

KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

17th December 2013



Dear Parent/Carer,

How the time flies, I can't believe we are already coming to the end of our first term of the academic year and will soon be welcoming in the New Year, 2014.

It, as usual, has been a busy and successful term. Our highlights include the museums every year group presented at the end of their history projects, our sporting achievements, including getting through to the regional athletic finals and our fabulous Christmas concerts. We have so many talented pupils at Kerr Mackie, and we are all proud of their many achievements.

Many of these achievements would not be possible without the commitment of all the staff at Kerr Mackie. They always go that 'extra mile' to ensure children achieve well and develop a love of learning. I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

I would also like to thank the PSA, and in particular Rachel Wilson, for their continued hard work and support. The PSA's tremendous fundraising efforts benefit all the children at Kerr Mackie.

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

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

CURRICULUM

NATIONAL CHILDREN MATHEMATICIAN AWARD

Four children from year 6 had been entered into the National Children's Mathematician Award and successfully got through to round 2. Unfortunately they have not made it into the finals. However the staff from Explore Learning, who hosted the Yorkshire rounds, commented on how well the children from Kerr Mackie worked as a team to solve the challenging problems and the fantastic maths skills they demonstrated in both rounds. We would like to say well done to these children and that we were really proud of their achievements in this competition.

MR MOYES VISIT TO YEAR 3 AND YEAR 5

Last week, Year 3 had a visit from Squadron Leader Moyes (Oliver's Dad). First of all Mr Moyes talked about his flying experiences and the equipment that he uses. He was supported by 'Gaz', the co-pilot, who turned out to be Miss Howard in disguise! Mr Moyes then went on to explain how you can survive in an emergency, which we found very useful and it was great advice. Thank you Mr Moyes for taking time to come and visit us. We really enjoyed it!

YEAR 4 VISIT TO MOORTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

"Last week Year 4 went to Moortown Baptist Church. We were split into 6 groups and our leaders gave us some work books to do whilst some groups went to make candle holders. I was quite excited because we got some juice to drink. We also listened to the Christmas story whilst I did a wordsearch and a quiz. When the other groups had finished making their candle holders all the groups swapped over. When we had finished we got back onto the bus and went back to school." Written by Dominic Bottomley (4 Lime) and Umar Khawaja (4 Cedar).

CHRISTMAS 'BIG SWITCH ON'

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas lights switch on. The Year 5 choir together with the school brass and woodwind band performed a selection of Christmas songs. We hope you enjoyed it.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Year 1 & 2

Last Friday we had a hall full of parents/carers to watch the Year 1 & 2 performance of 'Prickly Hay'. The children all did a brilliant job and there was some wonderful singing. A few of the comments left by parents are as follows;

"Fantastic performance & lovely to see the children having such fun."

"Fantastic! Really heartwarming! Congrats and thanks to the staff for all their hard work."

"Fabulous! Warms the heart to hear such lovely singing!"

"Brilliant. Great tunes, really uplifting!"

"A wonderful Xmas performance. All the children spoke very clearly & the costumes were amazing."

GLEE CLUB PERFORMANCES

Glee club performed on stage at Kerr Mackie's Winter Fair and sang Merry Christmas Everyone, Rocking Around the Christmas Tree and Winter Wonderland. We thoroughly enjoyed it. After a couple of weeks we heard that there was a gig and performed at two care homes which were Gledhow Christian Care Home and Gledhow Wood Lodge. Unfortunately some of the Glee members were off poorly for the first trip but luckily we were all able to go for the second trip."

Written by Charlotte Powell, Cedar class.

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION

HARRY SMALL REPORTER

One of our pupils, Harry Small, entered a competition to be a reporter for the Sports Personality of the Year, held in Leeds last Sunday. For the competition he had to explain why he should be a reporter in no more than 150 words. Harry's entrance was so good that he was selected. He met a range of sports personalities on the Sunday afternoon at Leeds Civic Hall and was given the opportunity to interview some. Congratulations and well done Harry.

