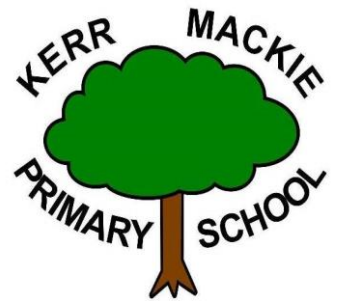


# KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

18<sup>th</sup> September 2015



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to a new school year and I hope everyone had a good summer break. I had very mixed feelings on the first day children were back, knowing it was the last time I would be greeting families after the summer break. I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and carers who have spoken so kindly to me about this being my last year. It's lovely to know the effort you put in is recognised.

So what's new at Kerr Mackie?

Firstly, we have our new children in Reception and Nursery who have all settled in well, helped by the supportive and caring staff. Our new teachers, Miss Brown in Reception, Mr Allan in Year 4, Miss Hill in Year 5 and Miss Ebertz who is teaching across the school, are already well established as part of the Kerr Mackie team.

Over the summer break we had the roof replaced over Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 classrooms and the Parents' room. It has certainly made a difference, no more buckets down corridors!

Next week, we have our Welcome Meetings which I hope you will be able to attend. These meetings will tell you about the projects your child will be learning, what a typical week looks like, what the end of year expectations are for reading, writing and maths, plus much more. You can find out when it is your child's Welcome Meeting from the 'Dates for your Diary' which was sent home, on our school website, and the outside noticeboards.

Also, don't forget to follow us on Twitter!

## WINTER FAIR

Last year we had a very successful Winter Fair, thanks to a group of parents who stepped in at the last minute. We are again hoping that a group of parents and carers will come forward to help organise one for the school this year as we do not currently have a PSA. If you are able to help in any way please leave your details with a member of the office staff.

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

## CURRICULUM

### YEAR 6 TRIP TO EDEN CAMP

Last Monday, both Year 6 classes (Holly and Cherry) visited Eden Camp. Located on the outskirts of Malton in North Yorkshire, Eden Camp is an award-winning Modern History Theme Museum housed within the grounds of an original World War II prisoner of war camp. As historians, we were excited to see the story of World War II re-created using sights, sounds, smells and moving figures to create a unique atmosphere. It really makes you feel like you travelled back in time to wartime Britain. There was even time to enjoy performances in the Music Hall where we heard Dame Vera Lynn singing We'll Meet Again and a performance of a funny poem called Albert and the Lion. The Leading question for our Y6 project is How did World War II change our world? Having a trip so early on in our project work, really helps to bring history to life. We learned a lot and it was fantastic to go to Eden Camp on the week commemorating the 75th anniversary of The Battle of Britain.

### SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY

This year we have once again bought in additional Speech & Language Therapy to meet the needs of our pupils. The service provider is seeking feedback from parents and has sent the following request:

"Leeds Children's Speech and Language Therapy (CSLT) Service is in the process of reviewing how we deliver speech and language therapy (SLT) to children and young people in Leeds. This is in line with a national drive to ensure that NHS services are delivered as efficiently as possible and demonstrate the best possible outcomes. We are therefore seeking parent/carer views on a refreshed model of Speech and Language Therapy for children and young people.

You can share your thoughts and feedback with us by;

\* completing our questionnaire at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCHServiceLocations](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCHServiceLocations)

\* or contacting the service for a paper copy of the survey on 0113 3055 307/8/9

\* or texting your comments to 07860 021024

The deadline is noon on 5th November 2015. Further information is also available on our website: [www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/cslt](http://www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/cslt). Thank you very much for your time."

NEWSLETTER

## INFORMATION

### 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.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THIS TERM

DATE/TIME	EVENT	INFORMATION
<b>SEPTEMBER 2015</b>		
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Training Day	School closed to pupils
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	School opens to pupils	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Training Day	School closed to pupils
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September 3.45pm	Year 6 welcome meeting	In Cherry class
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 3.45pm	Year 5 welcome meeting	In Lilac class
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 3.45pm	Year 4 welcome meeting	In Cedar class
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September 3.45pm – to be amended due to EID. Further details to follow.	Year 3 welcome meeting	In Rowan class
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 3.45pm	Year 1 welcome meeting	In Sycamore class
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September 3.45pm	Year 2 welcome meeting	In Spruce class
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September 3.45pm	Reception welcome meeting	In Willow class
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival	
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 3.30-6pm	Parents' evening Yrs 1-6	
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 3.30-6pm	Parents' evening Yrs 1-6	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	School closes for half term	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	School opens	
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 9-6pm	Nursery parents' evening	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 9-6pm	Nursery parents' evening	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Tempest Photographers taking individual photos	Family photographs can be taken from 8.15-9am or 3.30-4pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 3.30-6pm	Reception parents' evening	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 3.30-6pm	Reception parents' evening	
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2.45pm	Year 3, 4 & 5 Christmas lights switch on	
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2.45pm	Year 3, 4 & 5 Christmas lights switch on	
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 9.30am	Reception concert	
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 9.30am	Y1 & 2 concert	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery PM concert	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery AM concert	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 parties	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery, Rec & KS2 parties	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes for Christmas	

### ATTENDANCE

The attendance per class for the period 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> September is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	78.6%	Alder	96.4%	Holly	98.6%
Willow	77.6%	Rowan	98.3%	Cherry	98.1%
Oak	96%	Cedar	98.8%		
Sycamore	93.3%	Lime	89.8%		
Maple	99%	Larch	94%		
Spruce	95.6%	Lilac	97.3%		

Some fantastic attendance figures here. Well done Maple class for the best attendance this period!

