

KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

2nd April 2015



Dear Parent/Carer,

How quickly this term has flown; it seems only two minutes since the children came back in January to start their new projects in their amazing classrooms. Seeing children sitting so focused in 'The Secret Garden', 'The Temple of Critique' and on an Australian beach, completing their learning was awe inspiring. The 'immersive' learning environments in each classroom have really engaged our children in their projects, as seen by some of the fantastic home learning children have brought in. We have had a number of headteachers visiting our school this term to see the work we are doing and they have gone away very impressed. All credit to the fantastic children and hardworking staff at Kerr Mackie.

Our children and staff have also impressed Roundhay Through School. I received a lovely email from their PE coordinator this week which compliments us on the attitude of our children and staff. Please see below:

Over the past two terms, I've been thoroughly impressed with your schools contribution to Roundhay's PE & Sport Partnership. I would also like to take this time to acknowledge how much of a pleasure it has been for us to work alongside your pupils. Your pupils have been polite and very personable for all Roundhay staff that they interact with. The enjoyment for sport that is noticeable within your pupils stems from the likes of Miss Howard, who alongside Mr Woodman and Mr Loftman, create a fun sporting atmosphere for all pupils no matter their ability.

Well done to our very creative children who have entered our annual 'Decorate an Egg' and Easter bonnet competitions. There were some fantastic entries, of an extremely high standard, and it was a very hard decision for the pupils in our school council who have conducted the judging. The winners of the decorated eggs were:

Nursery	Anmol Tassarwar	Spruce	Luisa Joyce-Hill	Holly	Niamh Best
Elm	Inayah Mustafa	Alder	Derry Webster	Cherry	Ateeq Lal
Willow	Hena Yousaf	Rowan	Hana May Qureshi		
Oak	Rihanna Ali	Cedar	Saskia Carter		
Sycamore	Jinesh Chouhan	Lime	Nadia Hussain		
Maple	Tayub Gul	Larch	Edie Joyce-Hill		
		Lilac	Sammy Small		

The winners of the 'Decorate an Easter bonnet' are:
Maya Bickler, Charlie Horne and Erin Brockway.

Each winner has received an Easter egg and there are some photographs on Twitter and the school website under the news section. Well done to everyone who took part! Finally, I would like to thank you for the support you have given your children and the school and I wish you all a very happy Easter break.
Mrs Ronicle, 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 5

"On Tuesday 17th March, Year 5 went to Moortown Baptist Church to learn about Easter and Jesus's death. We watched an Easter play that told the story of Easter. After that we made some flower pots before we watched something else about Jesus and we learned that he died on Good Friday and rose again on Easter day. Before we returned to school we had some drinks." Written by Harriet and Kameron.

"On Wednesday 18th March, Year 5 went to Leeds City Museum. When we arrived we went to the workshop and split into three groups and made our Ancient Greek titles. We did three activities; mask making, coin investigation and guess what's in the bag. We also did a timeline throughout history. Then we went to the ancient world to learn about the Ancient Greek architecture and things that the Ancient Greeks made.

NEWSLETTER

Later we went outside and started our architecture tour around Leeds led by Miss Meehan. We saw all three types of Ancient Greek columns that there are; Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. The main column we saw was Corinthian which was on the Civic and Town Hall. We returned to the museum, had a final look around then came back to school. We had a great time!" Written by Maddie & Yusuf in Larch class.

YEAR 3

"On Friday, we got on the bus and went to Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate. When we arrived, we had to sign in and let them know we had arrived. First we went to the learning centre and a lady called Elizabeth told us about the place and she asked us what we knew about plants. After that, Elizabeth showed us how to make helicopters. Then we went off and made them on our tables. A few minutes later, we split up into groups. We made a team name and we had to name seeds. In the afternoon, we went out to have a look at the plants and we saw lots of different ones. They looked really nice. We had a sketch book so we could sketch all types of flowers. After that we saw the 'Log Ness' monster and it looked really cool. Then we had a walk and found the playground – we really enjoyed it." Written by Lily Edwards, Alder.

"I think everybody enjoyed the trip and I did too because I learnt a lot about plants and how they grow. It was the best trip ever!" Written by Jack Wilson in Alder class.

YEAR 1

On Friday 27th March, Year 1 held an exhibition for parents and carers on their Oakwood Clock project. We were joined by some of the team who are involved in the restoration project and they have written a piece on their website <http://loveoakwood.co.uk/news-of-oakwood-clock/>. Please also see our Twitter account @KerrMackieP for tweets & photos about this project.

Below are a few comments left in our visitor's book:

"We loved all the models and how proud everyone was of their great work. Thanks!"

"What a wonderful exhibition! Well done to everyone."

"Fantastic work and great explanations!"

GARDENING AND COOKING

Our gardening groups have been busy this term. In the first half of the term we have been looking after the wildlife in winter. We took part in the RSPB Birdwatch at the end of January. We have made a hedgehog house and bug box. In the second part of the term we have started weeding and sowing a few seeds. We have observed the frogs in the pond and now have a large quantity of frogspawn. We have entered flowerbed designs for the 'Leeds in Bloom' competition.

