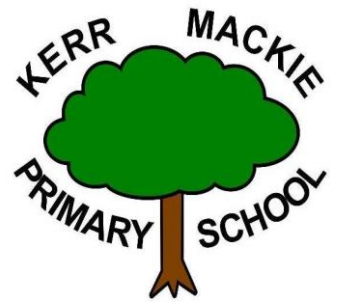


KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

22nd March 2013



Dear Parent/Carer,

What has happened to Spring, and we're changing our clocks soon to Summertime! I think we have all had enough now of this Winter weather but thank you for your understanding today about the late start for your children.

We have some very enterprising children here at Kerr Mackie, budding Alan Sugars! Several groups of children have been very keen to raise money themselves for World Book Day, Red Nose Day, The World Wildlife Fund and the RSPB. They have sold books or made buns and biscuits, produced posters, presented assemblies and organised the stalls all themselves, with some guidance from myself. I have been very impressed with their enthusiasm, commitment and organisational skills.

Ruqayyah Bostan and Nitasha Mustafa raised £30 by selling books for World Book Day.

Rachel Grady, Izzy Day, Sally Elphick, Martha Peterkin Buchanan, Lizzie Clark and Laurie Cooke raised £77.30 by selling buns and biscuits for World Wildlife Fund and RSPB.

Maya Hone, Pharrell Parker, Joash Webster, Aissa Grierson, Kajol Kaur and Aqsa Rafique raised £36.95 for Red Nose Day by selling buns.

Well done everyone.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE

Our new website is now up and running and we have already had some very positive feedback from parents. There is lots of useful information on there so please do take a look. There are still some pages to complete but hopefully you will find it easy to use. The new address is www.kerrmackie-primary-school.org.uk.

TRAINING DAYS

Please note that Monday 2nd and Friday 13th September will be training days. The additional training days for next year will be confirmed shortly.

RED NOSE DAY

Thank you for your support on Red Nose Day. We raised £502.01 which we have now sent off to the Red Nose Day appeal. The winners of the 'Guess the name of the dinosaur' were Ben Turfrey from Spruce class who correctly guessed Dynamite and Keona Liburd-Maynard from Rowan class who guessed Littlefoot. Well done Ben and Keona!

ROCK HOPPER PENGUINS AND SNOW LEOPARDS

"These beautiful and humorous creatures are living under a harmful threat so on Wednesday 20th March we held a 'sweet treat' sale. We sold sweets and buns in aid of these mysterious beings. Many people flocked to buy something and as a result we are proud to say that we now have £72.30 to help those in need. But that doesn't mean they are safe forever. To help generations of animals live a peaceful life you could adopt these silent predators today, or, you could play your part and raise some money for these funny penguins. Thank you." Written by The Wildlife Club (Lizzie, Rachel, & Martha in Year 5 Lilac, Izzy & Laurie in Year 5 Larch and Sally in Year 6 Cherry). We have placed posters about adopting a snow leopard in the school's noticeboards. If you are interested, you can pick up the information from the school office.

EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Don't forget to decorate your eggs this weekend. To enter the competition your child needs to decorate a hard-boiled egg and bring it to school on Monday 25th March or Tuesday 26th March, clearly labelled with their name and class. Please keep your entries small, no boxes etc as we have very limited space to display them all. The eggs will be judged on Wednesday 27th March and the winning entries will receive a prize. The eggs will be displayed for parents/carers to view after 2.30pm on 25/26th March. Any eggs not collected by Thursday 28th March will be thrown away.

EASTER RAFFLE

Next week children will be able to buy raffle tickets daily in class to win 3 large cuddly Easter chicks and an Easter egg. Tickets will be 50p each.

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to everyone who came and purchased books at the book fair. We made £172 in commission that has been used to purchase books for the classrooms.

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL DINNERS

Please note that next Thursday, 28th March, the red option on the school menu will be beef instead of pork.

EASTER HALF TERM

Want something fun to do during Easter half term? Then the Hunslet Club Multi Activity Camps for young people in South Leeds are the place to be!

During each school break throughout the year there are lots of exciting things going on at the club, a playscheme including football, dancing, cricket, table tennis, cooking, arts & crafts, bouncy castle, internet time, trampolining, dodgeball, Play Station & X Box Games Zone, parachute games, pool, rounders, Mini Olympics, DJing, badminton, tag rugby and much, much more. Tues 2nd to Fri 5th & Mon 8th to Fri 12th April. 9:00am to 3:00pm. £8 per day or £4 per half day.

The Hunslet Club is a registered charity and one of the *top five largest youth clubs* in the UK, providing a range of low cost, high quality activities for children and young people in Leeds including sports, arts and leisure activities, as well as fitness activities for family members and adults. The Hunslet Club recently won the Leeds Sports Awards *Outstanding Community Club of the Year Award* as well as the Speak To The Streets *Best Youth Club Community Award* and also the Hamara *Community Organisation Of The Year Award*, each in recognition of its wide ranging, successful work in the area.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance for the period 4th March to 15th March for the classes is as follows:

| | | | |
|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| Elm | 88.6% | Rowan | 99% |
| Willow | 87.5% | Cedar | 95.8% |
| Oak | 96.1% | Lime | 98% |
| Sycamore | 97.4% | Larch | 96.2% |
| Maple | 97.2% | Lilac | 95.8% |
| Spruce | 95.7% | Holly | 98% |
| Alder | 97.3% | Cherry | 98.1% |

We are really pleased with these attendance figures for Years 1-6. There has been a significant improvement over the last few months. Well done and let's keep it up Yrs 1-6. We would like to see an improvement in Reception.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We currently have a few full or part time places available for our breakfast club. Please see Mrs Lal or Mrs Cambridge if you would like further details.

