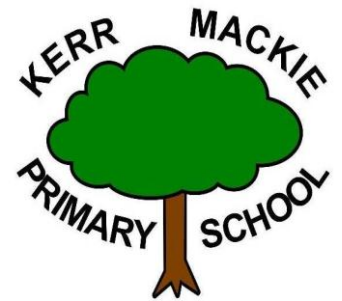


KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

25th October 2013



Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a great start to the new school year. The children settled in very quickly in to their new classes, and in particular the children in Reception, their first year at school. Many of the children have been on visits already to support their history project this term and, for parents who were able to visit our museums, it was clear how much the children had enjoyed their learning and what experts they had become. I would like to thank the many parents who told us how impressed they were with the museums, the quality of the children's learning and the hard work staff had put in to make them such a success. Please see the reports and comments below.

What has been particularly noticeable is children's outstanding behavior and their attitude to learning. Only this week, we received a phone call from a retired teacher who was at Fearnville swimming baths when Cedar class were there, to praise the good behavior of the children and their class teacher Miss Breen. It makes you feel so proud. I would like to wish everyone a good half term break and I look forward to seeing you all next half term.

CURRICULUM

YEAR 2

"On Thursday 3rd October, we went to Leeds City Museum and we saw huge animals and found out a lot of facts. We also saw a yak. A yak is a type of bull. A tour guide told us lots of information." Written by Lois Middleton and Zahra Jameel.

"On Monday 7th October the fire brigade came to school. Dave the fireman talked to us about fires and then we went outside and saw the fire engine. He showed us his three hoses and how they worked. Dave showed us how his siren worked and it was very loud. We also looked at a smoke alarm." Written by Lois Middleton and Zahra Jameel.

YEAR 4

"Year 4 Lime went to Leeds City Museum and enjoyed doing lots of activities and learnt more interesting facts about ancient Egypt. When we went to the workshop we made Egyptian Amulets using Model Magic, wrote on papyrus to make a bookmark and finally mummified a boy. We had a great time." Written by Ruqaiyah Ali & Monica Grewal.

MUSEUMS

Over the last week Years 2-6 have produced some wonderful museums and exhibitions showcasing the work they have been doing in school so far this term. We have had some wonderful comments left by the parents/carers who were able to join us:

Year 2 Great Fire of London

*"This is a brilliant museum. The children are all very professional and knowledgeable."
"A wonderful event! The teachers and children have obviously worked very hard. Well done."
"What a fabulous exhibition. We have learnt a lot about the Great Fire of London from all the very professional exhibits. Well done!"*

Year 5 Ancient Greek Museum

*"Great to see the children really excited and proud of the work they have done – well done all!"
"Very impressed with how knowledgeable the children are. FAB!"
"Fantastic work, the displays were wonderful and the children were full of knowledge."*

Year 6 WW2 Tea Dance

*"Wow! Really enjoyed seeing all your hard work come to life."
"One word – fantastic. Enjoyed every minute. Thank you."
"Fantastic effort. Really informative stalls with some great food and drink to enjoy alongside. Loved the swing dance."
"Huge amount of effort – a brilliantly executed learning project. Well done."
"Best school performance yet. Loved it all – wish it could have lasted longer. Very well done."*

Year 3 Viking Museum

*"Unbelievable amount of effort from all involved – loved it all – even the green soup!"
"Absolutely fantastic. Well done to all. Fabulous performance, thoroughly enjoyed it."
"I think it was fantastic, really enjoyed it and made me feel in the Vikings era. Thank you."*

Year 4 Ancient Egypt

*"Amazing as always, such interesting work!"
"The children showed lovely work and told very good information of ancient Egypt. Lovely time."
"Excellent work. The children were very enthusiastic and obviously proud of their work."
"Very well organised. Amazing performance and work, keep it up."*

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION

ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

If you have a child born between 1st September 2009 and the 31st August 2010 you will need to apply for a primary school place in Reception class starting in September 2014. You can apply for a place from the 1st November 2013 until the 15th January 2014. Please go to the www.leeds.gov.uk website and apply online. If you do not have internet access then the office staff can give you a copy of the application form to take away.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We still have places available in our after school care club. The after school care is available each day from 3.30pm until 5.45pm Monday to Thursday and 3.30pm until 4.45pm on Friday. The charge is £8.50 per session (Mon-Thurs) and £6.00 (Fri). There are a wide range of activities for the children including arts & crafts, board games, indoor and outdoor sports, reading and dressing up. A healthy light snack will be provided for the children. If you are interested please speak to a member of the office staff who will be able to provide further information.

WILDLIFE CLUB

"Thank you very much for all your support. We have raised £90.00 and are still being offered further donations to reach our goal of £100.00. We are proud to announce that Maddie in Yr 4 Cedar was the lucky winner of 'Guess how many sweets in the jar' guessing 350 when the real answer was 337 and Maddie came closest. Malaika in Yr 3 Alder has won the teddy, with the winning name 'Febby.'. We would also like to thank Mrs Hawley who brought in some gifts from Tesco which we were able to sell. Amur leopards and working donkeys are both a noble and worthy cause. We hope our money makes a difference." Yours thankfully, The Wildlife Club.

