

# KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

17<sup>th</sup> December 2014



Dear Parent/Carer,

Our first term of the academic year is almost at an end, and, as usual, it has been a very busy term with many successes.

A particular success this term has been the gardening and cookery sessions. Please read Mrs Hutchinson's report below for more details and our Mackie Mag team are currently putting an article together about how we have used the new kitchen this year.

Mathletics has really taken off across school, so many children's math's skills have improved as a result of practicing at home. Children are consistently in the top 100 in the UK and across the world and, at times, in the top 5 in the UK. Our classes are also doing well, always in the top 50. Keep it up!

Family Service is going well and our older children in particular are making it run smoothly by serving the younger children and helping them cut their food up. We hope to introduce music after the holidays to improve the experience even further.

We've also had some sporting success with our athletics team making it to the regional semi-finals and the football team to the final.

#### *What's new next term?*

As ever, we never stand still at Kerr Mackie Primary School. When your child/ren returns on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January the school will be using a new registration system which also shows your child's dinner choice. It will probably take a couple of days to get used to, but will be a lot more efficient.

Look out next term for a new system to let you know what your child's homework is. We are going to be using our learning platform to communicate homework activities to parents/carers. Mr Widger will provide more detail in the New Year.

Finally, you may notice in January that some tables and chairs seem to have gone missing from classrooms. *Why is this happening?* It dates back to our training day on September 23<sup>rd</sup> this term, when I took all the staff to an outstanding school in Lincolnshire called Hartsholme Academy <http://hartsholmeacademy.com/>

We wanted to see what they were doing that made them consistently outstanding. I am really pleased to say that a lot of their good practice we are already doing here such as our approach to teaching projects, critiquing each other's learning, and putting on exhibitions that celebrate learning. However, they also had more flexible seating arrangements in all their classrooms and we noticed how well children responded to this, working with full concentration and very calmly. We introduced this to a few classrooms and teachers have seen it have a positive impact on children's attitude to learning and so it will be in place across school in the new term. I will regularly walk through school to monitor the impact this approach is having but I know children have told us they like it.

So, as you can see, busy and changing times ahead which we are all looking forward to.

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

## CURRICULUM

### **GARDENING & COOKING GROUPS**

The gardening and cooking groups have been busy this term. Nearly all the children throughout the school have had a session of either gardening or cooking. The gardeners harvested our produce from the school garden in the first part of term. This included a variety of fruit and vegetables such as potatoes, onions, tomatoes, carrots, raspberries and blackcurrants. In the second half of term we have learnt about trees and looked at the different leaf shapes. We have also planted daffodil bulbs around school.

The cookery groups have used some of this produce to make a variety of dishes, such as tomato soup, herby potato wedges, corn on the cob, pasta with tomato sauce and fruity flapjacks. We have also made more seasonal foods such as Christmas pudding cookies, mince pies and individual Christmas puddings.

We are looking forward to looking after wildlife in winter and creating more tasty food in the New Year.

### **YEAR 1 EXHIBITION FOR PARENTS**

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December Year 1 parents/carers joined us to look at the project based learning on transport and here are some of their comments:

*"Fantastic exhibition. The children are all so enthusiastic about the work they have done."*

*"Super work children! I love all your fabulous ideas about how to improve transport."*

*"Wonderful work – you have obviously had a busy and fun term!"*

NEWSLETTER

## **YEAR 2 EXHIBITION FOR PARENTS**

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November parents and carers were invited to join Year 2 in their classrooms to look at their project based learning on 'why was it dangerous to go to hospital?' Here are some of the comments left by the parents:

*"Congratulations on some great work. It is great to see how much the children have learnt. Well done."*

*"What wonderful work covering such a wide range of information. Children really enthusiastic – many thanks."*

*"Excellent presentation."*

## **YEAR 3 EXHIBITION FOR PARENTS**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December Year 3 parents/carers were invited to join Year 3 to look at their project based learning from this term on the Romans and Italy. We would like to share some of the comments left:

