



### **Message from John Manley (Chair of Governors)**

How time flies! No sooner do we seem to have come back to school after the summer break than our attention turns to Christmas! This autumn term has been an exciting one in the history of our school. We welcomed Mr Smith as our new Head Teacher and the governing body have been delighted to work with him and understand his vision for improving the school further.

We have seen a much bigger profile on the school's Facebook page; keeping parents updated on the activities and achievements (of which there are many) of all the children. There have been material changes around the school that have seen the library moved to a better location that is much more user friendly, plans in place to set up a dedicated computer room and we are currently looking at improving the entrance to the school.

The school received a very generous donation of £2500 from Mossgate nursery that has helped swell the variety of reading material for the children in the library and we thank them for that. Most importantly, the staff determination and dedication to providing the children with the best opportunities they can remains unwavering and as governors we are delighted about that.

So as the term comes towards an end, it only remains for me, on behalf of the governing body, to wish parents, staff and our children a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

John Manley - Chair of Governors

### **Termly Reports and Parents' Evening**

Regular and honest communication between home and schools is important and ensures that we are **'working together to achieve success'** for every child at Mossgate Primary School.

Termly reports have historically been sent home to parents providing a brief snapshot of attainment, progress, attendance and punctuality as well as listing next steps in English and Maths. Instead of sending out an autumn and spring end of term report, I want to replace these with additional parents' evening. These will provide parents with quality information about their child and the opportunity to ask class teachers questions and discuss any concerns.

Parents can **book an appointment using the school's app** (search for School Spider in the app store) for **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** between **3:00 and 7:20pm**. Please contact the school office if you have difficulties using the app.

**If your child has additional needs (SEND or a CAF/TAF), they need to book an appointment direct with the class teacher during the w/c Mon 14<sup>th</sup> January. Mrs Boswell (SENDCo) will also be available on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January and happy to attend the meeting with class teachers.**

## Meet the Governor - Colin Hartley

**How did you become involved with Mossgate?** After taking early retirement I knew that I would have some time and I wanted to help in the community. Education is so important – it's the building block for everything so I wanted to get involved. I had heard that schools were always looking for governors and that they were essential for their running/development so I contacted Lancashire County Council. They suggested four local schools. I spent some time looking at the Mossgate website and was 'blown away' by what it was achieving. I wanted to be part of this to help its continued success. I applied and was accepted and have not regretted it for one second. Mossgate is fantastic!

**How long have you been a governor at Mossgate?** Since 2013

**What is the most enjoyable part of being a governor?** I'm not going to pick just one.

- Coming into school to see some very well behaved and hardworking children in class (of course).
- Seeing special events such as themed assemblies which the children have planned and presented.
- Speaking to the dedicated staff and hearing about the school's achievements.
- Last but not least, seeing some small people arrive each year in Reception and knowing they will leave Year 6 confident, well prepared and ready to face the challenges of secondary school.



## Home reading

After the Christmas break, we will be celebrating children who meet their home reading targets by displaying their photo on the classroom door. In KS2, we will also be recognising those who go above and read more than 5, 6 and even 7 times a week.

We are making a slight change to KS2, and now asking that children read a minimum of 3x times a week instead of 30 pages or a book each week. This will make it simpler to monitor home reading in school and celebrate those who are reading on a regular basis. Please support your child at home by listening to them read, even if they are in the juniors, and by checking they understand unfamiliar vocabulary and ask them questions about the text.

Next term we will be introducing **Accelerated Reader** which is an online system to support home reading. It allows us to match closely the different books in school (reading scheme, class reading books and library books) to each pupil. When children have read a book they can then complete a short comprehension quiz linked to the text and earn points. The online systems allows us to track progress and support or challenge children further.

## Times Table Rockstars

We will be introducing Times Tables Rockstars in the new year which will support children in learning their times tables and associated division facts in a fun and competitive way. It can be accessed online using a range of devices allowing children to will compete against their friends and other schools. At the end of this month our subscription to Mathletics will end due to rising costs (nearly £1000 per year) and low usage levels across the school.



## Welcome Mr Houghton

Mr Houghton will be supporting in Y4. He has previously taught at two local schools and will bring many skills and years of experience to the Mossgate team.

## School entrance redesign

We have been looking at ways to improve the school entrance so that it is larger, brighter and more inviting for parents and visitors. I would like to thank Mr Manley (Chair of Governors) for working on the designs at no cost to the school and also to Alan Wiley (structural engineer) for also providing his expertise and advice for free. The proposed work will be funded using government funds which can only be spent on maintaining and improving the school building.

