

# KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015



Dear Parent/Carer,

The final week of the half-term has seen a lot of parental engagement with the school. Yesterday, I showed two large groups of parents round the school to help them decide on which school would be their preference for their child in September 2016. One of the questions was how we communicate with our parents and carers which made me realise we have a wide range of ways we communicate. So, here's a reminder.

A lot of information about the school can be found on our **website**, which is regularly updated. There are the **noticeboards**, outside the school's main gates and outside each year group's cloakroom. We **email** most of our letters now as we try to cut down on paper, and we **text**. Our fortnightly **newsletters** keep parents and carers up to date with events at school, and you will receive a link to access them. Our **classroom doors open at 8.45am** every morning, giving parents and carers an opportunity to **talk** to their child's teacher. Each term we email parents a **curriculum newsletter** which will outline the elements of the national curriculum that will be taught during the term and ideas on how you can help your child. Recently each group has held their **welcome meetings** where parents and carers received lots of information about the forthcoming year for their child and this week we have had our first **parents' evening** of the school year. We also hold **events** during the year, such as our **exhibitions**, where parents and carers can see their child's project work on display. Finally, many of our staff use **Twitter** to keep you all up to date on a daily basis. Don't forget to follow us -@KerrMackieP

As you can see, there are many ways that we communicate as a school, and if you have any other suggestions, please let us know. We are already planning some more opportunities for you to see how well your child is doing. Watch this space!

Good luck to all the children and parents taking part in the 'Bake Off' tomorrow. I'm looking forward to tasting the children's entries!

#### Warm welcomes and fond farewells

We would like to say a warm welcome to our new School Business Manager, Mrs Lucy Paddy, who will be joining the Kerr Mackie office team on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Sadly, Mrs Airey is leaving us to work in a school much closer to her home. Her last day is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. On behalf of all the parents, children and staff I would like to say a massive thank you for helping the office to run so efficiently. I know Mrs Airey is always friendly, warm and welcoming to all our parents and visitors and has been a real asset. Mrs Airey will be very much missed by us all.

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

#### **CURRICULUM**

##### **COOKING AND GARDENING UPDATE**

Our gardening groups have been busy after the summer holiday. They have been harvesting all our produce which have included raspberries, redcurrants, blackcurrants, apples, also cucumber, tomatoes, aubergines, potatoes, chilli peppers, onions, carrots, rosemary and mint. We have also tidied the flowers. We have observed some wildlife including frogs and bees.

The cookery groups have been using some of our harvest produce. We have made redcurrant flapjacks, rosemary potatoes, raspberry jam tarts, apple buns, blackcurrant squash and tomato soup. We also had a go at making bread for harvest.

We look forward to planting bulbs ready for spring and making more tasty food.

##### **YEAR 2 TRIP**

"On Monday year 2 went to the Thackray Medical Museum. We learnt about Florence Nightingale and we dressed up as nurses and porters. At the museum we walked through a Leeds city street from way back in 1842 and we learnt about the history of medicine. We learnt all about our five senses and were able to touch and smell lots of different things. We had an amazing day at the medical museum." Written by Lily Sherrard and Aamirah Rouf.

##### **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Our harvest festival this year was a great success due to the generous donations the children brought in for the refugees. We were able to make up 70 bags of food with a minimum of 10 items in each, in addition to 40 hygiene bags. They are all being delivered to Calais camps this weekend, and we are sure they will be greatly appreciated. Thank you again for your support.

NEWSLETTER

## INFORMATION

### SCHOOL COUNCIL/FOOD AMBASSADOR

Further to our previous newsletter we can confirm that the Year 2 interviews have now taken place and the following children have been chosen to represent their year group:

School council:

Brooke Allen, Mateo Scott-Palleiro and Lily Sherrard (Spring term)

Vanessa Braku, Oliver Loch and Harry Joicey (Autumn term)

Finley Colman, Amelie Salter and Lola Casarejos-Romero (Summer term)

Food Ambassadors:

Ella Sherrard and Connie Selfridge

### 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.

### PAYING BY CHEQUE

Please can we remind parents that cheques for school trips should be made payable to Kerr Mackie Primary School. Everything else, i.e. milk, dinners, after school clubs should be payable to Leeds City Council.

### ATTENDANCE

The attendance per class for the period 28<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	95.5%	Alder	98.7%	Holly	97.3%
Willow	97.2%	Rowan	98%	Cherry	96.9%
Oak	96.4%	Cedar	98.6%		
Sycamore	96%	Lime	97.9%		
Maple	97.2%	Larch	96.9%		
Spruce	96.9%	Lilac	99.1%		

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

### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Reminder: The school photographer will be in school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November taking individual photographs. A letter was emailed to you on 13<sup>th</sup> October regarding this.

### RECORDER LESSONS

We are just one pupil short of starting recorder lessons!

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.

### POPPY APPEAL

Once again we will be supporting the Royal British Legion poppy appeal. Poppies will be on sale to children at lunchtimes from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### LOST PROPERTY

We have another large collection of lost property. This will be disposed of on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November so please check if you think you might have misplaced something.

## SPORT

### WORLD CUP RUGBY FANZONE

Last week a small group of children went on a trip to the world cup rugby fanzone in Millennium Square, Leeds.

"We did lots of activities including inflatables and we had to get balls into hoops and we won prizes. We also designed rugby kits and played tag rugby with letters on and we had to make words out of the letters." By Megan Chester

"After some activities we met Tom Palmour, an author who likes rugby. We had a competition to hit the tiny ball over the miniature rugby goal post, followed by more activities which taught us rugby skills."

## FOOTBALL

"On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October, our Year 6 football team competed in a football competition at St Theresa's Primary. In the group stages Kerr Mackie defeated Clapgate 2-0 and Allerton Church of England 1-0. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> round we faced Tranmere who we beat 1-0 in a tight match. In the quarter finals we beat Allerton C of E 1-0 again. Then in the semi-final we sadly lost to Adel. Overall it was a great day and we finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 25 teams." Written by Kameron & Harry.

"On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October, the girls played a football match against Alwoodley Primary. The team was Lucy Bulpitt, Amalia Djemame, Sydney Whyte, Tasneem El-Mesallati, Keona Liburd Maynard, Chloe Gibbs, Lois Middleton, Homaira Begum and Raihaanah Hussain. It started off really well as it was 0-0 in the first half. When the second half started Alwoodley scored. Amalia equalised but in the end we lost 3-1." Written by Lucy Bulpitt and Amalia Djemame.

Reminder:  
School closes on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and re-opens on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November



**And finally, don't forget Great Kerr Mackie Bake-Off and Bake Sale  
Main School Hall Friday 23 October - 3:30-5:00pm**

Come along to the School Hall, buy some cake and join us for Afternoon Tea to celebrate the start of the half-term holiday.