

KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

17th July 2015



Dear Parent/Carer,

Another year gone and now nearly time to say goodbye to our brilliant Y6's. They have had a great year, showing super team work, taking all the extra responsibilities and challenges that Y6 has to offer in their stride. The children worked really hard for their SATS and we are all proud of how well they have done. They showed us how much they are willing to face a range of challenges whilst on the Herd Farm residential, including making their own beds! I believe that the highlight of their year is the absolutely brilliant end of year performance they did this week 'move it'. Their acting, singing and dancing were a joy to watch and everyone put 110% effort in. It will be a hard act for Year 5 to follow but I'm sure they will rise to it.

Our Rainbow Summer Fair was a huge success. The whole day had been organised by Mrs Bourne with the support of many staff. The children organised and manned their own stalls, and every child from Nursery to Y6 had the opportunity to attend. I would also like to thank the parents who helped with the stalls at the end of the day, the drinks, fruit & cakes were delicious and our plant stall was very successful. Thanks to the efforts of everyone we made a staggering £1017.94 profit!

This year has been particularly challenging for all primary schools across England with a new national curriculum, new assessment procedures, new arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs and the introduction of Universal Free School Meals for children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 (phew!) and I am really proud of how well we have put all the new initiatives into place, particularly the curriculum which is, as shown below, exciting, engaging and creative.

Next year will be no exception, with new projects for the children to study, new staff and a new roof!

[A look back at the highlights and achievements from 2014-15](#)

This is our final newsletter for this academic year and we would like to share with you some of the highlights from another busy and successful year at Kerr Mackie. We are very proud of every single child at the school, their fantastic attitude, and their wide range of achievements.

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. In May they had a minibeast exhibition where they had the opportunity to touch and hold many different creatures including tarantulas and snakes. They were all very brave! The children sang a song and rhyme they had been learning before showing their parents their pictures, paintings and wonderful writing about mini beasts.

Reception children had a super day visiting St Leonard's Farm in Baildon. They met farmer James who showed them a range of animals, visited the milking shed where they milked a cow and fed a pony, goats, sheep and hens. They enjoyed a fun time in the play barn and climbed on the bales of straw and ventured into dark tunnels. They came back shattered! At the end of April they visited Tropical World learning lots about a whole range of creatures. Despite the cold weather they had fun playing games on Roundhay Park before the long walk back to school.

They ended the year with a trip to Sealife Centre at Scarborough. They saw lots of wonderful sea creatures and enjoyed a picnic and paddle on the beach. They enjoyed it so much they were asking to stay longer and some wanted to sleep over in the Sealife Centre.

Year 1 enjoyed a trip to the railway museum at York early in the year. The children really enjoyed sitting in the Bullet train and taking part in exciting science investigations. They even had time to play on the adventure park.

In December, they had a frosty adventure down to Oakwood Clock where they watched the workmen remove the clockface ready for restoration work to begin. They also took a short walk to Canal Gardens, to look at garden design before designing their own gardens for the Oakwood Clock restoration project. They even conducted a survey of local residents and used this information to influence their designs and increase their knowledge about the history of the area. It was lovely to see them confidently sharing their learning and interacting with people outside of school.

In June they enjoyed a trip to Bradford Colour Museum where they learnt about light sources, colour, shadows and how light travels. They turned themselves into scientists for the day and carried out a series of investigations.

NEWSLETTER

Year 2 enjoyed a trip to Thackray Medical Museum in early November. The children loved pretending to be archaeologists and learning about old medicines and diseases. They learnt about Florence Nightingale and enjoyed dressing up as porters and nurses. In May the children had a fantastic trip to Robin Hood's Bay. They looked at habitats at the beach, paddled in the sea, went rock pooling and found crabs, seaweed and sea snails. They had a great day.

Year 3 began the year with a trip to Leeds City Museum in September as part of their Roman topic. In March they went to Harlow Carr Gardens where they learnt lots about plants and took part in different activities. Before they left they had time to find the 'Log Ness' monster and play on the playground.

