5 suffered a lot of illness during last term but are hopefully now fully recovered to ensure better attendance this term.

There are a number of children whose attendance is **persistent (below 85%) or what our school refers to as 'near persistent' (below 90%)**. It has to be said that the majority of these children have such poor attendance due to unauthorised family holidays taken during term. From September 2015, the Government are changing the threshold so that attendance of less than 90% is classed as persistent. A school's level of persistent absence is published. Attendance reports will be sent home in February alongside progress and other indicators.

It may interest you to know that Northenden Community School was ranked 5th in the whole of Manchester for attendance during 2012-2013. Rankings for 2013-2014 are not yet available but are likely to be very positive, given a final outcome of 97.4%. Well done, everyone.