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23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of 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.

Halloween Celebrations
What a fantastic day we had celebrating Halloween at school! It was wonderful to see so many children and staff embracing the occasion with their amazing costumes. The day began with a lively Wake Up Shake Up led by Miss Massey before children enjoyed a range of spooky games and activities throughout the afternoon. The celebrations concluded with one of our busiest school discos in recent years. We raised £1,200.00 from the School Disco. A huge thank you to our School Council for judging the pumpkin carving competition and selecting winners from so many creative entries. The competition raised £107.00 for the school fund, helping us to provide additional opportunities and experiences for our children. Winners of the pumpkin carving competition and best dressed costumes were announced during our Celebration Assembly, recognising the creativity, effort and enthusiasm shown by everyone who took part.

Byrchall Performance
On Tuesday, our Year 6 children were invited to watch a performance of *Nine to Five* at Byrchall High School. It was a fantastic production, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was especially lovely to see so many former pupils taking on leading roles and performing with such confidence and talent. The show was both entertaining and inspiring, giving our children a glimpse of the exciting opportunities that may lie ahead. We were also incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils, who represented the school brilliantly with their excellent behaviour throughout the visit.

Year 4 Roman Trip to Chester
Our Year 4 children recently enjoyed an exciting trip to Chester as part of their history learning about the Romans. During the visit, they explored the museum, dressed up as Roman soldiers and marched through the city, learning what life would have been like in the Roman fortress of Deva Victrix, one of the most important Roman military settlements in Britain. The experience brought their classroom learning to life, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of Roman Britain. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and were a credit to the school throughout the visit.

School Business Manager Appointment
Following a successful recruitment process, we are delighted to share that the school has appointed a new School Business Manager. Mrs Ashcroft will join our team in January and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the role. We are confident that she will be a fantastic addition to our school community and look forward to welcoming her to Nicol Mere.

While Mrs Ashcroft will begin working with us in January, Mrs Pugh will remain with the school until her retirement in February. Mrs Pugh has been a valued member of our team for many years, and although we are pleased to welcome Mrs Ashcroft, we know Mrs Pugh will be greatly missed when she retires. We look forward to celebrating and thanking her for her many years of dedicated service over the coming months.

Supporting The Brick: Our Harvest Collection
We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated to our Harvest collection. This week, The Brick collected the generous donations of food and toiletries from school and were incredibly grateful for the support shown by our families. Your contributions will make a real difference to people in our local area.

The Brick shared that donations often begin to decrease around the spring months, so we have committed to holding a second collection next year to continue supporting their vital work. Supporting local charities and learning about the work they do is an important part of helping children develop empathy, social responsibility and an understanding of how they can make a positive difference in their community. We are proud of the generosity shown by our school community and look forward to supporting The Brick again in the spring.

Reception Open Evening
We were delighted to welcome so many prospective families to our Reception Open Evening for the 2027-28 intake. It is always wonderful to see so many parents showing an interest in our school as they begin the important journey of choosing where their child's education will start. Selecting the right school is a significant milestone for every family, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to showcase all that our school has to offer. Children had the opportunity to explore our Early Years environment and take part in a range of exciting activities carefully planned by our experienced Early Years team. And a big shout out should go to Mrs Magee for providing a wonderful spread to fill the tummies of both children and parents. All members of the team were on hand throughout the evening to share their knowledge and answer questions from parents. School leaders were also able to talk with families about our values, ethos and the many opportunities available to our children. Overall, the evening was a huge success, and we look forward to welcoming many of these families into our school community in the future.

Prospective parents who were unable to attend, or who would like to see the school in action during the school day, are still welcome to book a visit by contacting the school office.

Black History Month Event
As part of Black History Month, children enjoyed a variety of fun activities throughout today, celebrating the achievements, culture and contributions of Black people, past and present. The event provided a valuable opportunity for everyone to learn something new, celebrate diversity and recognise the importance of inclusion and respect for all. The children had a wonderful time taking part in the range of activities and showed great enthusiasm and engagement throughout the day.

Attendance Award
A big well done to Mrs. Dunne's and Mrs. Stevenson'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:

- **Sunday 1st November-** This is the deadline to order toast for after half term. If your child would like toast, please ensure you place your order and complete payment via **Evolve** by this date.
- **Monday 2nd November-** As we approach Remembrance Day, we will be supporting the Royal British Legion by selling poppies and other remembrance accessories. These will be available to purchase on the school playground before school from 8:30am and after school from 3:20pm. Please note that payments will be cash only, and all funds raised will go directly to the Royal British Legion to support their important work. On **Wednesday 11th November**, our Year 6 children will also visit the local cenotaph to read poems and lay a wreath as a mark of respect and remembrance. Further information about this visit will be shared with Year 6 families in due course.
- **Tuesday 3rd November –** This is the deadline for returning Parent Governor ballot papers. All parents should have received their ballot papers this week. Please ensure completed ballots are placed in the ballot box in the school office before the deadline. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important process and help shape the future governance of our school.
- **Wednesday 4th November -** Year 5 Trip to Jodrell Bank. Our Year 5 children will be visiting Jodrell Bank on Wednesday 4th November as part of their Space Science learning. This exciting educational visit will give children the opportunity to explore the wonders of space, learn more about astronomy, and engage in a range of hands-on scientific activities. We look forward to hearing all about their discoveries when they return.

- **Friday 13th November-** We will be supporting **Children in Need** by taking part in a fun-filled Crazy Hair Day! We are inviting all children to come to school with their craziest hairstyles, whether that's colourful spray paint, spiky gel, wild curls or something completely out of this world! The crazier, the better! To help us raise money for this fantastic charity, we kindly ask for a £1 donation, which can be made via Evolve. Thank you for your support in helping us make a difference to children in need!

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.

A huge thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout this half term! We have lots of exciting things to look forward to, and we can't wait for another fun-filled half term together. In the meantime, we hope you all have a lovely, restful break and enjoy spending quality time with your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back soon!

Mrs. Hunter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 1st November	Deadline for ordering toast on Evolve
Monday 2nd November	Back to school
Tuesday 3rd November	Deadline for Parent Governor ballot papers
Wednesday 4th November	Y5 trip to Jodrell Bank
Wednesday 11th November	Y6 at the Cenotaph
Friday 13th November	Children in Need – Crazy Hair
Monday 16th November	Anti-Bullying Day
Friday 20th November	Y6 trip to Quarry Bank Mill
Wednesday 25th November	Y1 trip to Imagine That
Thursday 26th November	Y3/Y4 Inclusion Festival
Tuesday 1st December	Christmas Jumpers
Monday 7th December	Christmas Bingo
Tuesday 8th December	9.00am & 2.00pm Reception Nativity
Wednesday 9th December	9.00am & 2.00pm Y2 Nativity
Friday 11th December	Wigan Ukulele Performance – Y2/Y3/Y4

Monday 14th December	Polar Express Day
Tuesday 15th December	KS2 – Peter Pan (am)
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Markets
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	Whole School Singalong
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Parties (pm)
Friday 18th December	Y1 & Y2 – The Jolly Postman – am
Friday 18th December	Reception – Littlest Elf Christmas Show
Friday 18th December	Break For Christmas – 2.00pm finish

ATTENDANCE CLASS	ATTENDANCE % This week
Rec1	86.3
Rec2	90.3
Year 1D	98.7
Year 1M	98.6
Year 2B	90
Year 2C	98.6
Year 3A	94
Year 3S	100
Year 4D	98.1
Year 4R	98.2
Year 5M	96.1
Year 5C/B	98.7
Year 6K/S	93.2
Year 6L/W	95.2



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