## Spring Term After School Clubs

All clubs start WC Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January and the last week of clubs will be WC Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March. All clubs start at 2:45pm and finish at 3:45pm. **Please sign up using the school's app.** The **closing date is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December.** (Search for School Spider in the app store.) Club Places are very limited for health and safety reasons and places will be offered as fairly as possible.

	Club	Year Groups	Number of places	Collect from
Monday	<b>Big Apparatus</b>	Years 1-2	30 children	Year 1
	<b>Cookery</b>	Years 3-4	12 children	Breakfast Room
	<b>Homework club</b>			

Tuesday	<b>Football</b>	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	30 children	Year 2
	<b>Computer Club</b>	Years 3-6	20 children	Year 5
	<b>Netball Club</b>	Years 5-6	30 children	Year 6
	<b>Recorder Club</b>	Year 3	No limit	Year 3
	<b>Hama Beads Club</b>	Years 1-2	15 children	Breakfast Room
	<b>Story Telling Club</b>	Invite Only	Invite Only	

Wednesday	<b>Music Club</b>	Children have signed up already		Library
	<b>Science Club</b>	Year 3	15 children	

Thursday	<b>Maths Group</b>	Invite Only		Year 4
	<b>Change 4 Life</b>	Children have signed up already		Year 2

Friday	<b>Whole school Keep Fit Friday</b> 8am start until 8:30am	Children must be here by 8:15 to join in and are allowed to come to school in sports clothes. Please note children will not be allowed in sports clothes if they don't attend the club.		
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Children in Physical Activity Clubs need their P.E. kit. If your child doesn't have their PE kit, they will not be allowed to come to the club.

When signing up to a club you are committing them to attend every week. If your child doesn't want to come to a club, please send a letter so we can take their name off the register and allocate the place to another child.

Regards, Mr Thwaites (Deputy Headteacher and PE Subject Leader)

## Reception stay & play and sharing learning journeys



Thank you to all of the Reception parents who joined us on Thursday to celebrate their child's learning.

## Online payments to school with ParentPay

After the Christmas break we will be introducing a more convenient way to pay for school meals, trips and much more online, using a secure service called ParentPay. **When you pay using ParentPay, you also provide parental consent for the activity which will remove the need to send in a separate consent form for most activities.**



ParentPay will be live at school on 8<sup>th</sup> January; from this date we will be working towards no longer accepting cash and cheque payments, making the school a cash-free environment. Parents who need to continue making payments by cash may do so using the PayPoint network at local convenience stores.

### Making secure payments online using your credit or debit card

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

You will have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password; you will be prompted to change these, and to keep them safe and secure. If you have more than one child at our school, or children at other ParentPay schools, you can create a single account login for all your children.



Making a payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view at a later date; no card details are stored in any part of the system. Once you have activated your account you can make online payments straight away.

### Using PayPoint

PayPoint payments are recorded by ParentPay and can be seen by logging into your ParentPay account and viewing your payment history online. The nearest PayPoint stores to school are Tarnbrook Stores and Spar - Tibicar Service Station.

Please notify the school office if you wish to use the PayPoint facility. A plastic card will be issued to you to make cash payments for school meals at local PayPoint stores. The first card is free of charge; however, any lost or damaged cards will be charged at £1.50 each. Replacement payment cards take about two weeks to arrive but we can issue a barcode letter as an interim measure.

Trip and activity information letters will carry a unique barcode which will allow you to make cash payments at your local PayPoint store.

We hope you will support us in achieving our goal to become a cashless school and reduce the workload on our staff. Your support in using ParentPay will help the school enormously, thank you.

<b>Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	2:45pm School closes for Christmas
<b>Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	School reopens for children
<b>Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	More Music in this half term to work with EYFS & Y1 every Weds afternoon
<b>Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Football competition at Mossgate Astroturf
<b>Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Lego League Team competition at UCLAN
<b>Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	5:15pm Governors meeting – School Improvement Committee
<b>Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	6-7pm Friends of Mossgate planning meeting for Valentines Disco
<b>Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Academy photography in taking photos of children learning
<b>Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Y6 visiting Heysham Library
<b>Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Judo demonstration introducing new Judo after school club
<b>Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Y5 visiting Heysham Library
<b>Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Y4 visiting Heysham Library
<b>Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	Y3 visiting Heysham Library
<b>Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	Y2 visiting Heysham Library
<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Y1 visiting Heysham Library
<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	School being used as a polling station – changes to KS2 arrangements
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Friends of Mossgate Valentines Disco
<b>Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	School closes for February break
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	School re-opens following February break

