



Dear Families and Friends ....

I trust everyone enjoyed the half-term break. This break came at the end of what I thought was a very fast-moving half-term, helped along by lots of class visits, class assemblies and sports tournaments. In this newsletter, we are looking ahead to the remainder of the spring term (and some of next) and, with much excitement, to the Easter holidays when, hopefully, all of the work restoring the school hall will be completed. You will note the removal of the scaffolding today! By Easter, the PortaKabin and the many sounds that have accompanied the reconstruction work of the last few months will have disappeared too – I have a feeling that we will not know ourselves for a while!

This next half-term period is also rather busy with more class assemblies, class visits and learning walks. Please do not forget that our parents' evening is now scheduled for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April but note also that you are invited into school for learning walks at the end of March.

Of importance is the article about the school holidays for next year. We made a mistake a few weeks ago when publishing the holiday dates for next year and have issued a corrected version today. Please discard all previous versions of our holiday list for 2015-2016.

Kind regards

Ian Beard  
Headteacher



## KEY DATES for your DIARY (see website for all events)

*Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March*

*NSPCC / Childline workshops for Years 5 and 6*

*Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 9.15am*

*Class Assembly : Year 3 (St Hilda's Church)*

*Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March*

*Year 4 Class Visit : Manchester Museum (Egyptians)*

*Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March*

*Year 2 Class Visit : Liverpool Museums (Life at Sea)*

*Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March*

*Year 6 Class Visit : Macclesfield Forest (Art project)*

*Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March*

*NSPCC / Childline workshops for Years 5 and 6*

*Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March*

*Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)*

## KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



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| <i>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</i>                 | <i>Assembly (St Hilda's Church)</i>                           |
| <i>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm</i>         | <i>Learning Walks (parents invited into school)</i>           |
| <i>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 9am</i>       | <i>Learning Walks (parents invited into school)</i>           |
| <i>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</i>               | <i>Year 4 Class Visit : Manchester Climbing Centre</i>        |
| <i>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 9.15am</i>         | <i>Easter Assembly (St Hilda's Church)</i>                    |
| <i>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1.30pm/6.30pm</i> | <i>Year 4 performance at MHA (see letter)</i>                 |
| <b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>                | <b>School closes for the Easter Holidays</b>                  |
| <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>                 | <b>School opens for the summer term</b>                       |
| <i>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April</i>                | <i>Parents' Evening (Short – 3.30pm – 5.30pm)</i>             |
| <i>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</i>              | <i>Parents' Evening (Long – 3.30pm – 7.30pm)</i>              |
| <i>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April</i>                 | <i>Manchester Airport World of Work Day (no assembly)</i>     |
| <i>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April</i>               | <i>Class Photographs (correct uniform please)</i>             |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>                    | <b>Public Holiday (school closed)</b>                         |
| <i>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May</i>                  | <i>General Election (school used for voting but open)</i>     |
| <i>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 9.15am</i>            | <i>Nursery Class Assembly (at school)</i>                     |
| <i>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May</i>                   | <i>Year 6 National Curriculum Tests (SATs) this week</i>      |
| <i>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 9.15am</i>           | <i>Morning Concert (Y4 recorders, brass, woodwind, choir)</i> |
| <i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</i>                  | <i>Year 6 Class Visit : Chester Zoo</i>                       |
| <i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</i>                  | <i>Year 5 Class Visit : Port Sunlight</i>                     |
| <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>                 | <b>School closes for the half-term holiday</b>                |
| <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>                   | <b>Staff Training Day</b>                                     |

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### CORRECTION TO TERM/HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2015–2016

We need to draw to your attention a correction to next year's holiday dates. We have realised that the February half-term holiday in 2016 was dated incorrectly as the week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. In fact, the half-term holiday for Manchester schools is the week beginning **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February**. We are sorry for this error and hope that families have not yet made arrangements that far in advance.



We have published today (on paper, on our noticeboards and on our website) an updated copy of our holiday and term dates for next year. To avoid any confusion, please discard previous copies of our holiday list (text and colour copies) and refer to the copy labelled 'Updated/Corrected 23.02.2015'.

