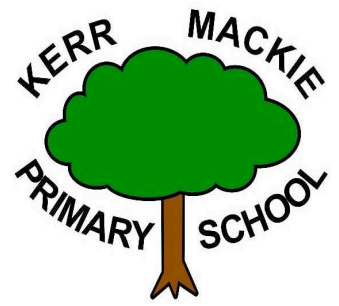


# KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL



26<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been quite a start to the new school year. The Ofsted inspection and subsequent report has made me reflect on when I started here three years ago and the journey the school has been on. Kerr Mackie is a school we can all be very proud of. Children enjoy learning and work hard and staff are enthusiastic and committed to doing their best to ensure all children achieve well.

## OFSTED

I hope you have all had the opportunity to read the school's Ofsted report. It can be found on the school website under Information – information downloads or you can request a copy at the school office.

A few of the key comments from the report are as follows:

- The school's motto 'Together everyone achieves more' is clearly evident in practice.
- Pupils clearly enjoy being at school as shown by attendance that is above average and continuing to improve.
- Pupils enjoy learning, work hard and achieve well.
- Imaginative opportunities are provided for pupils to practice and consolidate their speaking, reading and writing skills, and to challenge their thinking through special events, trips and topics.
- Teaching is usually good and there are examples of outstanding practice.
- Children enjoy a stimulating range of learning activities both indoors and outdoors in the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Teachers skillfully stretch pupils in their thinking, helping them develop the skills and confidence to follow their own lines of enquiry and make connections in their learning for themselves.
- Pupils are polite, friendly and caring throughout school. Positive attitudes ensure a calm, orderly environment that is conducive to learning.
- Pupils say they feel safe and well cared for in school.
- All groups of pupils, including disabled pupils, those with special educational needs and those learning English as an additional language are integrated into all aspects of school life.

School held Welcome Meetings for all parents and carers for the first time this year. We received lots of positive feedback. One parent wrote in our Visitor's book "A really good idea for us to have an overview of the year and the direction that teaching and learning is headed."

We also held our first two 'Project Learning' events. Year 6 showed their learning about WW2 including models of Anderson shelters and artwork, and held a tea dance for their parents/carers to view. Year 3 set up a Viking Museum in the school hall. They were able to talk about a wide range of information they had learnt about the Vikings. Parents/carers had the opportunity to taste Viking food, make jewellery, see a weaving demonstration and watch a performance of a Viking traditional tale. One comment from a parent "What a fabulous idea. Fantastic work by staff and children. Congratulations. A super event – very enjoyable."

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

## YEAR 6

"Last Friday Year 6 were lucky enough to go to St Edmunds Church Hall to set up for their tea dance. There were different stations around the room all about different war topics. One was about the blitz, another one about Anne Frank etc. At school we prepared some special World War 2 food. We brought in all the learning that we had done about the war. Because of the occasion we wore war clothing. We also rehearsed some dancing and singing and performed in front of our parents. In the end it was a great day for Year 6." Written by Harris Jamil and Checky Marcus.

Please see below a selection of the comments that were given by parents and carers who attended the tea dance:

'Well done to all the children. Lovely performance, enjoyed it all.'

'Lovely to see how much the children enjoyed showing all their learning – they really enjoyed it and so did I. Wonderful!'

'Fantastic. Lovely afternoon and great to see the fab work and obvious enthusiasm of the kids. Thank you and well done.'

'A very warm welcoming atmosphere. Well done to all the children and staff.'

'First class work from the children and a splendid show into the bargain! Very well done to all. Many thanks.'

'Wonderful experience – lovely to see the kids so enthusiastic. Well done all.'

NEWSLETTER

## ST ANDREW'S ROUNDHAY

St Andrew's church are collecting toys, books, games, baby toys and teenage gifts for underprivileged children in Leeds. New or nearly new toys are appreciated. If you have any donations please bring them to the school office by the end of November and we will pass them on.