Our cooking groups have been busy too, with sweet and savoury dishes. Some of our favourites include rainbow salad, pizza scones, gingerbread men and flapjacks. We have also made foods for special occasions, such as: red nose biscuits, Chinese New Year noodles, Welsh cakes and Irish soda bread.

If any parents or carers would like to join us in gardening I have put up a notice on each year group cloakroom door. Please write your name and contact details by the date. Please note you will need to have a DBS check done by the school before you can work with the children. Thank you for any help. Mrs Hutchinson.

INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

The attendance per class for the period 16th March to 27th March is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	88.7%	Alder	96.8%	Holly	94.7%
Willow	88.2%	Rowan	98%	Cherry	96.3%
Oak	93.2%	Cedar	98.9%		
Sycamore	96.2%	Lime	98.2%		
Maple	96.7%	Larch	96.7%		
Spruce	98.3%	Lilac	97.3%		

KERR MACKIE NURSERY

We have a few places available in our nursery from September 2015. The sessions are morning 8.45-11.45am, afternoon 12.15-3.15pm and there are no fees to pay. If you have a child who will be 3 and are interested in a place please see a member of the office staff. If you have younger children and will want a place for them in the future please provide their details at the office in order that they can go on our waiting list.

SCHOOL DINNER MENU

We have a new school dinner menu starting after the Easter holidays, which provides even more choice for the children. The menu is available to view on the school website – under 'our school' and copies are available in the display stand by the office.

CHEQUES

Please can we remind parents/carers that cheques for school trips should be made payable to Kerr Mackie Primary School and cheques for school milk or dinners payable to Leeds City Council. Thank you.

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

We are now collecting the vouchers issued by Sainsburys for the above campaign. Please drop your vouchers into the box by the office and help us to get some free items for sport.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

We have been asked to forward the following information to all parents/carers: Leeds City Council has a legal duty to ensure the provision of sufficient school places in the city. Due to a rising birth rate, new housing developments and increases in families moving to Leeds, the Inner East and Inner North East has been identified as an area where there is an increased demand for secondary school places. The council is therefore currently reviewing school place provision in this area and is exploring options available.

As part of the process for identifying options, a stakeholder event was held on 26 February 2015. The aim of this event was to bring key stakeholders together to discuss the need for additional school places within the area and to collate any suggested solutions that were put forward. Attendees at the event included school governors, head teachers, elected members, parent representatives and officers from teams across the council, including Capacity Planning, Highways, Planning and Built Environment. We are now starting a wider discussion around the need for additional school places in the Inner East and Inner North East and have set up an online forum that lists the suggestions put forward at the event. We are seeking the views of the wider community about these or any other suggestions.

You can comment on these suggestions by using the following link:

<https://leedssecondaryschoolplaceplanning.wordpress.com/category/inner-east-and-inner-north-east>

Your views are important to us and I hope that you will take the time to contribute to the online forum discussion.

Yours faithfully

Darren Crawley

Sufficiency Manager - Strategic Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team

PARKING

Please show consideration to others when parking outside school. We have had reports this week of cars being parked on the pavement opposite school resulting in children having to walk in the road to get round them. This is obviously potentially dangerous. Please stop and think of the consequences of your actions before parking outside school. It is the safety of all our children that matters.

SPORT

NETBALL

Well done to our netball team who played in a mini tournament against our cluster of schools. We beat Talbot 4-0, Gledhow 5-0 and Moortown 5-0. We are very proud of you girls!

RUGBY UNDER 11'S

Our team played in a great match on Wednesday 25th March. We played Richmond Hill Primary at home and beat them 50 tries to 32. To quote Luke Gillibrand "I got bashed and flattened but loved it!" This was a cup match and we are now through to the second round. Well done boys, you thoroughly deserved your win.

PSA

ROUNDHAY PRIMARY FUN RUN

This year is the 10th year of the Roundhay Primary Schools Run for Fun. Come rain or shine this is a wonderful event to be involved with, either as a child or adult joining in with the run or as a marshall on the course giving support and encouragement. The money raised is split equally between all the organising schools, with sponsorship monies that our school raises going direct to our PSA funds. The run will take place at Roundhay Park on the morning of Saturday 20 June 2015. There is a 1km run and a 5km run, so something for all children and adults regardless of age and fitness level!

The entry form was emailed to you on Tuesday and copies are available from the school office. Completed forms and entry fees / t-shirt money should be returned to the school office no later than 8 May (although you can enter on the day - details on the entry form). Running packs will be sent out nearer the time with t-shirts, running numbers and further information to all those that return their form and fees as directed. We look forward to seeing you on the day!

Louisa Riches and Michael Allen

Kerr Mackie Run for Fun reps

**School closes today for the Easter holidays and re-opens on Monday 20th April.
We hope you all have a lovely Easter.**