## LEARNING WALKS – Tue 24<sup>th</sup> and Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March

Parents are invited into school on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm or on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am for a 'Learning Walk'. This is an opportunity to spend some time with your child to look and talk about the work they have been doing in class.



## PARENTS' EVENINGS – Tue 21<sup>st</sup> and Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Please do not forget about the change of date for parents' evenings. Originally scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March, the dates for parents' evenings have been moved to 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April so that we can once again offer the crèche and make use of the school hall.

## PARKING 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. Please support us a little more in this matter. Thank you.



## PANCAKES – RECORD BROKEN

It has become a tradition (for 8 years now) that Mr Beard makes pancakes for Year 6 on Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day). Given that Pancake Day was during the half-term holidays, Mr Beard made pancakes for Year 6 on Monday of this week, breaking his previous record by making and serving (with various toppings) over 40 freshly-made pancakes in just over an hour! He is a messy cook (and some of the children are messy eaters) so he would like to thank the staff who helped tidy up afterwards!



## SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

We would like to congratulate and thank all those children who have represented the school recently in various sporting events and competitions. These include football, swimming and athletics. We aim to take up at least 75% of the competitions on offer in the local and wider area and involve different children for different events as much as possible (some are fixed team events or ongoing tournaments and therefore have to involve the same team of children over a period of time). This term, those involved in after-school dance, for example, will be taking part in a cheerleading and street dance competition. Thanks also go to those staff who are accompanying the various teams on a regular basis, including Mrs Moran, Mrs Whittle and Mrs Johnston, our new PE, Sports and Healthy Schools Co-ordinator.

## ATTENDANCE – ON TARGET : WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Attendance for the whole school up to half-term was **97.0%**. Keep it up, please!

## RECENT PROGRESS / ATTENDANCE REPORTS

We hope you found the progress reports (Years 1 – 6 only) we sent home before the half-term holiday useful. Whilst they are a snapshot and (graded) summary of learning attitudes, behaviour and progress, they are an ‘indicator’ of the strengths of the children and of the areas in which they need to improve, supported by a brief comment from the class teacher. The attendance reports are significant in projecting the attendance for children to the end of the academic year. We aim for all of our children to have good (96%) or better attendance.



## NATIONAL CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT

You may be aware that the Government last year informed schools that National Curriculum levels (Level 4, etc.) would no longer be used in schools or to measure academic achievements and progress in schools. We now have a new National Curriculum (details of which can be found on our website), which sets out the key learning objectives which should be covered by children in Years 1 – 6. There are new expectations for all subjects, but particularly English and Mathematics for which the expectations for all year groups have been raised. For example, some of the mathematics work once expected in Year 5 is now expected in Year 4.

Apart from Year 2 and Year 6 (for this year), we will no longer be reporting levels to you at parents’ evenings or in our summer reports. These will be replaced with a indication of whether or not your child is achieving the expectations of their year group and, if they are not, an indication of the year-group expectations at which they are most secure (which may be above or below expectations). We are hoping to publish and share more information about this with you at parents’ evenings in April.

## TIMES-TABLES

You may be aware of the Government’s recent announcement that they will expect all children to know and apply the multiplication tables up to 12x12 by the time they leave primary school. This is not something particularly new to us; in fact teachers have been working hard to achieve this for many years. However, we do agree with the Government that many children do not know their times-tables as confidently as they should and that this hinders their progress in other areas of mathematics and their ability to solve problems. Children should be able to understand and recall multiplication facts with understanding and from memory for speed.

We are therefore asking parents to give a focus to times-tables at home in the coming weeks and find opportunities (without it being simply drill and practice or a chore) to teach children multiplication facts. In September, we issued, as part of our home-learning packs, multiplication squares relevant to each year group. These are also available from our website.



## AND FINALLY .... MANNERS AND POLITENESS

It only took a gentle reminder for some but it has been lovely to acknowledge the wonderful manners and politeness of the majority of our children in recent weeks. We are hearing “please”, “thank you” and “you’re welcome” far more than we did and children are doing much more to help each other, including opening doors for each other and staff. There are still some children who need an occasional prompt so thank you for reinforcing this at home.