In June, year 3 had a visitor into school to teach them about the stone, bronze and iron ages. They learnt how farming was invented and took part in archaeology.

Year 4 produced some fantastic art which they showcased in an exhibition for parents in April. We received some great comments from parents and the children were obviously very proud of their work. In October they visited Leeds City Museum to learn about the Romans.

In June they had a fantastic trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park where they learnt about habitats and saw a variety of animals.

Year 5 Larch class enjoyed a walk to Roundhay Park in October where they gathered seeds, played games and planted a seed each in a pot. In November, 11 children helped the Friends of Roundhay Park to plant daffodil bulbs under the trees by the lake. They really enjoyed digging the holes!

In February a group of children from year 5 went outside with the Police looking for people who were parking illegally. They found 21 people parked in the wrong place in a very short space of time. They spoke to the drivers about fines and gave them a ticket they had designed themselves.

In March we presented our Greek learning to pupils from Gledhow Primary. Their pupils were really impressed with our work. In March they had 2 visits, firstly to Moortown Baptist Church to learn about Easter and secondly to Leeds City Museum to learn about the Ancient Greeks.

In June they went on a trip to Dunstan Hall which one pupil quoted as the best trip ever. They baked bread from wheat, looked at the animals and trained for war with swords and shields before hearing the full story of Beowulf and the Grendel.

Year 6 started a busy year with a trip to Eden Camp in September. They learnt lots of information about the impact of World War 2 which then culminated in a very enjoyable 'Tea Dance' for parents in December. 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

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

In October the girls football team played a very wet and cold match against Meanwood.

We came back from 2-0 down at half time to win with minutes to spare.

In November, our football team played in the first round of the Moran Cup playing Moortown Primary at home. After playing extra time we won 3-1 taking us through to the second round.

November also saw our athletics team finish 2nd in their group stage of the first round of indoor athletics. Every child performed to their best ability and we came either 1st or 2nd in every track event. The atmosphere was electric. Unfortunately in the second round we came third but all did really well and tried their hardest.

Our first rugby game of the year didn't start too well. We were playing Alwoodley who have always been a very strong team and tough competition. Sadly we lost 26-0 but we were determined to train harder and come back stronger.

In December, some year 6 children went to Roundhay High School to take part in a basketball competition. We didn't win but the children learnt valuable skills in how to work as a team and support each other.

In January, some Year 5 & 6 pupils went on a school trip to Headingley Cricket Ground where they took part in a quiz, looked in the media suite and played games.

At the end of January, we took part in the 6-a-side futsal tournament. We made it through to the quarter finals but lost 1-0 to the eventual winner of the competition.

Our rugby team bounced back from their earlier defeat and beat St Theresa's 17-2 with nearly every team member scoring a try.

A member of the Leeds Force Basketball Team visited us in January to teach the Year 4 children some new basketball skills. Ben taught us how to dribble the ball, keep it under control, pivot and pass. They thought it was fantastic!

Our netball team played in a mini tournament and beat Talbot 4-0, Gledhow 5-0 and Moortown 5-0. We were exceptionally proud of our girls – well done!

The same month, our rugby team played in a cup match against Richmond Hill and beat them 50 tries to 32. To quote Luke – "I got bashed and flattened but I loved it!"

In May our year 5 football team made it through to the Moran Cup final against St Theresa's and we were also nominated for the Ben Bateson award for rugby. This award is for the promotion of rugby league in schools and fair play.

In June our under 11 rugby league team played in the quarter final of the Watson cup against Alwoodley Primary. For guts, determination, immense tacking and never giving up we were the best team and even our opposition agreed with us. Unfortunately the final score was KM 12 – Alwoodley 42 and our cup run had finished.

Many of our children took part in the Roundhay Primary School Fun Run in June and as ever the atmosphere was great and all the children were amazing. There were even some staff taking part!

