

KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

19th June 2015



Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to thank all the children and parents/carers who have given Mrs Crowther such a warm welcome back. She seems to have come back with bundles of energy and I'm looking forward to working together as we continually strive to make Kerr Mackie an even better school than it already is.

The last few weeks have been a really busy time for Year 6, in the best possible, way, now that the SATS are over with. First we had the residentials at Herd Farm which I was lucky enough to go to for both classes. It was fantastic to see how many children really challenged themselves on the activities there, particularly the giant swing (I did it once, never again!). Both classes behaved impeccably, showing their good manners and respect to the adults there. They even seemed to enjoy laying the tables and helping with the washing up. It was also fun watching some of the children trying to put a cover on their duvet!

This week it was the Y6 disco and again a great time was had by all. I was impressed by how the children had dressed up for the occasion, the way they joined in all the games and their energy! Well done Y6, you should be very proud of yourselves.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who came to our KS2 sports day this week. It was incredibly well organised – many thanks to Miss Howard for overseeing it all with the help of the sports leaders from Roundhay. It was very successful, with all children enthusiastically taking part and the weather was ideal. Thank you to the parents who took part in the races, perhaps we will have medals next year!

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

It's great to be back as part of the Kerr Mackie team! I have had a year full of magic, mayhem and mess with my daughter Jessica! She has kept me entertained for a year which has been a steep learning curve – a special year to remember. I've enjoyed keeping up to date with school news via Twitter where information, updates and photographs are regularly shared. I have been in to school for 8 'Keeping in Touch' days during my year's maternity leave and been in touch by email but it's good to be back. It is wonderful to see the imaginative classrooms and corridors displaying children's work so creatively. As well as catching up with members of staff, it is a delight to see your children again (many of whom have really changed in a year and seem a lot taller than I remember!). I feel fired up about working with Mrs Ronicle and the team to make Kerr Mackie the best school it can be. I am extremely proud of our school; on my return I have seen polite, friendly, respectful, caring and fun children enjoying school.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have, once again, received from children, staff, parents and governors. My door is always open, if I can be of any help or you have any concerns, please feel free to call in to speak with me.

Helen Crowther (Deputy Headteacher)

TRAINING DAYS

Reminder: the training days for 2015-16 will be:

Wednesday 2nd September 2015

Thursday 17th September 2015

Monday 4th January 2016

Tuesday 5th January 2016

Monday 18th April 2016

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Please can we remind parents/carers that school closes for the summer holiday on Tuesday 21st July 2015 and re-opens to pupils on **Thursday 3rd September 2015**. This is in line with Roundhay High School but will be different to most other schools in Leeds. A copy of the letter regarding this is available to view on our school website.

CURRICULUM

YEAR 1 TRIP TO BRADFORD COLOUR MUSEUM

Did you know that a rainbow is actually a circle and that white light is made up of red, blue and green? These are just some of the interesting facts that Year 1 found out on their visit to the Bradford Colour Experience. The children have been learning all about light sources, colour, shadows and how light travels. After turning themselves into scientists they carried out a series of investigations, discovering amazing things about light. All the children had a fantastic day and learnt loads, a great experience.

NEWSLETTER

NURSERY MINIBEAST EXHIBITION

Nursery were very excited to be visited by a mini beast roadshow on Monday 18th May. The children had the opportunity to touch and hold many different creatures including tarantulas and snakes. Well done to all of the children for being so brave! On Thursday 21st May we then held an exhibition for all of the parents. The children sang a song and rhyme they had been learning before showing their parents their observational pictures, paintings and wonderful writing about mini beasts. Thank you to all the parents who came, the children were very proud and excited to show you their learning.

YEAR 4 VISIT TO YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PARK

"On Thursday 4th June, year 4 went to Yorkshire Wildlife Park. We went there to learn more about habitats. We saw a lot of amazing animals such as meerkats, tigers, lions, leopards and giraffes. When we finished seeing all of the animals, we went to the workshop where we smelled some fur and we touched a python snake, giant snail called Shelley and a hissing cockroach. After lunch we went to see the lions to find out about their habitat and what they eat. Before we left we went to the shop to spend some money on something to keep. I was tired when I got home, but I had enjoyed it and the amazing meerkats were the best." Written by Laiba Khan, Cedar class

YEAR 3 DANSE MACABRE

Our Year 3 parents were invited in to watch their children perform the 'Danse Macabre' this week and they seemed to really enjoy it. Here are some of the comments left in our visitors book:
"Absolutely brilliant storytelling and it was well organised. Loved it."
"The dance fitted the music brilliantly – very well choreographed and the children performed superbly."
"Fabulous acting, dancing and teamwork. Well done."

