



Dear Families and Friends ....

As we race (rather too quickly) towards the end of another academic year, I want to keep you up to date with planned events for the next few weeks and share some reports of recent events and successes.

First of all, I would like to thank all those parents who came to sports day on Tuesday of last week. Weren't we lucky with the weather? It was great to see so many family members supporting the children, each other (for the parents' races) and the staff (for the staff race). We congratulate all the children who took part and for the lovely supportive atmosphere in which they competed.

Kind regards

Ian Beard  
Headteacher



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

<i>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</i>	<i>Class Workshop : Year 4 (Electricity)</i>
<i>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June (PM)</i>	<i>Class Visit : Year 5 Rehearsals at the Bridgewater Hall</i>
<i>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 6.00pm</i>	<i>Class Visit / Performance : Year 5 (Bridgewater Hall)</i>
<i>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</i>	<i>Class Visit : Nursery and Reception (Smithills Farm)</i>
<i>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</i>	<i>Class Visit : Year 4 (Castleton)</i>
<i>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</i>	<i>Class Workshop : Year 6 (Electricity)</i>
<i>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Arts Project : Chinese Music and Folk Dance workshops</i>
<i>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>No Assembly today (due to above workshops)</i>
<i>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</i>	<i>Year 6 – Year 7 Transition for MHA Students</i>
<i>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Class Visit : Year 5 (Styal Mill)</i>
<i>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Cheerleading Team to Games event at the Athletics Stadium</i>
<i>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 7.00pm</i>	<i>School Concert : "Music of the Continents" (Years 3-6)*</i>
<i>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1.15pm</i>	<i>School Concert : "Music of the Continents" (Years 3-6)*</i>

\* Please see article

## KEY DATES for your DIARY continued



Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer 2015 Reports sent home to parents
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 9.15am	End of Year Certificate Assembly
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 11am	Class Transition (time spent with new teachers)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 1.30pm	Early Years Graduation Party
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 3.30pm	Parents' Evening (one hour 'drop-in' for report discussion)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 6.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Party (Britannia Country House Hotel)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July, 9.15am	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly and Presentation
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>School closes for the summer holidays</b>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS OF NCS ...



You will note the absence in the calendar of a date for a Summer Fair. The 'Friends' felt that a successful event could not be organised in the time available this year.

We will be planning our work and events for the next academic year in September and will invite everyone, through a newsletter, to join us for a meeting at school in early October. At this meeting, we hope to see many new parents who might want to support the work of the 'Friends' and perhaps take on some key roles during next year so that we can organise a range of events. In the meantime, we would like to thank everyone who has supported us this year, raising money via Christmas card sales (£180) and the recent disco (£280).

## ARTS MONTH THE ARTS OF THE CONTINENTS

During this month, we have been focussing on the 'Arts of the Continents' as a whole-school project. In addition to art work in class, the children have been involved in a number of workshops and events involving visitors to our school. The project started with a visit from our friends 'The Pop Project' who took us on a musical journey from North America, through the Caribbean and to South America, exploring some of the great music which came from these continents over a period of time; rock and roll, jazz, reggae, pan pipes and more. The visit of the *Mighty Zulu Nation* was great fun as the children heard the five men sing, in beautiful harmony, songs from South Africa. Children (and staff) took part in singing and dancing workshops, with Mr Arkell taking centre stage at one point in a very energetic dance. Last week, children took part in Indian dance workshops and, in a very short space of time, each class learned a specific dance which was later performed for everyone in school. The last of our visitors are in school on Friday of this week (no assembly) to share the art of Chinese folk dance and music with the children.



## SUMMER CONCERT : THU 9<sup>TH</sup> and FRI 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY MUSIC OF THE CONTINENTS



To bring our discovery of world-wide arts to a close, the children in Years 3-6 (and Year 2 children in choir) will be performing a concert on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July (at 7.00pm) and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July (at 1.15pm). *The Music of the Continents* will be musical journey of the continents, presenting pieces from, about or set in countries and cities around the world.

Tickets are now on sale from the school office priced £2 for adults and £1 for children. Please be sure to buy (or order by phone if you cannot get into school) your tickets for this event. Priority will be given to parents of children who taking part in the concert and tickets will initially be limited to two tickets per family, with all remaining tickets being released on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. The arrangements for the concert will be sent home nearer the time but, for now, please note that all children taking part will need to be in school for 6.30pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July for the evening performance.