*"I am very impressed with the standard of the children's work and how polite and informative they have been. Well done all of you!"*

*"Really lovely exhibition. Loved the clay volcanoes. All the children spoke well about their work. Fantastic!"*

*"Well done everyone. What a lot of hard work and very impressive writing."*

## **YEAR 4 EXHIBITION FOR PARENTS**

On Monday Year 4 parents/carers joined us to see the children's project based learning about the Romans. Here are some of the comments left in our visitor's book:

*"What an enjoyable event. I loved the turtle formation and Pompeii pictures."*

*"Great intro-marching and a poem! Lovely detailed work – well done."*

*"Amazing work everyone. I've learnt a lot too."*

## **YEAR 6 TEA DANCE**

Last Tuesday our Year 6 parents/carers joined us for our 'Tea Dance' and exhibition about our project based learning on World War 2. Here are some of the lovely comments left in our book:

*"High quality choreography and excellent swing dancing. A really fun afternoon."*

*"You should all be really proud. You have learned so much and all children really polite & helpful."*

*"That was amazing. So proud of all the children and their good work."*

## **ADOPT A VILLAGE**

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to their 'adopt a village' campaign through the charity Free the Children. They have organised and run various stalls for key stage 2, held sponsored silences and fun runs, and in 6 weeks have so far raised a staggering £489.00! This is a fantastic start towards their aim of £2000.00. Keep looking out for our next events that will be happening in the spring term. The year 6 children would like to say thank you to the rest of the school for helping them with their campaign.

## **NATIONAL YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN AWARD**

Our four year six children tried really hard at the regional final of the mathematician's award.

They enjoyed the experience but found this round a lot harder, and did not make it through to the national finals. The team have been rewarded with a certificate from Explore Learning.

## **CHILDREN'S CHARTER DONATION FROM THE PSA**

You may remember that back in September the children of Kerr Mackie worked together to create a charter for the school. Following the Christmas break, the charter will be displayed in the school hall and every classroom. This has been possible due to a donation from the funds raised by the school PSA. On behalf of all the children and staff at Kerr Mackie many thanks to the PSA and parents for your continued efforts to raise additional funds for our school.

The next project we are raising money for is to put an artificial play surface or Astroturf in the KS2 playground to replace the areas that have become quite muddy.

## **CONCERTS**

The children from Nursery to Year 5 have put on some lovely Christmas concerts for parents and carers in the last few weeks and we hope you have enjoyed them. Thank you for your generous donations.

## **INFORMATION**

### **ATTENDANCE**

The attendance per class for the period 24<sup>th</sup> November to 12<sup>th</sup> December is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	90%	Alder	91.6%	Holly	93.8%
Willow	90.7%	Rowan	92.4%	Cherry	91.4%
Oak	90.6%	Cedar	98.5%		
Sycamore	94.1%	Lime	91.6%		
Maple	89.6%	Larch	90%		
Spruce	93%	Lilac	93.9%		

## SPORT

### BASKETBALL

On Friday 12th December, some year 6 children went to Roundhay High School to take part in a basketball competition. The children played against four other local primary schools, unfortunately we didn't win the competition but the children definitely know how to work as a team and support each other.

## PSA

### WINTER FAIR

Thank you to everyone who donated, supported or organised the Winter Fair. We're sure you will agree it was a lovely event and over £1,000.00 was raised.

**Reminder, school closes on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December and re-opens to pupils on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

**We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter [@KerrMackieP](https://twitter.com/KerrMackieP)

### Kerr Mackie Children's Charter

- We have the right to be respected, and the responsibility to listen to and care for those around us to make sure we are showing respect to them
- We have the right to learn to our full potential, and the responsibility to behave in a way that means we are not disturbing the learning of others
- We have the right to equipment that will help us with our learning, and the responsibility to treat all equipment with respect and not damage it for others
- We have the right to be healthy, and the responsibility to make smart choices with our food and drink, and join in with as much physical activity as we can
- We have the right to be treated equally, and the responsibility to treat everyone else the same as ourselves