

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

October seems to have arrived very quickly, and what a fantastic start to the school year it has been! The past few weeks have been incredibly busy, with lots of exciting learning taking place across school. I have been particularly proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes and how positively they have approached the year so far.

A High School Life

Our Year 6 children had an exciting opportunity this week when they spent the day at Cansfield High School, getting a taste of what life at high school will be like. Throughout the day, they took part in a range of lessons and activities, including PE, art, languages, English and maths. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience a high school environment, meet different teachers and begin to understand what they can look forward to as they prepare for the next stage of their education. Next week, Year 6 will be visiting Byrchall High School for another day of activities, giving them further valuable experience of high school life.

Pupil Responsibilities

Following applications from our pupils, we are delighted to have appointed children to a range of important roles and responsibilities across school, including Reading Ambassadors, Digital Leaders, Eco Council representatives and Mental Health Champions. It has been wonderful to see so many children keen to get involved and make a positive contribution to school life. We are really looking forward to seeing the work they will undertake over the coming year, supporting their teachers, helping their friends and playing an active part in making our school an even better place to learn and grow.

Football Friendly Fixture

Unfortunately, this week's Year 5/6 football match against St Oswald's had to be postponed. Rather than disappoint the children and cancel football altogether, we took the opportunity to hold a friendly match instead, giving everyone the chance to enjoy some time on the pitch and put their skills into practice. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are now looking forward to the rearranged fixture against St Oswald's in the coming weeks.

Attendance Award

A big well done to Mrs. Dunne/Mrs. Moss' and Mrs. Charnock's classes for getting the highest attendance this week. The class winners of the attendance award get a fun 30-minute 'Golden Time'! During this time, they can pick what they want to do—whether it's drawing, playing games, reading, or going outside to enjoy an extra play! It's a great way to celebrate their great attendance and give them some time to enjoy doing something they love.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monday 5th October:** Our Year 6 football team are getting ready to represent the school at an upcoming competition at Laithwaite Park, where they will compete against teams from other local schools. This will provide a great opportunity for some of our children who regularly play competitive football for clubs outside of school to put their skills and experience into action while representing our school. The team are ready, excited and looking forward to the challenge. We wish them the very best of luck!
- **Wednesday 7th October:** Our Year 6 children will be taking part in an important fire safety visit, with a particular focus on staying safe around bonfires and fireworks. With Bonfire Night approaching, this is a valuable opportunity for the children to learn how to keep themselves and others safe, understand the

potential dangers associated with fireworks and bonfires, and know how to make sensible, responsible choices. We hope the children will take these important safety messages home and share them with their families too.

- **Friday 9th October:** To celebrate **European Day of Languages**, which took place on 26th September, our children will be enjoying a special afternoon dedicated to celebrating languages and cultures. Throughout the afternoon, children will take part in a range of fun and engaging language activities, giving them the opportunity to discover new words and phrases and learn more about different countries and cultures. It promises to be a lovely afternoon celebrating the many languages spoken across Europe and encouraging our children to develop an interest and enthusiasm for language learning.
- **Monday 19th October:** We're looking forward to a spooktacular day of Halloween fun in school! Children will be invited to come to school dressed in their Halloween costumes and enjoy a variety of Halloween-themed fun and activities during the afternoon. Our School Council will also be getting involved by organising Best Dressed and Pumpkin Carving competitions, with entry costing £1, payable via Evolve. The celebrations will continue into the evening with our Halloween School Disco! Further information about the competitions and disco, including timings and arrangements, will be sent out next week. We can't wait to see everyone's costumes and creations and enjoy a frightfully fun day together!

Reminders

- **Parents Evening**
If you haven't already done so already, please make sure that you book your parents evening slots.
<https://bookings.cloud.microsoft/book/NicolMerePrimarySchoolParentsEvening@nicolmere.wigan.sch.uk/?ismsaljsauthenabed>
- **Contacting School**
We would like to remind parents and carers about the best ways to communicate with school. Messages sent through ClassDojo or Facebook will not be responded to, as these platforms are not monitored for parent enquiries or messages. If you need to get in touch, please use your child's school planner, email us at enquiries@admin.nicolmere.wigan.sch.uk, or contact the school office by telephone. Our class teachers operate an open-door policy and are happy to speak with parents before or after school for quick conversations. If you need a longer or more private discussion, teachers will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet or speak with you. We really value good communication between home and school and appreciate your support in using the appropriate channels to help us respond effectively.
- **Changes to Details**
Just a little reminder to please keep the school office informed of any changes to your contact or medical details. This includes changes to your home address, telephone numbers, email address or emergency contacts. It is also really important that we have accurate and up-to-date medical information for your child, including any new diagnoses, allergies, medication or changes to existing conditions. Having the correct information means we can look after your child appropriately and, importantly, contact you quickly should we need to. Thank you for helping us to keep our records up to date.
- **Class Photograph Deadline**
A quick reminder that orders for class photographs need to be placed by Monday 5th October. Parents and carers should have received a letter home containing a link to view the photographs and place an order. Please make sure you place your order by the deadline if you would like to purchase a copy.

It has been another busy and exciting week, with lots for our children to enjoy and celebrate. From new experiences and responsibilities to sporting opportunities and exciting events still to come, it is wonderful to see our children getting involved in all aspects of school life.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to another busy week ahead!

Mrs. Hunter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 5 th October	Y6 Cup Football
Wednesday 7 th October	Y6 Fire Safety visitors
Thursday 8 th October	Byrchall Taster Day for Y6
Friday 9 th October	Celebration of Languages Day
Monday 12 th October	Parents Evening
Tuesday 13 th October	Parents Evening
Tuesday 13 th October	Y3 trip to Llandudno
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
Tuesday 20 th October	Y6 at Byrchall - am
Thursday 22 nd October	New Intake 2027 Open Evening – 5.00pm
Friday 23 rd October	Black History Day
Friday 23 rd October	Break for half term – Please note normal finishing time of 3.20pm
Monday 2 nd November	Back to school
Wednesday 4 th November	Y5 trip to Jodrell Bank
Thursday 5 th November	Guy Fawkes Day

ATTENDANCE CLASS	ATTENDANCE % This week
Rec1	93.7
Rec2	94.5
Year 1D	100
Year 1M	96.2
Year 2B	99
Year 2C	97.9
Year 3A	98
Year 3S	98.7
Year 4D	98.1
Year 4R	97.1
Year 5M	99.3
Year 5C/B	100
Year 6K/S	97.3
Year 6L/W	99



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

