

KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

13th February 2015



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

Where does the time go? When we return on February 23rd we will already be half way through this academic year.

The pupils have done us proud this year, with many successes, including sport, Mathematics, learning exhibitions and concerts. I have been particularly impressed with the quality of learning children are doing at home with their learning logs. I have seen models of robots, the Cairngorms in Scotland and paintings and models about Australia to name just a few. It shows just how much children are enjoying the projects we teach at Kerr Mackie and how enthusiastic they are. Thank you for the encouragement and support you give your child/children.

All the changes brought in by the coalition government that had to be implemented at the same time (September 2014) brought us many challenges. We have had to implement a completely new national curriculum, completely new assessment system, as all previous assessment systems have been removed across the country, new procedures for pupils with SEN, universal free school meals, and frequent changes to the Ofsted framework. I am proud of how well we have risen to the challenge of implementing these changes this academic year. There will be a few 'hiccups' along the way, as there always are with new systems, but we are always reviewing and revising to further improve learning at Kerr Mackie.

I would like to say thank you on behalf of all the staff at Kerr Mackie for the fantastic feedback we received at the parents' evening this week. So many people recognised how hard all the staff work, not just at school but in the evenings as well when marking books and planning for the next day. It is very much appreciated. Below are just a few of the comments parents made:

- Very informative with a good understanding and guide to further learning and obtaining tasks.
- Teacher explained my son's levels very well and helped me to find how to improve his level. We agreed to send more worksheets home and join some clubs in the school.
- The teacher was absolutely supportive/good advice and very helpful. Felt much better and it gave me a clear vision to help my child in her education for the future.
- It was really useful to understand the levels and how my children are doing according to that system. Very useful meetings!
- Very impressed by our daughters progress and the dedication of the teachers. Our daughters' teachers have an excellent understanding of her levels in all subjects. Thank you to all for making school so enjoyable for our daughters.
- Great feedback. Clear expectations of where I can go next to move child on.
- Detailed feedback – teacher obviously knows him well and is setting suitably challenging work – very happy.

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

CURRICULUM

YEAR 2

"We went to the O2 shop in the White Rose Centre to celebrate and learn about Safer Internet Day. When we arrived they set up a 'Safe Bot' with flashing lights. A while after we all made 'Safe Bots' and we wrote safety messages on the bottom like "Do not talk to strangers on the internet". It was fun learning about Internet Day."

Written by Gopal Cheema and Gracie Hone in Year 2 Maple.

YEAR 5 POLICE PATROL

"This week we went outside school with the police looking for people who park on the yellow zig zags or white lines. We split into three groups with three police men and women. We found 21 people parking in the wrong places. We told them about fines and gave them a ticket we had designed. We did it because someone might get hurt if this dangerous parking continues."

Written by James Clark, Keona Liburd-Maynard and Hamza Qaisar in Year 5.

INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

The attendance per class for the period 26th January to 6th February is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	89.8%	Alder	98%	Holly	98.7%
Willow	93.5%	Rowan	98.5%	Cherry	97.7%
Oak	90%	Cedar	98.7%		
Sycamore	93.1%	Lime	98.5%		
Maple	93.6%	Larch	98%		
Spruce	93.5%	Lilac	98.2%		

SCHOOL CROSSING

Leeds City Council has vacancies in this area, including Kerr Mackie, for School Crossing Patrol Wardens. There are variable hours available. For more information please telephone 3781829.

SCHOOL DINNER ACCOUNTS

Please can we remind all parent/carers that dinner accounts should be maintained with a credit balance. We have a number of children in Years 1 and 2 who have arrears from the last academic year. Although you now qualify for free school meals we do need the arrears clearing on their accounts. Your urgent attention to this matter would be appreciated. All dinner accounts need to be in credit by 31st March as this is our financial year end. If you need to know how much is owing please ask a member of the office staff for assistance. Thank you.

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

We are now collecting the vouchers issued by Sainsburys for the above campaign. Please drop your vouchers into the box by the office and help us to get some free items for sport.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Please can we remind parents/carers that school closes for the summer holiday on Tuesday 21st July 2015 and re-opens on Wednesday 2nd September 2015. This is in line with Roundhay High School but will be different to most other schools in Leeds. A copy of the letter regarding this is available to view on our school website.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Reminder: Tempest Photography will be in school on Tuesday 24th February to take the class photographs for the whole school.

RED NOSES

Red noses will be on sale for £1 each from Monday 2nd March. On Friday 13th March we would like everyone to wear spotted or striped clothing for a £1 donation to Comic Relief. The official Red Nose Day theme is 'make your face funny for money' so please also feel free to paint/decorate your face. Let's raise huge amounts of money for this fantastic cause!

SPORT

6-A-SIDE FUTSAL TOURNAMENT

On 30th January, Joe, Toby, Louis, Zoe, Harry and Joash went to Leeds International Futsal Arena to play a 6-a-side tournament. In our first game we won 2-1 with the goal scorers Harry then Toby. Winning 3-0 in our second match, then drawing 0-0 in our final group match meant Joash only conceded 1 goal. Because we won 2 and drew 1 we got through to the quarter finals. Unfortunately, we lost 1-0 in the quarter final, but the team we lost to, were the eventual winners of the competition, St Theresa's.

ROUNDHAY 5-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

On 31st January, 6 children, Joash, Harry, Joe, Charlie, Louis and Toby went to Roundhay to play a 5-a-side tournament. In the first game we won an impressive 3-1 with a hat-trick from Harry. We then lost our second game and drew our third before winning our 4th which took us to penalties. Finally in the penalty shoot-out we narrowly lost.

RUGBY

Kerr Mackie's rugby team had a very successful away match against St Theresa's on Friday 6th February. We won 17-2. Nearly every team member managed to score a try, with Pharrell being the top try scorer with 5 tries. We worked well as a team and this is reflected in the score. Thanks to the parents who came and supported us.
By Pharrell Parker and Smeeh Hanif

BASKETBALL

"On Tuesday 27th January, Ben from Leeds Force Basketball Team visited Kerr Mackie for the afternoon to teach the year 4's some new basketball skills. It was an afternoon filled with amazing tips. Ben taught us how to dribble the ball and keep it under control. We also learnt how to pivot and pass. He taught us lots of tips like to show 'ten' when receiving the ball and to always keep it under waist height. Overall it was fantastic! Thank you Leeds Force for a great afternoon."
By Hannah Currie and Izzy Best in Year 4 Lime.

PSA

BAG-2-SCHOOL

Please donate your unwanted textiles.
Our next Bag-2-School collection will be on Thursday 19th March. Bags will be sent home at the beginning of March. You can include men's, women's and children's clothing, paired shoes, bags, hats, scarves, ties, jewellery, belts, underwear and soft toys. Please help raise funds for our school by returning any of these unwanted items in the bag provided (or any other suitable bag). Please place your bags outside school by the office by 9am on Thursday 19th March.

REMINDER:

**School closes today until Monday 23rd February.
There will be no after school clubs on Monday 23rd February and
Tuesday 3rd March due to staff training.**