

# KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 16th December 2015



Dear Parent/Carer,

As always, the last few weeks of the term have been very busy, but really enjoyable. It has been a privilege to be able to watch how well our youngest children performed in their Christmas play and some of our oldest children singing at our "Big Switch on" and at the two local residential homes. It is hard to believe that the children in Reception have only been at school one term. They performed with such confidence and enthusiasm.

It has also felt quite strange for me, as this will be the last Christmas I spend at Kerr Mackie Primary School. So, as much as I enjoyed watching all the performances, I also felt a sense of sadness.

I would like to thank the many parents and carers who wrote such lovely comments in our visitors book after each performance, and year group exhibitions.

Here are just a few examples;

**Nursery Concert** – Excellent concert, everyone was brilliant. Well done to the staff for all your hard work. It brought a tear to my eye.

**Reception Nativity** – It was brilliant, I loved it.

**Year 1 and 2 Nativity** - What an amazing performance, the best one I have seen.

**Years 3, 4 and 5 Big Switch on** - A lovely concert, Miss Honwell always gets the best singing from the children. The teachers and children really enjoyed reading your comments.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Ronicle,  
Headteacher

[Dates for your diary are below;](#)

### December

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – School closes

### January

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – Training Day

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 - Training Day

School re-opens Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Recorder/Guitar lessons start back week 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – After school clubs start

### February

School closes Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Half term

School Opens Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016

### March

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 - World Book Day

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – Sports Relief

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 – Easter Egg competition

School closed Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – Good Friday

School closed Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – Easter Monday

School opens Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### April

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – School closes

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – After school clubs finish

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – Training Day

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – School opens

NEWSLETTER

## CURRICULUM

### **Jorvik Viking Centre**

On the 30th of November both Year 4 classes went to York to visit the Jorvik Viking Centre. It was a rainy day and we had an extra-long walk from the coach to the centre because the river had flooded! Once we arrived, we became archaeologists and dug up some Viking artefacts and then found out which bones belong to humans and which belong to animals. After we had lunch, we took part in a battle-tactics workshop where we got to try some Viking weapons and learn how they used their shields to defeat their enemies. We then went to the Jorvik Viking centre and had a ride in a time-capsule which took us around a Viking settlement. We saw lots of exciting and interesting artefacts and we had nice comments from all of the staff saying how well-mannered and well behaved we were.

### **Year 2 Learning Exhibition**

'We invited the parents to come and visit the Year Two Museum. One side of the museum was a look at what life was like during 1842 in Leeds. The other half was linked to our learning about the body and how it works. We became experts and acted as museum guides giving lots of useful information to our parents.'

### **Year 3 Learning Exhibition**

In Year 3, Alder and Rowan have been learning about prehistory. We studied for 15 weeks about the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, The Iron age and the Romans. We invited our families and friends to the hall and showed them our projects.

Our exhibitions included: Iron Age jewellery, Roman Shields, Clay pots and pic collage. Who wants to be a millionaire, Mosaics, Stonehenge landscapes, landscape poems and we found out about Boudicca.

We enjoyed making the Roman Shields the most. We hoped you liked our exhibition.

Written by Gopal (Rowan class) & Bally (Alder class)

### **Year 4 Learning Exhibition**

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December Year 4 held their project based learning exhibition in their classrooms. The classrooms were displayed with all of the learning we have completed on The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Our main product was a wiki-page which attempted to answer the question of "Who would you rather rule England, The Anglo-Saxons or the Vikings?" We also had examples of Viking runes on display and even created a Viking themed menu for a restaurant. All of the parents who attended agreed that our work was of high quality and that we put on a fabulous exhibition. We are looking forward to our next topic after the Christmas holidays.

## Concerts

### **Nursery Concerts**

The children have been busy making their own stars and learning songs for the Nursery concerts this week. Many of them have been singing at home, so we are sure they will do their best on the day.

### **Busy, Busy Bethlehem**

Reception gave a brilliant performance of 'Busy, Busy Bethlehem'. The children were so confident speaking with loud clear voices. The children performed to a packed audience. Parents very much enjoyed the production and gave glowing reviews!



## The Great Switch on

This month, we had a great switch on. We invited our families to watch the switch on. We had been practicing hard. Year 3 sang Santa Claus is coming to town. That was when we felt a bit shy. All the children loved singing, All around the World and Winter Wonderland.

