

KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

17th July 2014



A look back at the highlights and achievements from 2013-2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is our final newsletter for the academic year 2013-2014 and we would like to share with you some of the highlights from another busy and successful year at Kerr Mackie. We have probably had our most successful year ever for sporting activities and the children have been great ambassadors for the school.

At Kerr Mackie, we believe school is not just about academic achievement, it's about the child as a whole. We are proud of every single child at the school, their fantastic attitude, and their wide range of achievements, as you will see below.

Zoe Hunter and Harry Small helped to present a workshop at the BETT conference in London. Harry Small also won a competition to be a reporter at the Sports Personality of the Year in Leeds and a group of Year 6 pupils visited the Houses of Parliament following their success in a competition. Niamh Best won a bronze medal in the British Open Championship for karate and kickboxing and she will be flying off to Portugal to compete in the World Championships in November.

In November a group of Year 6 children were entered into the National Young Mathematician's Award in which they showed tremendous teamwork and got through to round 2. The organisers commented on how well they worked together and the fantastic maths skills they demonstrated. Well done again to all these children – you have made everyone at Kerr Mackie proud!

We are really beginning to see the positive impact the hard work the school has put in to ensuring learning is enjoyable, exciting and challenging for all children at Kerr Mackie. This year more children than ever have attained the expected level in the phonics screening check at the end of Year 1 and in reading, writing and maths at the end of Year 2. By the end of Year 6, half or more attained above the expected level reading and grammar, nearly half in maths and over a third in writing. We also saw an increase in the percentage of children achieving the expected level in reading, grammar and maths.

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

Our pupils from Nursery to Year 6 have enjoyed some fantastic learning experiences this year through visits outside of school and experiences they have had at Kerr Mackie. Here is a summary:

Nursery pupils had a batch of eggs delivered in the spring and they thoroughly enjoyed watching them hatch and grow. The nursery children have all enjoyed learning to retell stories and use story actions. They have regularly performed these stories for parents/carers. These performances have been very well attended and parents have given us lots of positive feedback.

Recently the children have been following a project based learning theme about minibeasts. They have enjoyed looking for minibeasts in the outdoor area and developing their drawings and designs. This week they were able to share this learning with their parents/carers who attended our minibeast exhibition. Again, this was very well attended and appreciated. Thank you to the children and to the parents/carers for all your support throughout the year.

Reception children spent the day at St Leonard's Farm in March where they saw various animals and had a fun session in the play barn with lots of straw. In May they visited Tropical World where they saw lots of interesting animals and minibeasts. They particularly liked the meerkats who apparently were very entertaining! The children then presented a minibeast exhibition to their parents/carers where they showed their knowledge of minibeasts. Their enthusiasm for the topic was clear to see and the parents were most impressed with the quality of their drawings. In June they visited Scarborough Sealife Centre where they experienced hands-on learning and some very close encounters with sea creatures. A paddle in the sea rounded off a very enjoyable day.

Year 1 began the year with a visit to Ilkley Toy Museum where they had an excellent day and learnt a great deal about toys from the past. In spring term their topic involved them visiting Oakwood and in particular the clock. They completed a traffic survey and did observational drawings of the clock.

NEWSLETTER

Year 2 started the year with a London's burning day. They dressed up as people from 1966 and had lots of fun. In October they visited Leeds City Museum to learn about animals and also had a visit from the Fire Brigade which they loved, especially the siren!! In January they had their annual trip to the pantomime which they absolutely loved. In May we had our 2nd Kerr Mackie Grand Prix which was brilliant and lots of fun for the children and parents/carers who cheered on our teams. In June they had a fantastic day in the sunshine at Robin Hood's bay. They enjoyed rock pooling, a visit to the Coastguard station and a paddle in the sea.

