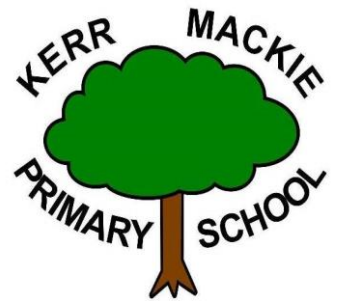


KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

15th January 2015



Dear Parent/Carer,

As this is our first newsletter of 2015, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a very happy new year.

During the recent training day, a large version of Kerr Mackie's Children's Charter was erected in the school hall and is now a permanent display. It illustrates the five elements of school life the children at Kerr Mackie thought were really important:

- Respect
- Learning
- Resources
- Health
- Equality

The charter is also displayed in each classroom, please take a look if you manage to get the chance. The charter is regularly referred to in school assemblies and lessons in the classroom. The children's charter can be found on the news section of our school website if you would like to read it.

This half term we are also focussing in assemblies and class on the characteristics of an effective learner e.g. concentration. Staff will discuss what we mean by concentration, what it may look like and why it is important. They will observe and comment on how well the children are concentrating e.g. you have achieved your learning because you really concentrated. Please check your emails next week for a couple of activities children can try at home to develop their concentration.

All the children have started their new projects this term and it was lovely to see how many children had done some work during the holidays e.g. a model of the Cairngorms in Scotland, and models of robots. I hope you have managed to find time to read your child's curriculum newsletter as this will tell you about their new project and the maths, reading and writing that your child will be covering this term. The current curriculum newsletters can be found on the school website under the relevant year group page. Thank you also to the high number of parents/carers who have commented so positively on the classroom learning environment. They all look fantastic and it is lovely to know how much parents/carers appreciate the significant amount of time and effort the staff have made.

We will be posting photographs of all the classrooms next week as well as some of the children's fantastic home learning that they have completed.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter, as you can see, there is a lot happening.

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

CURRICULUM

CRICKET IN THE CLASSROOM

"On Thursday 8th January some Yr 5 & 6 pupils went on a school trip to Headingley Cricket Ground. When we arrived we had to sit down in a room and listen to a man talk about the ground, which was interesting. We learnt that if a cricketer hits the ball into the crowd you can't keep it – so unfair but it is logical! After he had talked we all went into another room and did a quiz using a special remote about the things he had talked about. We got 83% which meant we had beaten other schools and were top of the table. We visited the room where the BBC and photographers sit when there is a match on and we were allowed into a special room that is just for the VIP people like the royals and pop stars. We also played games of bench ball, cricket, and a few other games. After lunch we did another quiz but it was different, it was very active and fun finding the answers! We really enjoyed the cricket activities and learnt lots of new skills. We wish we could go on more trips like this – it was the best!"

Written by Ateeq Lal in Cherry and Edie Joyce-Hill in Larch.

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THIS TERM

Friday 23 rd January	Wear your smart clothes to school for Water Aid. £1 donation required.	
Tuesday 27 th January	Year 6 residential meeting for parents	6pm in the classroom
Wednesday 11 th February	Parents evening	No after school clubs
Thursday 12 th February	Parents evening	No after school clubs
Friday 13 th February	School closes for half term	
Monday 23 rd February	School re-opens	No after school clubs
Tuesday 24 th February	Tempest photographers taking class photographs	
Thursday 26 th February & Friday 27 th February	Year 4 bikeability training on the playgrounds	
w/b 2 nd March	Year 6 bikeability training all week on the playground	
Tuesday 3 rd March	No after school clubs	
Friday 13 th March	Red nose day	Details to follow
Tuesday 31 st March	Easter egg competition	Details to follow
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes for Easter	

ATTENDANCE

The attendance per class for the period 15th December to 9th January is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	90.2%	Alder	94.1%	Holly	97.1%
Willow	94.4%	Rowan	93.1%	Cherry	94.6%
Oak	95%	Cedar	93.4%		
Sycamore	96.4%	Lime	95.9%		
Maple	96.9%	Larch	96.9%		
Spruce	94.1%	Lilac	95.4%		

BREAKFAST CLUB

We do have a few places available for breakfast club. If you are interested please see Mrs Cambridge or Mrs Lal or telephone the school office on 3368499.

CHARITY SUPPORT

This year the children of Kerr Mackie have decided to raise money for two additional charities, as well as supporting Red Nose Day and Children in Need as we have in previous years. One of the new charities is a global charity called WaterAid - an international charity that transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation. The other is a local charity – St Gemma's Hospice who provide specialist medical and nursing care for people with life threatening illnesses, predominantly cancer. The school council have come up with a few ideas to raise money for these charities. The first fundraising event will be 'a smart day' on Friday 23rd January where all pupils are asked to dress up smartly i.e. Wedding/Eid or party clothes. The donation will be £1.00 which will be sent to WaterAid. Later this year we will raise some money for St Gemma's Hospice. Thank you for your continued support with all our charity work.

PUPIL SIGN IN SYSTEM BY THE OFFICE

Please can we remind parents/carers that if you need to use the computer to sign your child in or out during the day their **full** name and class should be entered. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.