Nicol Mere Primary School
Roman Road
Ashton-in-Makerfield
WIGAN WN4 8DF
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16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the final full week of this half term, it has been wonderful to see the children continuing to work hard, embrace new opportunities and represent the school so positively. This week's newsletter highlights just some of the exciting learning experiences, sporting achievements and enrichment activities that have taken place both in and out of the classroom.

Parents Evening
Our Parents' Evening at the beginning of this week was a great success, and it was lovely to see so many parents and carers meeting with teachers to discuss how children have settled back into school life and the progress they are making. These conversations are an important part of the partnership between home and school, and we appreciate everyone who attended. There were a small number of instances where appointments were accidentally booked with the wrong teacher. If you were unable to meet with the correct teacher, or if you would still like to arrange an appointment, please contact the school office and we will be happy to organise this for you.

Girls' Football Tournament Success
Congratulations to our Girls' Football Team, who were crowned champions after finishing first place in their tournament this week. The girls played brilliantly throughout the competition, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship in every match. They represented the school exceptionally well and should be very proud of their achievement. Well done to all the players on a fantastic victory! Celebrating European Languages Day

Year 3 Visit to Llandudno
Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to Llandudno this week to enhance their learning about the Stone Age and Iron Age. During the trip, the children explored the Copper Mines and learned about the process of smelting and how metals were produced and used in prehistoric times. The visit brought their classroom learning to life and provided many memorable experiences. The children learned a tremendous amount throughout the day and were a credit to the school, behaving brilliantly and demonstrating excellent enthusiasm for their learning. Well done, Year 3!

Year 2 Visit to The Lowry
Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful visit to The Lowry this week as part of their art topic. During the day, the children took part in an exciting drama workshop inspired by Lowry's artwork, visited the galleries, and experienced the immersive exhibition, where they were transported into one of Lowry's famous paintings. They also participated in a hands-on art workshop, creating their own work inspired by the artist. The trip provided a fantastic opportunity to deepen their understanding of Lowry's work and bring their classroom learning to life. The children were enthusiastic throughout the day, learned a great deal and again, represented the school brilliantly.

KS2 Wheelchair Sports Experience
This week, all our junior children took part in an inspiring Wheelchair Sports Experience, where they developed their rugby and basketball skills through a series of engaging workshops. The sessions were led by Martin, who has proudly represented England on 18 occasions in wheelchair rugby. The children thoroughly enjoyed trying new activities, learning new skills, and experiencing sport from a different perspective. As well as developing their teamwork and resilience, the workshops helped foster a greater appreciation, understanding and respect for the challenges faced by wheelchair athletes. It was a fantastic experience that the children will remember for a long time.

Bowling Team.
On Tuesday, our Bowling Team took park in Inclusion Ten Pin Bowling. They showed wonderful teamwork and determination. We are so proud of them. Well done to everyone who took part.

Healthy Schools Event
On Thursday, two Y5 School Council representatives attended the Wigan Council Healthy Schools Event. They enjoyed taking part in different activities and have brought some brilliant ideas back to school. We received a Healthy Schools Certificate for our continued commitment to develop and improve health and wellbeing.

Supporting The Brick: Our Harvest Collection
As part of our Harvest celebrations, representatives from The Brick visited school this week to talk to the children about the valuable work they do to support individuals and families within our local community. The visit helped the children understand the importance of helping others and how Harvest is a time to be thankful for what we have and to share with those who may be less fortunate. Following the visit, we have launched our Harvest collection and are inviting donations of tinned and packet foods, jars and toiletries. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed. Donations can be brought into school throughout the week and will be collected on Thursday. Your generosity will help make a real difference to those in need within our community.

Sharing Photos on School Trips
We know that parents and carers love seeing photographs of their children enjoying educational visits and special experiences. Following a recent change to our policy, staff now use their school iPads to take photographs while on trips. When these devices are connected to Wi-Fi, we are able to share updates and photos during the visit. However, access to Wi-Fi is often limited when we are off-site, so this is not always possible. Please be assured that, while we will always try to post updates where we can, it is more probable that these will be shared after the trip has returned to school. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Attendance Award
A big well done to Mrs. Dunne's and Miss Massey'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 16th October:** Halloween Fun Day. We are looking forward to a spooktacular day of fun! Children are invited to come to school in fancy dress and will enjoy an afternoon of Halloween-themed games and activities. The School Council will also be holding a Pumpkin Carving Competition, with pumpkins to be brought into school on Monday morning and a £1 entry fee. In the evening, we will be hosting our popular Halloween Disco. Please remember that all payments should be made via Evolve. We look forward to seeing everyone's fantastic costumes and creative pumpkin designs!
- **Tuesday 20th October:** Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest in becoming a Parent Governor. We are pleased to report that we have received a good response to the nomination process. Ballot papers will be sent out Tuesday, giving parents the opportunity to vote for their preferred candidates. We would like to thank all nominees for their willingness to support the school and contribute to its continued success.
- **Tuesday 20th October:** Year 4 are off to Chester for their Roman experience day as part of their history topic. The children are really looking forward to the visit.
- **Wednesday 21st October:** We are pleased to let parents know that the rescheduled visit from the Fire Service will take place on Wednesday. The session was originally due to take place a few weeks ago but had to be cancelled. During the visit, Year 6 pupils will learn important firework and bonfire safety messages ahead of the upcoming celebrations, helping them to stay safe and make sensible choices during the firework season.
- **Thursday 22nd October:** A reminder to parents and carers of children due to start Reception that our New Reception Intake Meeting will take place on Wednesday at 5:00pm. This is an excellent