## GARDENING

This half term, ten children from each year group have been busy planting seeds, herbs, fruit and vegetables in the school's raised beds and the tubs have been replenished by the main entrance. The children (and staff) have learnt a lot about growing fruit and vegetables and this will continue next half term with another group of children. A big thank you to Mrs Judd and Mrs Hutchinson who have come every week and supported the children.

## YEAR 6 GARDENING

'In week 1 we picked out pictures of fruit and vegetables from magazines and stuck them on sugar paper. In week 2 we pulled out weeds and picked raspberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants and mint. In week 3 we picked more redcurrants, runner beans, broad beans and radishes and we planted potatoes. In week 4 we found a devils coach horse and an earwig! We also made our own hedgehogs and an invitation for Mrs Ronicle. In week 5 we planted some bulbs and are having a little treat from everything we have found.' Written by Qasim Ali and Hamza Mohammad.

Any parents and carers who have a few minutes spare are really welcome to join us. The rota is available on our last newsletter which can be found on the website or from the school office.

## PSA NEWS

### Halloween Bake Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the bake sale on Tuesday such a great success. Your support in donating cakes, buying raffle tickets, helping out before and during the event and simply coming along was all massively appreciated. Together we made a whopping **£312.64** profit! A fantastic result - and we all had fun, too!

### Winter Fair - 7th December

We are holding another planning meeting about the Winter Fair on **Friday 9th November at 9am** (please meet by the office). Please do come along and get involved in any way you can. New faces are always welcome! If you can't make the meeting, any suggestions or offers of help (via a message left at the school office) would be gratefully received.

Rachel Wilson (Chair of the PSA)

## SPORT AT KERR MACKIE

### FOOTBALL

Year 6 have played their first match of the league, unfortunately losing 5-3 to St Nicholas. Although we are disappointed with the result, all family members who attended commented on how exciting the match was with goals coming thick and fast, particularly in the second half. Well done to all the boys who played, particularly Jaymol Grant who scored all three goals for Kerr Mackie.

### ATHLETICS

Over the past couple of weeks a group of 20 pupils from Years 6 and 5 have been training for the first round of this year's Sportshall Athletics competition which took place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Kerr Mackie won a number of events including girls' javelin, boys' triple jump, girls 2+1 lap, 2+2 lap races and boys 4x1 lap race. We can third overall, only 3 points behind 2<sup>nd</sup> place. A well done to all the boys and girls who participated and to the many parents who came to support, it made a real difference.

Mr Monks, PE co-ordinator.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – NEXT HALF TERM

NOVEMBER	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	School re-opens
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual pupil photographs
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents evening
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents evening
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> November at 2.45pm	Year 4 Egypt Museum for parents
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> November at 2.45pm	Year 5 Ancient Greek Museum for parents
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November at 2.45pm	Year 2 Great Fire of London showcase for parents
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Training Day
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need day
DECEMBER	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December at 3.30pm	Reception parents meeting
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December at 2pm	Year 5 Christmas singing & Big Switch On
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm	Reception parents meeting
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Winter Fair
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December at 2pm	Reception Christmas concert
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am	Year 1 & 2 Christmas concert
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December at 2.45-3.15pm	Nursery PM Christmas concert
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December at 11.15-11.45am	Nursery AM Christmas concert
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December at 2pm	Year 3 & 4 Christmas concert
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception & KS1 Christmas parties

**ATTENDANCE**

The attendance for the period 15<sup>th</sup> October to 19<sup>th</sup> October for the classes is as follows:

Elm	85.3%	Rowan	95.3%
Willow	91.4%	Cedar	97.1%
Oak	94%	Lime	97.3%
Sycamore	93.3%	Larch	97%
Maple	92%	Lilac	95%
Spruce	98.2%	Holly	97.6%
Alder	96.8%	Cherry	99.3%

Our target for attendance is 95%. Please help us to achieve this.

**Autumn half term**

**Please note that school closes on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October and re-opens on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November.**