

PTA: I hope that you all received the letter on Monday about establishing the New Islington PTA (Parent Teacher Association). For this to be effective, we need you! Our first meeting is next Friday (21st at 4pm)

Clubs: Please look out for the notification of after school clubs. The take up has been super and many clubs are over-subscribed. In these cases, there will be a half termly rotation. Other clubs that are not over-subscribed will last for the whole term. This will be clearly indicated. Please ensure a prompt pick up. Notification of lunchtime clubs is not being sent home as these are during school time. Children will be informed directly by their class teachers.

Music with the Royal Northern College of Music: There has been a positive uptake to this RNCM initiative. You will be communicating directly with Kevin Saw. Your children start their lessons next week – please check your emails so you and your child know when to expect their lesson. **He and his teachers will be giving a concert to all KS2 and any parents who wish to come along on Tuesday 25th September at 2:45pm.**

Choir: A choir for all Key Stage 2 children (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) starts on Tuesday 25th September. It starts at 8am prompt. There is no need to sign up – just come along. But please commit to it, rather than dipping in and out.

Secondary School Choices: Please come along to the Roadshow on 26th September. Ten schools – both independent and maintained, will be represented and I will be available to answer questions. This is open to all KS2 parents, but I would urge Year 5&6 parents in particular to attend.

Primary School Places: Now is the time for parents to start thinking about their little ones starting school in the Reception classes September 2019. I will be giving individual tours – please spread the word about how amazing our school is!

The school day: Hopefully your children are coming home buzzing about their day and eager to return the next day! They will be talking to you about new initiatives:

- **Breakfast Challenges:** Every moment counts in a school day, so every teacher sets an age appropriate, interesting and purposeful 'breakfast challenge' for the children to complete between 8:50 when the doors open, and 9:00 when the doors shut and the register is taken. Lessons start promptly at 9:00. This is why we are tracking late arrivals – every moment counts.
- **New Islington Reads:** This is a new addition to the timetable. It is vital that all children are exposed to quality, age appropriate texts. To this end, from 1:10 to 1:25 the whole school sits back and enjoys the pure pleasure of being read to. The teachers have chosen high quality books to read to their class, to develop ambitious vocabulary, creativity and imagination - already the feedback has been so very positive.
- **New Islington Moves:** An afternoon break has been introduced, to provide an opportunity to refresh our brains and to be active. We get the whole school moving and shaking together!

- PPA Time: It is a legal requirement that teachers are given time out of the classroom for planning, preparation and assessment. When the teachers are out of the class, we have employed specialist teachers to lead the learning. Madame Robinson will teach French, Miss Smith will teach music and Mr Hyman will teach outdoor games.
- Lunchtimes: We now employ three additional sports coaches at lunchtime, to supervise children on the Mini MUGA, as well as having focussed activities on the playground- dance and ball skills. The time of the lunchbreak has been simplified so all children have the same break (12:00 to 1:10)
- Assemblies: In order for assemblies to be age appropriate, and therefore interesting, we have Key Stage assemblies during the week, just before morning break. On a Wednesday, each class holds a 'Celebration Assembly' to share the great things going on in their class and to celebrate the successes of the children both in and out of school.

Baby news: Mrs Bailey (EYFS teacher) had a beautiful baby girl on Saturday 8th September – welcome to Ella Grace.

Thank you to Mancsy: Magically, Manchester's very own artist Mancsy – known for monthly limited edition screenprints - has delivered to our door a stunning print of and for our school. Mancsy; whoever you are, we thank you!



Days and Dates:

New events will be indicated in **bold and underlined**.

Week beginning	Event
17 th September	Teacher run clubs start this week <u>Tuesday 18th: Year 5 – The Aliens are coming! (See letter sent this week)</u> <u>Tuesday 18th: RNCM Music lessons start</u> <u>Friday 21st: Closing date for nominations and supporting statements for Parent Governor role</u> Friday 21 st : PTA meeting @ 4:00 (see letter from Monday 10 th)
24 th September	Monday 24 th – Wednesday 26 th : Year 6 Residential <u>Tuesday 25th: Music concert performed by the RNCM teachers. Open to any parent. 2:45pm start.</u> Tuesday 25 th : Weekly KS2 Choir starts @ 8:00 <u>Wednesday 26th: Collaboration with MGS art department begins – a weekly session with boys and staff working alongside our pupils to create a 50m long mural on the Upper Key Stage Two corridor, reflecting the local heritage.</u> Wednesday 26 th : Secondary School Road Show 6:00 to 7:30 – for parents of children in Years 4,5&6 to get a flavour of your Secondary School options. (A letter was sent out in July about this event) <u>Thursday 27th: Ballot papers for Parent Governor role sent out</u> Friday 28 th : EYFS parent Forum @9:00 – a Q&A opportunity for our new parents who have children in our Reception classes
1 st October	<u>Tuesday 2nd: Final date for Parent Governor vote – voting closes at 12 noon</u> Tuesday 2 nd : Sign up goes live for EYFS parents evening – more details to follow Thursday 4 th : National Poetry Day – we have the poet Dominic Berry coming in, who will work with our Key Stage Two children. More details to follow; we will be asking for a voluntary contribution of £2:80 to cover his assembly and workshop costs.
8 th October	Wednesday 10 th October: World's Biggest Coffee Morning @ 9 – 10am

	Friday 12 th : Year 6 cake sale @ 3:30 (PTA event)
15 th October	<p>Monday 15th: EYFS Workshop – the Enormous Turnip. There will be a cost of about £7:00 for this. Further details to follow.</p> <p>Monday 15th: Sign up goes live online for parents evening Years 1-6. Tuesday: STEM event led by a Biomedical Imaging Scientist for 10 children and their parents in Years 5&6, from 3:30 to 4:30 (More details to follow) Tuesday 16th / Wednesday 17th: EYFS Parents Evening Thursday 18th: Year 4 to MGS for ‘AHOY’ – parents are invited to a concert at Manchester Grammar School in the early evening. More details and timings to come. Friday 19th: Harvest festival @ 9:15</p>
22 nd October	Half term holiday week
29 th October	<p>WHOLE SCHOOL AUTHOR STUDY</p> <p>Monday 29th: Year 3 Stone Age Workshop. There will be a cost of about £7:00. More details to follow</p> <p>Friday 2nd: Disco EYFS and KS1 @ 6:00/ KS2 @ 7:15 (PTA event)</p>
5 th November	Wednesday 6 th / Thursday 7 th : parents Evening @ 3:30 / 5:00
12 th November	<p>Tuesday 13th: Autumn Term Parent Forum @ 9:00 – a Q&A session for all parents Friday 16th: Children in Need day – more details to follow</p>
19 th November	<p>Friday 23rd: Myths and Legends workshops for Year 2. There will be a cost of about £7:00 per child. Details to follow</p> <p>Friday 23rd: Year 5 cake sale @ 3:30 (PTA event)</p>
26 th November	
3 rd December	<p>Tuesday 4th / Wednesday 5th : EYFS nativity @ 9:30 Thursday 6th: Panto for whole school am/pm</p>
10 th December	<p>No teacher run clubs after school this week Tuesday 11th / Wednesday 12th: KS1 nativity @ 9:30 Friday 14th: Christmas fair (PTA event)</p>
17 th December	<p>No teacher run clubs after school this week Christmas parties this week Tuesday 18th: KS2 carols at Halle St Michaels @ 6:30 Friday 21st: Finish for the holidays</p>