Year 3 had a visit from the Vikings in September. They learnt what life was like in the Viking times, the weapons they used, fashion, toys and lots more. In December, they had a visit from Squadron Leader Moyes who talked about his flying experiences and the equipment that he uses in his job. Miss Howard got to dress up as a pilot and the children had a great day. In March Year 3 went to the Art Gallery in Leeds and had fun looking at the paintings and sculptures before they got creative themselves. In spring their attentions turned to cycling and the Tour de France. They had visitors into school showing them different styles of bikes and the children designed their own kits. Miss Howard then arranged our very own Tour de France with many children bringing in their bikes/scooters to follow a track on the playground.

Year 4 began the year learning about Ancient Egypt and had a visit to Leeds City Museum where they took part in lots of activities and learnt interesting facts to help with their topic. In June they had a lovely day at Yorkshire Wildlife Park where they saw a variety of animals and learnt lots of interesting facts from the experts who work there.

Year 5 had a visit from the fire brigade who taught them how a fire can start and how a room can be destroyed in 3 minutes. The children were shown how to make a fire escape and how to keep safe. In April they went on a trip to the Royal Armouries where they handled World War 1 artifacts and improved their understanding of World War 1. This was followed by a workshop run by Leeds University who taught the children how the soldiers felt during the war.

Year 6

Back in September, Year 6 started the year with a visit to Eden Camp. They learnt lots of information about the impact of war. Following this trip, Year 6 had a visit from a WWII evacuee who came into school to talk about his life as an only child in the world war. Year 6 finished their learning on the war with a tea dance where they showcased all their work to their parents/carers. It was a fantastic event enjoyed by everyone. The children then moved onto the science of music and had a visit from Sam who taught them lots of interesting things and how to make their own instruments. This was followed by a fantastic performance of Macbeth by some young actors from Manchester who visited school.

During the year the children have had cycle training – the first session took place on the playground and then they ventured out on to the local roads. Maybe we will have future competitors for the Tour de France at Kerr Mackie?!

After their SATS the children enjoyed their residential trip to Herd Farm. They all had a fantastic time and wished they could have stayed longer. They took part in a giant swing, a zip wire and archery. Their behaviour was exemplary throughout and they were a joy to spend time with.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements in PE at Kerr Mackie Primary School

We have had an extremely busy and successful year with sport at Kerr Mackie.

In September the Year 6 Athletics team won the North East Leeds Final, which then took them through to the semi-finals at Trinity All Saints.

In October, year 5 and 6 boys played in a football tournament at St Theresa's, where we played schools from all over Leeds.

The Netball team played in a competition at Roundhay High School and did very well seeing as it was their first competition.

Year 5 children attended the 'Queen's Baton Relay' event at John Charles Centre to celebrate the Commonwealth Games.

Year 5 and 6 girl's football team played in a competition at Alwoodley and came joint first. They finished 8th out of 40 in the St Bartholomew's Cup.

Children from Year 4, 5 and 6 entered Roundhay High School Primary Football competition all the teams got through to the semi-finals but unfortunately lost on penalties.

Children from different year groups have attended 'Come and Try Festivals' where children have been coached by professionals, then had the opportunity to play friendly matches against other schools.

Every Wednesday afternoon for 7 weeks, 12 girls from Year 6, took part in a 'Change 4 life' club. Mr Hill and Ms Deane from Roundhay High School organised different games for the girls to play.

30 Year 4 children took part in the very challenging 'Aqua Swimming Festival' where they finished in second place.

Year 4 Cricket team won the North East Leeds Drax competition, which put them through to the West Yorkshire final at Pudsey Cricket Ground.

We have two Bronze Sports Ambassadors at Kerr Mackie, who organise lunch time activities for younger children.

We have achieved the 'Youth Sports Trust Silver Quality Mark' which was awarded to us for our commitment to physical education and school sport.

We are hoping to achieve the 'Sainsbury's School Games Bronze Award' by the end of 2014.

Three lucky children from Year 3 won VIP tickets to watch the Tour De France in Leeds City Centre on Saturday 5th July.

