



Kerr Mackie 'Magic News'

March 2018 Issue

Together Everyone Achieves More

Kerr Mackie Learners...
'Can be, can do, can change, can achieve'

Headteacher Update

What a lovely way to end a really busy Spring term by filling the school with brightly coloured dressed children and staff and an array of amazing designs for our Easter competitions! Huge congratulations to every child that entered and of course well done to the winners across school.

Thank goodness the snow appears to have drifted away (fingers crossed) as its impact has been significant and concerning for families as well as staff and governors. Thank you for all your support and understanding with the difficult times that we experienced.

Fundraising seems to have dominated the term, for many wonderful causes, so please accept our heartfelt thanks for your kind donations. The PSA met with us this week to finalise the plan from their fundraising. After lots of thorough research by them it looks hopeful that the outdoor environment will improve for our children soon which is brilliant news and hugely appreciated by the staff and governors. The PSA have also kindly agreed to contribute to our emerging new school library so thank you to you all for that too.

This term as you know saw the re-emergence of Ofsted which we were delighted to say confirmed that Kerr Mackie is a GOOD school. I hope you have had chance to read the letter we received where you will read about the many strengths that were acknowledged and also see the targets we have been set for sustained improvement. Leaders and Governors have continued monitoring and evaluating the impact of our work against the School Development Plan which has been revised post Ofsted. This will be uploaded on the website after Easter following a few adjustments at the full Governing Body meeting on Tuesday this week so please have a read of that too and share any feedback.

When we return to school after the Easter holidays the children in Year 2 and Year 6 will continue their preparation for SATs and Teacher Assessments so please continue to ensure that your child comes to school calm, confident and positive, ready to learn and achieve (which they definitely are already doing), having completed all their home learning which will support them further.

Finally, the staff team and I wish you all a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 16th April.

Jennifer Millington
Headteacher

Governor Update

It's been another busy term for everyone at Kerr Mackie. Ofsted came to the school for a one-day inspection on 31st January, which was our first Ofsted inspection since 2012. The Governors were very pleased that Ofsted concluded that Kerr Mackie remains a "Good" school, which is testament to the hard work of all staff in school. In her letter, <http://kerrmackie-primary-school.org.uk/attachments/article/13/Kerr%20Mackie%20Primary%20Final%20Letter%20Short%20Inspection%2031.1.18.pdf> the Ofsted Inspector acknowledges what has been achieved over the past 18 months. The Governors would like to wholeheartedly thank Mrs Millington and all the staff for all their hard work.

We know that many parents provided comments to the Ofsted inspector online or via text message. We very much appreciate the time taken to provide this feedback at very short notice on the day of the inspection. As Governors, we continue to welcome any feedback which parents have on any aspect of school life.

The Inspector also identified areas where further actions needs to be taken to ensure the changes made are embedded and have an impact, in order to ensure that the pupils benefit from the best possible education. These actions also include feedback on how we, as a governing body, can be more effective in supporting and challenging the senior leadership team as the school continues on its journey of continual improvement.

As a Governing body, we are working closely with Mrs Millington and the leadership team in the school to ensure that they have the resources required to embed the progress made to date and continue to make improvements into the future. In addition, we are also working with Mrs Millington to ensure that Governors have the right information and data available to properly hold the leadership team to account on behalf of parents and pupils.

April and May is when the school budget is set for the new financial year 2018/2019 and the Governors are already working with the school on what the budget will look like. The financial outlook continues to remain challenging, as it does across the education sector. The Governing body continues to work with Mrs Millington and the Senior Leadership team to ensure that the resources we have are deployed in order to have maximum impact on outcomes for the children. We will provide an update on the budget when it has been finalised towards the end of this academic year.

The Governors would like to wish everyone a happy break over the holiday period and come back in April energised for the summer term.

Richard McGinn,
Governor

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Summer		Wednesday 6 th September 2017
Autumn mid-term	Friday 20 th October 2017	Monday 30 th October 2017
Christmas	Friday 15 th December 2017	Tuesday 2 nd January 2018
Spring mid-term	Friday 9 th February 2018	Monday 19 th February 2018
Easter	Thursday 29 th March 2018	Monday 16 th April 2018
May bank holiday	Friday 4 th May 2018	Tuesday 8 th May 2018
Summer mid-term	Friday 25 th May 2018	Monday 4 th June 2018
Summer	Friday 20 th July 2018	

Training Days for 2017-18 are:

- Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th July 2018

Events	
28.03.18	Dine In The Dark Exhibition
18.04.18 & 19.04.18	Parent's evening for all years
29.03.18	Easter and Bright Colours Day
02.05.18	Year 2 trip to The Deep Hull

Office Reminders

After School Club deadlines

As we are launching the new clubs after the Easter holiday, we would like to remind all parents that once the deadline has passed for after school clubs, we will not be able to add your child to the club. If the club is not full we will extend the deadline so that you can put your child's name down. Once any extended deadlines have passed we will be unable to accept any more on the clubs. Children are added to clubs on a first come, first serve basis so please bring your slips in ASAP.