GREENFINGERS

If any parent or carer has an interest in gardening and could spare some time to work with the children please could you see Mrs Bourne or let the school office know. Thank you.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Please can we remind all parents/carers that the school photographer will be here on Monday 4th November taking individual photographs of all the children. A letter has been sent home and can be found on the school website if you have misplaced your copy.

GUITAR LESSONS

We will be holding a presentation on Friday 8th November at 2.45pm for parents whose children may be interested in taking guitar lessons in school. Please come along if you are interested.

POPPY APPEAL

From Monday 4th November we will be selling poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion. Poppies will be sold at lunchtime by a group of Year 6 children. If you would like to make a contribution please send your money with your child, alternatively they can be bought direct from the school office. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

As a school we thought it would be good to help some of our local charities and as we already have links with St Georges Crypt (Harvest Festival), we felt this would be continuation of that. St Andrew's Church is collecting toys, games, books, baby toys and gifts for under privileged children in Leeds and they will be donated to St George's Crypt who will distribute the gifts out. New or nearly new toys will be much appreciated. St Andrew's will collect our contribution from school from the end of November. Please help a child in Leeds have a present to open this Christmas!

ATTENDANCE

The attendance for the period 30th September to 18th October for the classes is as follows:

Elm	88.7%	Rowan	94.2%
Willow	91.4%	Cedar	94.6%
Oak	89.6%	Lime	93.3%
Sycamore	92.9%	Larch	92.4%
Maple	90.5%	Lilac	94.9%
Spruce	94.7%	Holly	93.2%
Alder	91.8%	Cherry	93.4%

We appreciate that these figures are lower than normal due to Eid celebrations. Our target for attendance is 96%. Please help us to achieve this throughout the year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY NEXT HALF TERM

NOVEMBER	
Monday 4 th November	School re-opens
Monday 4 th November	Individual pupil photographs
Monday 11 th November 9-11.20am and 12.30-6pm	Nursery parents' meetings
Friday 8 th November 3.30-5.45pm	Film night Years 1-3
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need day
Monday 18 th November 9-11.20am and 12.30-6pm	Nursery parents' meetings

DECEMBER	
Tuesday 3 rd December 2.45pm	Year 5 Christmas concert & Big Switch On
Friday 6 th December after school	Winter Fair
Friday 13 th December 9.30am	Year 1 & 2 Christmas concert
Monday 16 th December 2.45-3.15pm	Nursery PM Christmas concert
Tuesday 17 th December 11.15-11.45am	Nursery AM Christmas concert
Tuesday 17 th December 2pm	Year 3 & 4 Christmas concert
Wednesday 18 th December	KS1 Christmas parties
Thursday 19 th December	Nursery & KS2 Christmas parties
Friday 20 th December	School closes for Christmas

SPORT

FOOTBALL

On Thursday 17th October, our Year 4 football team played a match against Westerton Primary School which we won 7-1. The whole team played well, they worked as a team and had excellent communication. Man of the match was Umar Khawaja in Cedar for his excellent goal keeping. Well done Kerr Mackie.

PSA NEWS

HALLOWEEN DISCO

It was wonderful to see such a fantastic turnout at the Year 4, 5 and 6 Halloween disco last Friday. The children all made a superb effort with their ghoulish costumes, completing some fiendish looks with fake tattoos and face painting provided by the PSA. We have some fabulous dancers at Kerr Mackie as we discovered during our special 'Thriller' zumba – huge thanks to Claire Chambers for leading this! The whole evening was great fun and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all who participated – the children, parents/carers for supporting this event, and, of course, everyone who volunteered on the night – it was greatly appreciated.

FILM NIGHT

The PSA are holding a film night for pupils in Years 1-3 on Friday 8th Nov from 3.30pm-5.45pm when Disney's 101 Dalmations will be showing. Tickets cost just £2.50 and include popcorn and a drink on entry. A tuck shop will also be available. If your child wishes to attend please complete and return the slip provided. Copies of the letter can be obtained from the office. Please note there are a maximum of 120 tickets available.

BAG-2-SCHOOL

Are you having a wardrobe clear-out before Christmas? The school has organized a bag-2-school collection for the **11th December**. Please donate unwanted textiles including clothes, shoes, hats, belts, bags, soft toys, curtains and bedding. Pop them into the bag which will be provided and return to school by the **morning of 11th December by 9am at the latest**. Bags will be distributed after half term but you can also use any large bag. The PSA will receive 50 pence per kg. It's the ideal opportunity to make some space!

MATCH FUNDING

There are hundreds of organisations in the UK offering their employees the chance to boost their fundraising efforts by "matching" the money they raise for their chosen charity (in this case, Kerr Mackie Primary School Parent and Staff Association, Registered Charity No. 1060424!). Some organisations match fund on a pound-for-pound basis, others may stipulate what they are prepared to give.

The PSA would like to explore this fantastic and easy way of raising additional funds for our school. As a first step, please check whether your employer operates a match giving scheme and, if they do, please do let us know - it will cost you nothing!

There is no definitive list of match funders but some examples of companies that participate in this scheme can be found online at MoneySavingExpert.com and include Asda, Barclays, Debenhams, HSBC, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, Stagecoach, Tesco....the list goes on. With our Winter Fair (one of the biggest events in the school calendar) on the horizon, now is an ideal opportunity to maximise our fundraising efforts.

HALF TERM

Reminder, school closes on Friday 25th October until Monday 4th November.