PARENT CLASSES

We will shortly be starting the following classes for parents/carers:

New opportunities

- Confidence building
- Self perception and personality traits
- Personal effectiveness
- Goal settings
- Budgeting and money management

This course will run for 5 weeks from Mon 22nd April until 20th May 1-3pm

ESOL

- Practise speaking and listening
- Gain employability skills
- Improve confidence
- Increase vocabulary

This course will run for 8 weeks from Wed 24th April until 12th June 1-3pm

Steps to work

- Create an effective, current C.V.
- Identify barriers to work and how to overcome them
- Recognise the importance of the finer details when making job applications

This course will run for 5 weeks from Mon 10th June until 8th July 1-3pm

If you are interested in any of the above then please speak to Mrs Fiaz Lal.

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team will be holding a morning 'drop in' session from 9-10am on Wednesday and Thursday mornings after the Easter holidays. This will give parents the opportunity to raise any issues, concerns or just for a general chat. Please feel free to call in and speak to one of the team.

CURRICULUM

YEAR 6 BATTLE OF THE BANDS

"In the year of 2013, Kerr Mackie introduced a battle of the bands for year 6. Year 6 had over a month to rehearse for it. We had to create the lyrics, prepare the music, research bands and genres and design our own logos for our t-shirts,

Finally on the 14th March we walked in to the hall to perform our songs to our parents which was nerve racking. Luckily we had a brilliant performance that all the parents enjoyed. Each group performed their song and at the end there was a cheer off to decide on the winners and it was decided that 'Operation Rock' were the overall winners. We all had a fantastic time and learnt a lot about sound whilst doing this topic.

Our bands were

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| - Little Lidl | - The Pak |
| - Face The Unknown | - Killer 7 |
| - Flaming Fire | - The Unknown |
| - The Experience | - Dre Diamonds |
| - Ultimate Rap | - Operation Rock |

Keep an eye out for these bands taking over the music network in years to come!"

By Sam Gillibrand and Malkit Diggpal Cherry Class

A selection of the comments left by parents/carers were:

"Great fun & well done kids."

"A well-presented concert, much enjoyed. Well done to all the children who performed today."

"Absolutely fabulous concert at the end of a brilliant topic. Well done to all."

"Another brilliant project – and wonderfully executed by everyone. What fun."

RECEPTION VISIT TO THE FARM

Reception classes enjoyed a fantastic day at St Leonard's Farm last week. We learnt lots of information about the animals from farmer James. We fed the animals, milked the cow and had lots of fun climbing on the bales of straw and zooming down the slides (even the teachers!).

YEAR 4 TO ROUNDHAY FOR MUSIC

"On Monday 11th March, Year 4 children went to Roundhay High School to see a music concert. We heard some beautiful music from different schools. Also there were some amazing instruments which none of us had heard of before, such as the badd flute and others. The musicians played several different songs like Star Wars and Chicken Run. They also let us conduct which was very fun to do." Written by Ruqayyah Bostan and Bezhan Mirzoev in Cedar class.

YEAR 5 TO MOORTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

"On the 12th of March on Tuesday morning, Year 5 went to Moortown Baptist Church. We arrived at 10am and we met pupils from different schools. First of all we got into groups and did fun activities for example wordsearches and mazes. After that one of the leaders asked questions about rewind to Easter and we had to think if it was true or false. Then we planted seeds into plant pots and filled in a booklet about Easter. After we had all finished the activities the leaders performed a play about Jesus. They were dressed up as Mary, Jesus's mother and Mary, his friend and they told us what had happened at the tomb. We also watched a Lego animation of Easter. Finally we left Moortown Baptist Church with smiles on our faces and returned to school for lunch." Written by Zayna Ahmed and Aliya Zaheer.

PARALYMPIAN

On Monday, we had an inspiring assembly with Elizabeth Wright, a former Paralympic swimmer who represented Australia in the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. She talked to us about her life and her tremendous achievements and she showed us her medals. Amazingly she has managed to achieve all this with only one working arm and leg. She taught us all that "There is no such thing as impossible".

PSA NEWS

SPRING & CRAFT FAIR

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Spring & Craft Fair. It was a lovely event and we raised £400 for school. We had some lovely feedback from the external stallholders including the following message:

"On a last note we would like to say how lovely ALL the children were who attended the fair, if these were all your pupils it is obviously a very good school, they were all either friendly, polite, well behaved or a mixture of all three, it was a pleasure to meet them all."

BAG 2 SCHOOL

The Spring Bag2School collection will take place on Thursday 25th April so now is the time to sort out all of those out-grown clothes! Bags will be given to the children after Easter but you can use any large bag. You can include shoes, clothes and household textiles in your bag – it's the ideal opportunity to make some space!

Easter Holidays

Reminder, school closes on Thursday 28th March and re-opens on Monday 15th April.
We hope you have a lovely break.