Please may we ask that when the weather improves, that parents wait outside until the clubs' finish at 4:30pm.

Free School Meals

Did you know that you may be eligible to receive FREE school meals? This is a great opportunity for your child to receive a healthy hot dinner each day without the hassle of having to think what to put in a packed lunch. To check your eligibility and apply for free school meals please follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

KS1 children are ALL entitled to FREE school meals – please see the attached poster.

Gate Pin

Please remember to pick up the pin for the gate if you are leaving the school site after the gates have closed.

Gate Opening Times

The main gate opens at 8:30am and closes at 9:15am. Please use the top gate before and after these times. If you are dropping your child off late, please remember to sign them in on the machine.

Fun Run

This year's **Roundhay Schools Run for Fun** will take place on **May 12th**. This is an annual event held in Roundhay Park involving Kerr Mackie Primary and joins 10 other local primary schools. Up to 1000 runners (pupils and their families) join together for a fun morning with the option of running either 1km and/or 5km. Whilst the emphasis is on an enjoyable community activity which promotes healthy exercise, Kerr Mackie PSA also receives £500 in sponsorship and entry fees. Look out for further information and entry forms to follow shortly. Come along and Run 4 Fun!

Influencing Travel Behaviour

A recent survey which was taken outside one school in Leeds highlights the importance of wearing seatbelts. View the survey via the following link:

<https://saferroadsleeds.wordpress.com/2018/03/27/the-importance-of-wearing-a-seatbelt>

Herd Farm

Please can we remind all Year 6 parents that your remaining balance for the Herd Farm residential is due by 15th April.

Happy Easter

The office team would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter. Enjoy the break!

Attendance

As always, Kerr Mackie focusses on attendance and strives to stay above the national average of 96%.

This half term our attendance is 94.5%. Since the start of September until now, we remain below the national average at only 94.8%. Please help support our attendance aims so that we can come in line with the national average next half term.

Please also make sure your child arrives at school on time, ready for registration.

Well done to all the 100% and 95% achievers this term. Certificates will be given out on the last day of term. Well done!!

Last Day of Term

School closes at 3.25pm on Thursday 29th March 2018 and reopens on Monday 16th March 2018, 8.45am.

Maths Focus

We have been investing in our resources for the children to use within maths lessons to help deepen their understanding and to help support their reasoning and problem solving in maths. The children will be able to access these in all maths lessons.

So that we can spend more money on the resources, we are putting out a plea for any unused plastic rectangular containers like the ones you can get from take away restaurants. If you do have any of these please could you leave them at the school office. We would be ever so grateful.

Thank you,
Miss Simmons

World Book Day

We celebrated an extremely successful World Book Day at Kerr Mackie and managed to raise £285 to go towards the new School Library.

Thank you to all of those parents and carers who gave up their time to organise their child's costume and especially to those who gave up their time to read with the children in school.

THANK YOU!
Mrs Pascoe

Year 6 Events

Year 6 visit to GSAL to see Oliver

On Tuesday 6th March, Year 6 were lucky enough to be invited to GSAL to watch their production of Oliver! The children enjoyed the experience greatly and were treated to a fabulous performance of singing, dancing and acting. The Kerr Mackie children were great ambassadors for the school and we are grateful to GSAL for this opportunity.

Year 6 WW2 Veteran visitors

On the 76th anniversary of the 'Leeds Blitz', Year 6 were greatly honoured to welcome two World War 2 veterans into school. Mr Richardson and Mrs Hollings, both in their 90s and both former members of anti-aircraft gun crews, enthralled us with their stories of life during the war. This Age UK project, of

which Kerr Mackie is the first school to be involved, aims to re-establish the social connection between generations and to capture the first-hand memories of life during the war. The children were captivated by the energy and enthusiasm of Mr Richardson and Mrs Hollings who were able to make this period of history come alive through their stories. We are hoping to continue this relationship with Age UK and hope to do some WW2 baking later in the year. Watch this space!

Healthy School

30:30 Challenge

Well done to the 12 children who achieved their Bronze wristbands last term. If your child didn't quite make it then we are giving the pupils another opportunity now that the weather is better (hopefully) and we have lighter nights. The challenge will start during the first week back and they will have 38 days (from the start date) to complete the challenge. COME ON Kerr Mackie we can do better than 12! For those children who were successful then they will be encouraged to go for silver. GOOD LUCK everyone!!

Packed Lunch Policy

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the meeting, it was great to see so many people who are passionate about food in school. No decisions have yet been made regarding what we would like parents/carers to include in their child's packed lunch but we hope to set up a working party so these decisions can be made in partnership with you. If you couldn't attend then you will find the information shared on the school website with some helpful tips for providing a healthy packed lunch.

Kind regards,
Mrs Hunt

Diversity Week

Diversity Week commences on Monday 11th June. This is to celebrate each and every one of our pupils here at Kerr Mackie.

Easter Competitions

Well done to all our children who entered the Easter Egg and Easter Bonnet competitions. We had some fantastic displays – a great effort from all.