We have had a successful year with Rugby League at Kerr Mackie. The U10s were beaten in the final of the Burton Cup. It was their first every season. U11s got to the 4th round of Watson Cup and were beaten in the semi-finals of the Culley's Cup, they were also in their first season.

OUR KERR MACKIE TEAMS

School Council

It has been a very busy and productive year for the school council. We raised just under £1000 for indoor wet playtime equipment making those miserable lunchtimes a whole lot better. This was raised by organising two school fun days with various activities that all the school councilors ran. Also, the KS2 councillors interviewed three applicants for the Deputy Head post making up their own questions to ask (Mrs Crowther thought they were very hard questions!). We are also in the process of making a short film for our school webpage. They have been an excellent group of young children to work alongside and their parents should be very proud of them.

Food Ambassadors

Our Food Ambassadors have been involved in changing the school menu, successfully setting up the Top Table for children who promote healthy eating and positive behaviour at dinner times. They have organised and judged the curry bake off for parents and helped to make pakoras for the fair to sell and raise funds for school. They went to visit the global international markets to find out about different foods around the world and were involved in Tesco Farm to Fork where they thoroughly enjoyed being involved in baking and being a fishmonger!

More recently they have organised the milkshake and summer fruit day for the whole school and raised funds for the school positive rewards and Funky Friday resources. They raised £143.90!

Food ambassadors have been actively involved in helping and supporting all our celebrations throughout the year. Thank you to them all.

Lunchtime Assistants

A big thank you to all the lunchtime assistants who have worked very hard in all the jobs they have been given. The office staff are very grateful to Juwayriyah in particular who has worked with them all year. The teachers have also been very appreciative of the lunchtime assistant's help and Mrs Shillito is very impressed with the neatness of the library shelves! Football has been very successful on KS1 and Reception with the Yr 4 & 6 boys helping the younger ones to improve their skills. So a huge thanks to you all and enjoy the rest!

Mackie Mag

A group of our children have spent the last year working on our Mackie mag in their lunchtimes. They spend a lot of time writing interesting articles – please take a look by clicking on the Makewaves icon on the home page of our school website.

OTHER SUCCESSES

Our School Garden

This year saw the re-instatement of the popular gardening sessions for children at Kerr Mackie which is all down to the support of a dedicated group of parents and some volunteers from the local community group, REAP.

The sessions got going in Spring and have taken place on one, sometimes two, afternoons a week rotating year groups and volunteers each week. The children began by preparing the raised beds for planting by weeding, fertilising and watering the beds. A gardening plan for the spring and summer season was put together by the volunteers and since then the children have planted seeds into pots and nurtured them in the polytunnel before planting them out into the raised beds. This included herbs such as coriander and basil and flowers like nasturtiums and marigolds. In other sessions children planted seeds directly into the prepared beds, including carrots, peas, broad beans, radishes, beetroot and salad leaves. Others have planted strawberry plants, borlotti beans, sweetcorn, courgette, chard, potatoes and pumpkins that were started off in the sheds and greenhouses of the volunteers and then donated as plants to the school garden. A group of Year 5s helped build an A frame for the climbing beans out of bamboo and other children made a smaller frame for the peas. The children have harvested radishes, strawberries, redcurrants, raspberries, salad leaves and herbs, some of which they handed over to the school kitchen and some were taken back to class for tasting!

The gardening has also taken place in the front of the school with particular emphasis in the friendship corner. During some sessions, small groups of children helped paint plastic containers with colourful designs in which to plant flowers and these now festoon the pergola in the friendship corner. There are plans to string up old wellies full of colourful flowers and herbs to hang around the pergola and fences to make the playground even more colourful and fragrant! WE NEED YOUR OLD AND LEAKY WELLIES!

The children have really enjoyed the sessions and learnt lots about the conditions that plants need to grow, the importance of bees and bugs in this process, plant identification and what makes a good fertiliser.

The children worked hard to showcase their school garden at this year's summer fair and grew marigolds and herbs from seed to sell at the plant stall. For those of you who made it around the back of the school, to see what wonderful things the children have been growing, will have been amazed at the colourful sight. The allotment is flourishing!