RECEPTION TRIP TO SEALIFE, SCARBOROUGH

Reception enjoyed a fantastic time at Scarborough. We saw lots of wonderful sea creatures in the Sealife Centre including a giant turtle, beautiful coloured jellyfish, rays gliding through the water and the fast moving sharks, which were the boys' favourites! Children enjoyed the experience of touching a starfish and holding a whelk with a hermit crab inside. The sun shone as we ate our picnic overlooking the north bay watching the boats go by and later paddling in the sea. The children enjoyed it so much many were asking to stay longer and some said they wanted to sleep over in the Sealife Centre!



RECEPTION MINIBEAST EXHIBITION

Reception enjoyed sharing their learning about minibeasts. They were very proud to show their artwork and were able to talk about how they had critiqued their own work, both in drawing and writing. The children's drawings showed great observational skills and very good pencil control. All staff were very proud of their achievements!

We had some lovely comments left by parents:

"Amazing pictures, the children have produced some excellent final drafts!"

"Was really informative and was well presented."

"Impressive work, you can see a lot of effort went into preparing the exhibition."

"Fantastic pieces of artwork – such amazing detail! A lovely presentation & great to see them growing in confidence."



YEAR 5

"A few weeks ago the Year 5 classes held a few stalls in the playground to raise money for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal. In total we raised over £200.00 and we hope this makes a difference and saves peoples lives. We would like to thank everyone who helped us raise all the money." Written by Sammy Small on behalf of Year 5.

INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

The attendance per class for the period 11th May to 12th June is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	95.7%	Alder	98.6%	Holly	96.6%
Willow	95.1%	Rowan	95.4%	Cherry	98.6%
Oak	94.1%	Cedar	97.5%		
Sycamore	98.9%	Lime	98.3%		
Maple	97.6%	Larch	97.2%		
Spruce	97.2%	Lilac	96.9%		

Well done Sycamore class for the best attendance this period!

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.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

We have an open door policy at school and it is lovely to see parents in the morning. Feel free to bring your children in to the classroom if you feel that is what is best for your child. Can we remind you that, at Kerr Mackie, every minute of learning time counts. Because it is important that we start our learning promptly, please make sure that you leave your child's class by 9:00 am so that the school day can commence without interruption. Many thanks!

CHILDSEASONS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

At the moment Childseasons run their club until 5.45pm (Mon-Thur) and we have been asked by a parent if they would be able to extend this until 6pm. Childseasons are prepared to run until 6pm if there is sufficient demand. If you currently use Childseasons or will be from September then please advise the office if you would use this extension to 6pm. Thank you.

HOT WEATHER

Now that the summer weather is here can we please remind parents/carers that children should come to school with a sunhat and suncream applied. Unfortunately we cannot apply suncream to children during school time. If children wish to wear sandals please ensure they are sensible i.e. not flip flops and are black in line with our school uniform policy.

LOST PROPERTY

Please note that any unclaimed lost property will be disposed of next Friday. We have also had a ring found in the playground which is in the office for safekeeping. If you think it might be yours please call in to the office or telephone and provide a description. Thank you.

SCHOOL DINNER ACCOUNTS

You may have received a text recently saying that you owe money on your child's dinner account. Please note this may relate to a dinner your child has had several years ago as the balance is carried forward each year. Please ensure all dinner accounts are brought up to date and maintained with a credit balance in future. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

SPORT

RUGBY

On Tuesday 2nd June our Under 11 rugby league team played in the quarter final of the Watson Cup against Alwoodley Primary. For guts, determination and for immense tackling, receiving multiple knocks and bruises and never ever giving up we were the best team ...and even our opposition (Alwoodley) agreed with us. Our gutsy team played the whole match without any subs which made the challenge even harder. However, matches are won or lost on the tries conceded and the final result was KM 12 - Alwoodley 42.... unfortunately our cup run has finished.

FUN RUN – ENTRIES STILL WELCOME!

Reminder: The run will take place at Roundhay Park on the morning of Saturday 20 June 2015 at 10am. There is a 1km run and a 5km run, so something for all children and adults regardless of age and fitness level! You can enter on the day or just come along and support us. We look forward to seeing you on the day!
Louisa Riches and Michael Allen