opportunity to meet key staff, learn more about school life and find out how we can work together to ensure a smooth and successful transition into school. We look forward to welcoming you.

- **Friday 23rd October :** As part of Black History Month, children will enjoy a variety of fun activities throughout the day, celebrating the achievements, culture and contributions of Black people past and present. It's a great opportunity for everyone to learn something new, celebrate diversity and recognise the importance of inclusion and respect for all.

Reminders

- **Christmas Show Permissions -** A reminder to please complete and return permission forms for attendance at our KS1 and KS2 Christmas productions, The Jolly Christmas Postman and Peter Pan. We are also inviting parents who are able to do so to make a £10 voluntary contribution to the School Fund via Evolve. These donations help us continue to provide the wonderful enrichment activities, experiences and opportunities that make school life so memorable for our children. Thank you for your continued support. If you need a new letter, please visit the office.
- **Data Collection Sheets -** These were sent home a couple of weeks ago. Please take a few moments to check that all the information is correct and return the form to school as soon as possible. It is very important that we maintain accurate and up-to-date contact, medical and emergency information to ensure we can support your child effectively and communicate with families when needed.
- **End of Term Reminder:** Following the feedback that you gave us about our before and after school provision, after-school club will be available as usual for any children who require it on Friday 23rd October – the last day of term. **School will also close at 3:20, not the earlier time of 2pm.**

With just one week remaining before the half-term break, there is still plenty to look forward to, including our Halloween Fun Day and a number of exciting events across school. Please take a moment to check the reminders and upcoming dates included in this newsletter. We look forward to another successful week and wish all our families a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mrs. Hunter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 19th October	Halloween Disco
Tuesday 20th October	Y6 out at Byrchall until 11.45am
Tuesday 20th October	Y4 trip to Chester
Tuesday 20th October	Y6 at Byrchall - am
Wednesday 21st October	Y6 visit from Fire Service
Thursday 22nd October	New Intake 2027 Open Evening – 5.00pm
Thursday 22nd October	Collection by The Brick for food donations
Friday 23rd October	Black History Day
Friday 23rd October	Break for half term – Please note normal finishing time of 3.20pm
Monday 2nd November	Back to school
Wednesday 4th November	Y5 trip to Jodrell Bank
Thursday 5th November	Guy Fawkes Day

ATTENDANCE CLASS	ATTENDANCE % This week
Rec1	91.3
Rec2	92.8
Year 1D	99.3
Year 1M	97.6
Year 2B	96.9
Year 2C	96.2
Year 3A	99
Year 3S	95.3
Year 4D	96.3
Year 4R	95
Year 5M	99.4
Year 5C/B	97.4
Year 6K/S	92.3
Year 6L/W	97.9



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

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8th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our commitment to supporting the local community, we are delighted to announce that **The Brick**, a Wigan-based charity, has been nominated as one of the charities that our school will be supporting during this academic year.

To begin our fundraising and charitable activities, we will be collecting food donations for The Brick as part of our Harvest celebrations. We would be extremely grateful for any non-perishable food items that families are able to donate.

Food donations will be accepted from Monday 12th October until Thursday 22nd October.

Suggested items include:

- Tinned meat, fish, fruit or vegetables
- Pasta, rice and noodles
- Cereals and porridge oats
- Tea, coffee and long-life milk
- Biscuits and snack items
- Toiletries and household essentials

All donations should be brought into the school office or given to your child's class teacher.

We know that our school community is always incredibly generous, and we thank you in advance for your support. By working together, we can help provide vital assistance to local individuals and families.

Thank you for helping us make a positive difference in our community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ainscough

Harvest Food Donations

Help us make a difference!

We are collecting food donations for

The Brick
Wigan's Homeless Charity

Small donations make a big difference!

The Brick provide vital support to people in need in our local community, and your generosity can help them continue their important work.

Donations to be sent into school from
the week beginning 12th October until 22nd October

Suggested items include:

- Tinned food (e.g. vegetables, fruit, beans, soup, tuna, meat)
- Pasta, rice and cereal
- Long life milk and juice
- Biscuits and snacks
- Toiletries (e.g. soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes)

Thank you for your support!