At the beginning of July our Under 11's rugby team were the guard of honour for the Leeds Rhinos v St Helens game at Headingley. This was arranged as a thank you by Mr Stout for their endeavours over the last three years.

Our sports days fell on two of the hottest days so far this year and the children coped brilliantly. Super organisation helped to make them both really enjoyable afternoons for all who took part and came to watch.

The girls football team travelled to St Matthews on Mon 13th July in the pouring rain to play two matches!! The girls played really well but unfortunately lost 2-1 in their first match. In the second match they played well, passing nicely and tackling strongly. When the final whistle blew we had won 7-0! The girls were absolutely delighted and Miss Howard was very proud!

For the next match the girls travelled to Bankside, this time the sun was shining! They were a hard team kicking the ball randomly at us but we held on and worked well as a team and we won 2-1!

Frisbee Match

On Friday 10th July, Miss Howard arranged a Frisbee match to take place between staff and children. In training, the children had been developing their catching and throwing skills and discussing their tactics all in preparation for the match. Both teams were very excited. The game got off to a great start. The teachers were very competitive and the children were full of energy. Both teams played exceptionally well however the teachers were the champions winning 7-4. A huge thank you to all the children who have been playing Frisbee over the summer term and thanks to the staff who stepped up to the challenge.



OUR KERR MACKIE TEAMS

School Councillors

We have had a lot of fun this year organising exciting child interactive themed days for our two charities WaterAid and St Gemma's Hospice. To end the year we raised over £1000.00 for our school by holding a Rainbow Fair this week. All the events were organized by our school council who have done a fantastic job this year. Altogether the school council have helped us to raise well in excess of £2000.00 for charities this year. Thank you for your continued support.

Playground Pals

Four girls from Year 6 have taken on a new role this year as peer mediators on both playgrounds (helping children to sort things out with their peers). Next year we are hoping to train up some Year 5 children to get involved as well.

Food Ambassadors

This year our team of Food Ambassadors have helped to implement Family Service at lunchtimes and monitor and maintain the running of the system. They help to set up the parent's room every day ready for the Reception children to have their lunch and they hold regular meetings to feedback regarding food, service, noise and rubbish at lunchtimes and look at ways to improve it.

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 all the children who have worked with them throughout the 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! The DJ's have been very popular at lunchtime as well. So, a huge thanks to you all and enjoy the rest!

OTHER SUCCESSES

Charity Fundraising

Our main charity fundraising this year has been for Free the Children and St Gemma's Hospice. We have also helped Macmillan by having a giant coffee morning, St Andrew's Church by collecting toys at Christmas, St George's Crypt received our harvest festival donations and for Children in Need we wore our pyjamas! We have also sold poppies for the Royal British Legion, worn yellow for the Sunshine & Smiles charity, bought red noses and raised money for WaterAid and the Nepal Earthquake Appeal. Well done everyone – we really are amazing when it comes to raising money for a good cause!

Family Service

In October we introduced 'Family Service' at lunchtime which has proved very successful. Children no longer have to queue for their dinner and it is much quieter and calmer. The tables are laid with cutlery, water jugs, cups and snacks such as bread and chopped vegetables and the children sit with their own 'family' which has resulted in them getting to know other children right across the school and have the opportunity to take on responsibilities and care for each other.

National Young Mathematician Award

In November, four Year 6 pupils, Toby, Zoe, Adella and Joash took part in a national maths competition where they had to solve complex maths problems. They worked really well as a team and showed what good mathematicians they are.

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day

Also in November, KS2 children were given the opportunity to take part in a 'takeover day'. This involved them shadowing a member of staff for the day and being involved in decision making. Children came suitably dressed for the day and some of the jobs they did included: answering the phone, ordering equipment, teaching maths and presenting reports to the leadership team. The children really rose to the occasion and the staff were very impressed with their attitude.

Mathletics

Mathletics really took off across school and so many children's maths skills have improved as a result of extra practicing at home. Our children have been consistently in the top 100 in the UK and across the world and, at times, in the top 5 in the UK. Keep it up children!