## READ FOR MY SCHOOL .... NATIONAL SUCCESS!

Many of you will remember the national reading competition we ran in the Spring term. This was known as 'Read for My School' and involved children reading online books, recording their reading online and completing book reviews. During the competition, we had one winner, Sophie in Year 6, who won a prize and at the end of the competition we ran our own prize draw of children who had entered the competition.



In addition to the above, I am delighted to let everyone know that one of our pupils, Dimitri in Year 4, won a regional prize for his review of the book *'Itch'* by Simon Mayo (the radio presenter!). Mr Beard, Miss Healey and Dimitri's family travelled to Preston to watch him receive his prize alongside other regional winners.

Now .... we are even more delighted and proud to announce that Dimitri has won the national book review prize and will be presented, by the Book Trust, with a further award at the Lyric Theatre in London on Thursday of this week. He will be accompanied by his family, Mrs Gray and Miss Healey. We are very pleased for Dimitri and congratulate him on his success.

It is great that one of our pupils has won this award as it reminds us that entering competitions is sometimes worthwhile. More crucial though, is the importance of reading and enjoying a love of literature and of books. We hope that everyone was encouraged to read more via the project.

## TEACHERS FOR NEXT YEAR and MISS SANDER

We would normally write out to parents in early July to make clear the staffing arrangements for the following academic year. This year, there will be no changes to the teaching arrangements for each class; all teachers are remaining where they are. There are no teachers leaving and no new appointments planned at this stage. We will not, therefore, write a separate letter to you this year.

However, Miss Sander (Teaching Assistant in Reception) will be leaving us at the end of this term to start her training and career as a class teacher. We are delighted that Miss Sander is moving in this direction, following the achievement of her degree last year, but will be very sad to see her leave her post after 8 years at the school, all of which has been supporting the children in Early Years. I am sure that you will want, in the next few weeks, to wish her well before she leaves.

## TRAFFIC ..... COMPLAINTS FROM NEIGHBOURS



Once again, we have to remind parents (and other relatives) about driving and parking on Bazley Road. We have been clear for some time that parents **should not** drive into Bazley Road when dropping off at or collecting children from school and **should not park on Bazley Road at any time during the school day**. It is such a shame that many parents choose to ignore this message; it is, after all, in the interest of children's safety, easing congestion and reducing the risks of an accident.. It is also a shame to hear from neighbours (Bazley Road and Lingard Road) that some parents are speeding down these roads (there is a **20mph** limit in force), blocking driveways and being abusive to residents when challenged, none of which are helpful.

Please **SUPPORT US in this matter .. we do not particularly want to confront people in the street, start naming and shaming or reporting parents to the police**. The need to get to work is not a reason to park near the school – it is this excuse that may well cause an accident one day. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## ACCESS TO SCHOOL – Please use the PEDESTRIAN GATE

Connected to the above is children's and parents' use of the school gates. Please **do not**, even if it is open, **use the vehicle gates** to access the school premises. **Always use the pedestrian gate**. Using the vehicle gates as a short cut with children encourages them to ignore safe practice and our instructions. When the vehicle gate is open (it is closed after 8.30am for the majority of the school day), children and parents should be alert to any vehicle movement entering or leaving the premises. Please **DO NOT OPEN** the vehicle gates if they are closed and please do not be offended if we remind you to use the pedestrian gates if you forget. Thank you.



## DEBTS TO SCHOOL

As we approach the end of the school year, we are keen to ensure that all payments we are expecting from parents are up to date so that we do not have to send out reminder letters for any outstanding debts to the school. If you have fees or charges to pay (for dinner money, music tuition, After-School Club, the Isle of Man, etc) please ensure that your payments are brought up to date by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Please contact Angela Charlton or Carole Nelson at the school office if you need to discuss your payments. Please **DO NOT** pay charges via Parent Pay which are due in September until late August or during the first week in September. Thank you for your co-operation.



## ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY FOR 2014 – 2015



97.0%

All classes but nursery (94.5%), Year 5 (96.6%) and Year 6 (96.8%) have achieved above 97% attendance during the year. The highest attendance has been achieved by our Reception and Year 4 classes, both of which have 97.8% attendance.