BETT Conference

Kerr Mackie is to present a workshop at the next BETT conference in London on January 22nd. BETT is the world's leading event for learning technology for education professionals and we are very proud that the great work that Kerr Mackie has done developing it's curriculum and the incorporation of IT has been recognised. Myself, two members of staff and two pupils, Zoe Hunter and Harry Small, will be leading the workshop. Watch out for it on our website.

SCHOOL DINNERS

Please note that the new school dinner menu starting from January is available to view on the school website under – our school – school meals. Hard copies are available from the display stand outside the school office.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance for the period 25th November to 6th December for the classes is as follows:

Elm	93.5%	Rowan	97.3%
Willow	97.7%	Cedar	96.2%
Oak	94.7%	Lime	96.2%
Sycamore	93.3%	Larch	97.4%
Maple	92.7%	Lilac	95.8%
Spruce	98.4%	Holly	97.3%
Alder	95.8%	Cherry	98%

Our target for attendance is 96%. Please help us to achieve this throughout the year.

WELL DONE MAYA!

We would like to say a big well done to Maya in Year 5 who has made a great suggestion to Leeds Council. Maya has suggested that a competition is held for children to design Christmas lights for next year. Harry from Leeds Council, who is in charge of the Christmas lights, has said it wouldn't be a problem at all to make her idea possible. They think that all schools should hold a competition early in 2014 as they would need the designs by the end of July, so that they can be made and tested in his special light factory. Well done Maya for a great idea and watch this space for further news!!

TOILET TWINNING

"Toilet Twinning is a UK based charity that helps families in other countries. They provide toilets for people to avoid getting diseases from unflushed water which keeps getting into clean water that people are supposed to drink. As a consequence, we are trying to stop this by doing fundraising events to help the Toilet Twinning Charity. If you help us to raise £2,460, we can twin every toilet in school. Then more families around the world can be given a special present this Christmas, that you know you have donated to."

By Jemma Bulpitt and Ruby Jamson, Holly & Cherry classes.

ST ANDREW'S ROUNDHAY

St Andrews Church have asked that we pass on their thanks for the toys that were generously donated to their Christmas Toy Appeal. The toys were taken to St Georges Crypt who work with homeless families and they were very much appreciated by the children who might otherwise receive very little this year.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a huge amount of lost property in the Parents Room. If you have mislaid any items please check as this will all be disposed of over the Christmas holidays. It would help if all school items could be named and then it would make it easier for items found to be returned to their rightful owner. Thank you.

SPORT

ATHLETICS

Fantastic news.....Kerr Mackie has won!! We came first at the Athletics competition, winning by 6 points, beating Shakespeare, Woodlands and St Urbans. We are now through to the city finals, which are in January at the Trinity and All Saints campus. All members of the Year 6 team did brilliantly and really did us proud. Thanks to all the parents who showed their support – there was a lot of celebrating both at the event and back in school when we heard the news. Fingers crossed for another great result at the city finals!



NETBALL

On Monday 9th December, 15 Year 6 girls took part in a 'come and try' netball session at Roundhay High School. The aim of the session was for children to play 5-a-side games of netball against other schools. The children learnt to play in various positions on a full size netball court. Well done girls!

PSA NEWS

WINTER FAIR

A big thank you to everyone who helped or contributed in any way to this year's Winter Fair. There was a fantastic turnout and a wonderful, festive atmosphere in school, with our new stalls and activities (including Crazy Hair, Balloon Modelling, the Human Fruit Machine, Festive Biscuit Decorating and Pizza and Hot Dogs) proving very popular! Special thanks to all the parents and carers who volunteered to run these fun, new stalls. Congratulations and thanks also to the children (and adults!) who took part in the Winter Fair performances (Brass Band, Glee Club and Martial Arts) – you all helped to make the occasion very special.

The money from the Winter Fair and also from the Halloween Disco and Film Night has now been counted and **the total profit for the Autumn term 2013, following the deduction of all expenses is a whopping £2,024.90!!!** (This doesn't include tea towel sales, which will be calculated separately in due course). This money will go a long way towards the cost of providing a new kitchen for the children to use.

Well done everyone and thank you for your support this term!

Rachel Wilson, Chair of the PSA.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at Kerr Mackie, we would like to thank you for all your support in 2013 and wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and New Year. School closes on Friday 20th December and re-opens on Monday 6th January.