Lights, Camera, Parliament Competition

For the second year running, a group of our pupils took part in this competition and this year we received a second prize and a highly commended. The children had to devise a law they thought the government should adopt and create a film to portray the law. They worked really hard and we were delighted that they received prizes in recognition of this.

Gardening & cooking

As reported on our last newsletter, the children have made full use of the new pupil kitchen this year and have thoroughly enjoyed their cookery sessions with Mrs Hutchinson. Our school gardens continue to thrive and we are sure she has exciting plans for next year as well!

INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

The attendance per class for the period 29th June to 10th July is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	98.2%	Alder	98.3%	Holly	98.3%
Willow	94%	Rowan	95.2%	Cherry	97.3%
Oak	96%	Cedar	97.6%		
Sycamore	96.2%	Lime	97.1%		
Maple	95.8%	Larch	97.3%		
Spruce	96.8%	Lilac	96.2%		

Some fantastic attendance figures here – nearly all above our school target. Well done to Alder and Holly for the best attendance this period!

The school attendance for this academic year was 95.9% which is above our target.

SCHOOL MEALS

The new dinner menu for September is now available on our school website. Printed copies will be placed in the stand by the office from next week. The new charge for a school meal from September will be £2.20.

GUITAR LESSONS

Sound Generation provide weekly group guitar tuition at Kerr Mackie School. We are now registering new pupils to start in September 2016.

Pupils will learn how to hold a guitar correctly, read both tablature and notation, learn how to play individually and in a group, and they will develop an understanding of basic musical concepts including pitch, dynamics, rhythm and pulse. A wide variety of pieces is taught, mostly from a popular/contemporary background, including The Beatles, Black Sabbath and Jessie J! Lessons are taken by Sam Wood, who makes lessons fun, engaging and inspiring. All pupils will have the opportunity to perform in an annual guitar concert, and they will also receive reports at the end of the academic year.

Day: Fridays

Time: Between 8:30am - 12pm

Duration: 20-40mins depending on class size (classes are arranged according to ability)

Class size: Between 2-5 pupils

Cost: £7.75/class Invoices are sent half termly (twice per term)

Deposit: a £30 deposit is required to secure your child's place. This will be deducted from your first invoice.

If you are interested in signing up for guitar tuition next term, please contact Sofia Wilde at Sound Generation, and a registration form will be sent out to you - sofia@soundgeneration.co.uk or telephone 020 3344 2310.

RECORDER LESSONS

NEW!! Sound Generation are thrilled to now offer weekly group recorder tuition at Kerr Mackie School. We are now registering pupils to start in September 2015.

Pupils will learn how to hold a recorder correctly, read music, develop an understanding of basic musical concepts including pitch, dynamics and rhythm, as well as gaining a greater understanding of music. Pupils will learn fun pieces from classics to modern day tunes, and they will also get the opportunity to compose their own tunes. They will get to perform duets, as well as performing solo and in a group. Lessons are taken by Tina Featherstone, a professional musician and PGCE teacher. All pupils will have the opportunity to perform in an annual recorder concert, and they will also receive reports at the end of the academic year.

Day: Thursday morning

Duration: 20-40mins depending on class size (classes are arranged according to ability)

Class size: 2-5

Cost: £7.75/class. Invoices are sent half termly (twice per term)

Deposit: a £30 deposit is required to secure your child's place. This will be deducted from your first invoice.

If you are interested in signing up for recorder tuition next term, please contact Sofia Wilde at Sound Generation, and a registration form will be sent out to you - sofia@soundgeneration.co.uk or telephone 020 3344 2310.

Here are some photographs from the guitar concert held for parents last Friday. Well done everyone – you were absolute stars!



LOST PROPERTY

We have a huge amount of lost property in the Parent's Room. Any unclaimed items will be destroyed over the summer holidays so please check before we break up on Tuesday 21st July.

And finally, we would like to wish you all a very happy and safe summer holiday.
School re-opens to pupils on Thursday 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!!