

4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome Back!

Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break and were able to spend quality time with family and friends.

It has been a fantastic first week back at school, and it has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces returning through our doors. The children have looked incredibly smart and have come back with a positive attitude towards their learning. They have settled quickly into school routines and are already demonstrating our school values through their behaviour, effort and enthusiasm.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to the newest members of our Nicol Mere family. Our new Reception children have settled beautifully into school life and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their classroom, toys and outdoor learning areas. We are incredibly proud of how confidently they have embraced this exciting new chapter and look forward to welcoming the rest of our Reception children next week.

The weekly attendance award will start from next week when all of our Reception children are in school.

Toilet Refurbishment Complete

We are delighted to share that the final phase of our toilet refurbishment project has now been completed. Our Infant children now have access to four newly refurbished toilet blocks, complete with modern facilities, working taps and flushing toilets! The bright, clean and welcoming environment is a significant improvement for our pupils and provides facilities that are comfortable, safe and fit for purpose.

KS1 Playground Improvements

You may have noticed that the Key Stage 1 playground has had a bit of a makeover over the summer holidays. The old wooden fencing and football cage, which had reached the end of its lifespan, have been replaced with new green metal fencing and a modern football enclosure. The previous structure was beginning to show signs of wear and deterioration, so these improvements were much needed.

The new football cage has already proved extremely popular with the children. Its increased height helps to keep footballs contained within the play area, reducing disruption and providing a safer and more enjoyable environment for everyone. It has been lovely to see the children making such good use of this new facility.

Upcoming Events:

- **School Council Elections** Our School Council Election Day will take place on Thursday 17th September. Any child wishing to stand as a candidate should prepare a speech ready for Monday 14th September. Teachers will discuss the election process and expectations with the children in class over the coming days.
- **Pupil Leadership Opportunities** Over the next few weeks, children will learn about the many leadership opportunities available within our school. These include:
 - Reading Ambassadors
 - Play Leaders
 - Mental Health Champions
 - Eco Council Representatives

We greatly value the contributions of pupils who take on these important roles. Giving children responsibilities helps them to develop confidence, communication skills, teamwork, leadership,

problem-solving abilities and a sense of pride in their school community. These roles also give children the opportunity to make a positive difference to the experiences of others and help develop a real sense of community within our Nicol Mere family. KS2 children will be able to apply for these positions, so please keep an eye out for application forms coming home over the next few weeks.

- **Flu Vaccinations** These vaccinations will take place in school on Monday 14th September and Tuesday 15th September. If you would like your child to receive the vaccination, please ensure that you have completed the online consent form before the scheduled dates. These would have been sent to you via email from Wigan IntraHealth.

Reminders

- **Breakfast and After-School Club:** Thank you for your patience with the changes to the booking system. If anyone is needing help, please pop in and see Mrs Kerry at the before and after school club. She will support you in uploading credit and booking places if needed. Please remember to book online **before midnight the day before** if you wish to reserve a place for your child. This helps us plan staffing and ensure a safe, fun environment for everyone.
- **Scooters and Bikes:** For the safety of all members of our school community, please ensure that scooters and bicycles are not ridden on the playgrounds or pathways around the school buildings. We appreciate your support in helping to keep everyone safe, especially our younger children.
- **Healthy Snacks and Fizzy Drinks:** Could we kindly remind families that fizzy drinks are not permitted at break times or lunchtime. When sending a snack into school, please ensure it is a healthy option. Crisps, chocolate bars and sweets should be saved for home and not brought into school. We would also like to remind parents that we are a **nut-free school**, so please avoid sending Nutella or any other products containing nuts.
- **Free School Meals:** Below is a letter you should have already received about the changes that the DfE have made to how free school meals are allocated. If you have not already done so, please check to see if you are entitled.
- **Parking:** Please can we ask everyone to park considerately when dropping off or collecting children. The safety of our pupils, families and local residents is of utmost importance. Parking on double yellow lines, pavements or in areas that obstruct visibility can create hazards for those crossing the road. Thank you for helping us to keep our school community safe.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We are looking forward to an exciting and successful term ahead and cannot wait to share the many achievements, memorable experiences and wonderful learning opportunities that lie ahead for our children.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Hunter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 14 th September	Flu Vaccines – Rec-Y3
Tuesday 15 th September	Flu Vaccines – Y4-Y6
Thursday 17 th September	Class Photos
Tuesday 29 th September	European Day of Languages – Italy
Thursday 1 st October	Cansfield Taster Day for Y6
Wednesday 14 th October	Y2 trip to The Lowry
Thursday 15 th October	KS2 Wheelchair Day
Monday 19 th October	Halloween Disco – Y1-Y6
Tuesday 20 th October	Y4 trip to Chester
Friday 23 rd October	Break for half term – Please note normal finishing time of 3.20pm

ATTENDANCE CLASS	ATTENDANCE % This week
Year 1D	100
Year 1M	97.1
Year 2B	90.8
Year 2C	97.7
Year 3A	95.6
Year 3S	100
Year 4D	99.5
Year 4R	98.9
Year 5M	97.8
Year 5C	94.6
Year 6K/S	100
Year 6L/W	98.3



18th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

National Insurance checks for Free School Meal eligibility

From September 2026, the Department for Education are making some changes to the way that Free School Meals are allocated.

All families and children will need to be rechecked to see whether you can receive this entitlement. Please note, although all KS1 children receive 'Universal Free School Meals', we would ask that you still complete this process. This can open avenues of financial help towards the cost of some other trips/activities within school.

Please copy the link below into your search bar or scan the QR code. This will take you to an online form where you can enter your details which will enable a check to take place. You will need to enter your name, date of birth and national insurance details. This application process is simple and easy to use and takes less than 2 minutes.

To Apply for free school meals link: <https://forms.wigan.gov.uk/xfp/form/750>

Or scan the QR code.



Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Hunter
Acting Headteacher