The most exciting moment was the 3, 2, 1 count down. Suddenly the dark hall was filled with dazzling, sparkling lights.

Everybody "oohed" and "arrhed". We hope you enjoyed our switch on, Merry Christmas.

Written by Zakairya (Rowan class) and Yingda (Alder class)

## Carols in the Community

In the past fortnight, the Christmas Choir have been spreading Christmas magic around our local area! Last week, we visited residents at MHA Gledhow Care Home and today, we sang at Gledhow Lodge. As well as singing Christmas songs and carols, our audiences were treated to a cornet solo of *Winter Wonderland* by Derry Webster (Y4) and a Christmas duet of *Jingle Bells* by Reg Ellison (Y4) and Derry Webster – it was so good that we all joined in and sang!

There is nothing quite like a rendition of *Away in a Manger* by 40 angelic-sounding children to get the festive season started! It was a real pleasure taking the children out into our local community to meet our older neighbours; pupils were well behaved and enjoyed wishing the residents 'Happy Christmas' as we left.

Thank you to the children who have performed at Oakwood Lights and the care homes and the Festive Fun event – it has been marvellous! I love singing and I love Christmas so this has been a treat! They sing so enthusiastically and certainly represent the school well. I feel very proud of them all. Thank you, too, to the parents and Mrs Ronicle for coming with us.

To see the photographs in colour, visit our twitter page on twitter.com and search for [@KerrMackieP](#)

Mrs Crowther



## Congratulations

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) is sweeping the school. Before embarking on Level 1, schools need to submit an action plan and evidence of the groundwork to a national assessor in order to receive a ROC certificate (Recognition of Commitment)

Last week, we received our ROC and are now heading towards achieving Level 1. A steering group of pupils, parents, staff and governors meets regularly to guide the initiative as we work together to embed respect in every corner of our school community. Here is what our assessor said about our application:

Thank you very much for your evidence towards the first stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award. I am happy that you are all set and have good representation of adults and children involved. As such I am pleased to award Kerr Mackie Primary School with Recognition of Commitment:

**Congratulations to all the young people and adults concerned at Kerr Mackie Primary on achieving a Recognition of Commitment**

The progress the school has made since registering looks fantastic, well done. I agree it will be very helpful to link with another school and hopefully one of the Leeds schools I suggested will be suitable.

## What is the Rights Respecting Schools Award?

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) supports schools across the UK to embed **children's human rights** in their ethos and culture. The award recognises achievement in putting the **UN Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC)** at the heart of a school's practice to improve well-being and help all children realise their potential.

The award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The initiative started in 2006 and schools involved in the Award have reported a positive impact on relationships and well-being, leading to better learning and behaviour, improved academic standards and less bullying.

Learn more by visiting [UNICEF.org.uk](http://UNICEF.org.uk) and searching for RRSA

If you have any questions or would like to be involved, please come and have a chat with me.

Mrs Crowther RSA Lead



## INFORMATION

### **Sound Generation**

Please remember to bring your recorder/Guitar and books to the lesson.

### **Nursey Stay and Play**

It was great to welcome so many of our Nursery parents to our stay and play sessions over the last 2 weeks. Children really enjoyed showing their parents around nursery and showing them all their favourite activities. We hope to see you all again, at our sessions in the New Year.

### **Nursey Places**

If you have a child who will soon be 3 years old, or you know a local family with young children, call in at the office to ask about Nursery places. We have a few places available in the afternoon for January or Easter start dates.

### **PUPIL ABSENCE**

If your child is absent from school please can you ensure you contact the school office on 0113 3368499 **BEFORE 9am** and leave a message on the attendance line. The message must include your child's name, class and reason for absence. Failure to provide a valid reason for your child's absence on the first day may result in us having to escalate the matter.

### **PAYING BY CHEQUE**

Please can we remind parents that cheques for school trips should be made payable to Kerr Mackie Primary School. Everything else, i.e. milk, dinners, after school clubs should be payable to Leeds City Council.

### **LOST PROPERTY**

If you think you might have misplaced something, then please remember to check to the lost property box in the Parents room.

*From all the staff at Kerr Mackie, we wish you  
a very merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*