## **LATES**

We are delighted that punctuality has been really good so far at the start of the term with only a handful of children being recorded as late arriving for school. It is really important that children are in class for the start of the school day and we hope that the great start will continue through the year.

## **PARKING**

Please can we remind all parents about the need for safe parking outside school. We continue to pass details to the Police of cars that are seen parked illegally and we appreciate the support we are given by the parents who take time to take photographs and/or pass on registration numbers. We also work closely with the Parking Enforcement Team who have issued 39 fines in the last few months to parents/carers who were parked illegally outside school. The safety of all our children is paramount and by parking just a short distance away accidents can be prevented.

## **RECEPTION OPEN DAYS FOR SEPTEMBER 2016 INTAKE**

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2016 then we would like to invite you to come and have a visit and talk with Mrs Ronicle on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October or Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at either 9.30am or 4pm. Please advise the office if you will be attending. Thank you.

## **RECORDER LESSONS**

We are trying to establish recorder lessons for the children but unfortunately we have only had interest shown by 3 pupils and we need a minimum of 6 to set up a class. If your child is interested in having lessons then please contact Sofia Wilde at Sound Generation and a registration form will be sent out to you – [sofia@soundgeneration.co.uk](mailto:sofia@soundgeneration.co.uk) or telephone 020 33442310. The children 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. They will be able to perform duets, as well as performing solo and in a group. 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.

## **ROUNDHAY HIGH SCHOOL OPEN MORNING**

Roundhay High School will be holding an open morning for Year 5/6 parents and children. This will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 9.30-12.30pm.

## **ALLERTON GRANGE SCHOOL**

Allerton Grange School will be holding an open evening on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 6-8pm. Children in year 6 were given a leaflet this week to bring home.

## **PSA UPDATE 2014/15**

Welcome to all the parents, guardians and carers of children who have joined Kerr Mackie this year – we hope you will all enjoy your time as part of our community.

The PSA (Parent Staff Association) has two key aims:

1. To enrich our children's experience of school by bringing together children and adults in social activity.
2. To fundraise for additional resources that the school may not be able to afford by itself. Over the years, the PSA has funded things like playground equipment, iPads and contributed to the new cooking facilities for the children to use.

Last year, the PSA ran or were involved in the following events: a Winter Fair, the Roundhay Schools Fun Run, the Year 6 Leavers Disco and two Bag2School events raising a total of £1,830 after costs. Many thanks go to Veena Murray & Philippa Lamb, Louisa Riches & Michael Allen, Mel Hiles and Vicky Furness respectively for their support in making these events happen. It was, however, a relatively quiet year with fewer events taking place than in the past.

## **Plans for 2015/16**

For 2015-16, we'd like to support parents and carers (either individually or as small groups) to be able to run small-scale simple events rather than asking for open-ended commitment to a committee. We hope that such an approach will mean that everyone is able to contribute what they can – given that we all lead busy lives.

Examples of events that have been held in the past are as follows:

- **After School Bake-Sale:** usually make £300 profit and are simple to organise.
- **After-School Film Club or Disco:** these are both usually run for a profit but aim to break even, giving the kids a great night out!
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** another break even event
- **Bag 2 School:** a fund-raising exercise coordinating collection of old clothes and textiles – usually makes around £100 profit for a good collection.
- **School Tea Towels/Logo'd Shopping Bags** – these are rather more complex projects that the children enjoy – and there is a personal memento at the end.
- **Curry Nights/Pamper Nights/Quiz Nights** – the PSA has also run activities that are not just for the kids. It's a great way to meet other parents.

- **Summer/Winter Fair** – these have varied from small-scale events (a few games after school) to large-scale weekend fetes and usually make about £1,000 each time. Fairs can be as big or small as the teams who plan them. There are always plenty of people who help out on the day and, when Fairs take place, they are highlights of the school social calendar. We do have a Fair handbook with everything you need to know written down to help you – especially if you are a first-timer!

Whilst there is no formal committee, Lindsay Gollin, is acting as the PSA Treasurer and is able to link new parents with those who have previous experience. She will also provide help with finances and help with finding the right people to go to.

If you are interested in running an event or have an idea either for fund-raising or for having fun, please leave your contact details with the school office who will put you in touch with Lindsay. Or you can often find her doing pick-up/drop-off at Yr 2 or Yr 5.

#### **PASSIONATE ABOUT SPORT? KEEN FOR THE KIDS TO BE ACTIVE?**

Join the Roundhay Schools Fun Run team for summer 2016!

We are seeking one or more parents to represent Kerr Mackie on the organising group who run the Roundhay Schools Fun Run. This is a really high-profile annual event, organising a mass-participation Fun Run (1km & 5km) in the park every summer. All Roundhay Primary Schools are represented with a great turn out every year.

It is a role that can be undertaken by any parent as the majority of work involved is usually in a few evening meetings in the run-up to the event. Planning will start early in 2016 with most activity falling in the summer weeks before the event. Louisa & Michael have represented Kerr Mackie for a few years and now would like to hand on the baton.

If you would like to know more or are able to volunteer your time, please leave your details with the school office who will put you in touch with Louise and Michael.