We are pleased to announce that the gardening sessions will continue next term and that some crops may be ready to harvest and put to test by the children in their new kitchen.

Year 6 Toilet Twinning

This year, our Year 6's have put a tremendous amount of effort into their campaign to raise money for Toilet Twinning. After concerted effort through fun days, bag packing, sponsored events, T-Shirt making, stationery selling, wooden heart selling, bun making, car washing and fruit selling we have raised a fantastic amount of £1,703! This means that we have only £757 pounds left to raise to reach our target. This may seem like a lot in our last week, but we have a non-uniform day on Thursday, refreshment selling and donation buckets at the Year 6 performance and the nation-wide auction of donated gifts from Fabian Hamilton MP (check out our Twitter feed for this!). We are so proud of everything our Year 6's have achieved so far- they have shown superb citizenship skills and a great deal of empathy in raising money for such a worthy cause.

Any final donations will be very, very much appreciated - thank you for all you have done to help so far.

Fundraising for Charity

Once again the pupils, parents and staff have been amazing and raised considerable amounts of money for various charities. November was a very busy month; a group of children sold poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion and raised £86.80, we collected toys for St Andrew's Church and raised £479.51 for the Children in Need appeal by dressing up as our heroes/superheroes. In March we wore our sporty clothes for Sport Relief and raised £525.00. The children in Reception-Year 2 dressed up in yellow to raise awareness for World Down Syndrome day and raised £182.85 which was donated to Sunshine and Smiles in Leeds. In June Year 4 raised £95.80 which they split between Save the Children and WWF-UK. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Music

Many of our children have continued or started music lessons in school and we have enjoyed listening to them at various events throughout the year. Well done to all those of you who are learning guitar, brass and woodwind – you are doing great and it is a joy to hear you practice and perform!

Communication to Parents

This year has seen the launch of new communication channels with parents/carers. Our online booking system for parent's evenings was launched and proved to be a great success making it easier for parents to tailor the appointment to meet their needs. Following requests from many parents, we then began sending the majority of communication by email saving a huge amount of paper and money in photocopying bills! Most recently we have launched our very own Twitter page which we are keeping up to date with all the fun things happening in school – please follow us!!



Twitter

Please remember to follow us on @KerrMackieP and we will keep you updated with all the fun things that are going on in and around school.

PSA HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to our wonderful PSA team who this year have provided us with many memorable and enjoyable occasions. In October we had a very spooky Halloween disco and the 'Thriller' Zumba was a sight to remember. This was followed by a film night for the younger children when they enjoyed 101 Dalmatians together with popcorn and snacks.

All the children in school then drew their own picture which culminated in two tea towels which were sold to parents/carers raising funds for our PSA.

At Easter we had our first Mad Hatter's Tea Party after school which was fantastic. The children had a great time and there were some lovely hats on display!

The winter and summer fairs have been a success on a grand scale and the children have enjoyed many new stalls together with the old favourites.

The Year 6 leavers disco was thoroughly enjoyed, particularly the foam machine!

A huge thank you to all the PSA team who have worked tirelessly to put together all these fantastic events and raised thousands of pounds. The children in school will be benefiting from their fund raising for years to come and we can't wait to see the new children's kitchen which they have contributed to and is being installed over the holidays. Thank you to all the PSA and volunteers who have helped at the events from all the staff and children at Kerr Mackie!!



And, to look forward to next year!

PUPIL KITCHEN

When we return in September, the parent's room will have undergone a full refurbishment providing us with a kitchen for the children to use. Mrs Hutchinson will be working with groups doing baking and cooking. We look forward to sampling their dishes!

**We would like to wish you all a very happy and safe summer holiday.
School re-opens to pupils on Wednesday 3rd September.**

**And finally, good luck to all our Year 6 pupils who are leaving Kerr Mackie.
You have been a fantastic group and we wish you all the best for the future!!**