

# KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 27th November 2015



Dear Parent/Carer,

Our children and staff “shine” again at Kerr Mackie Primary. Last Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November was Takeover Day. We received over a hundred application forms from children for the following roles: Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, Class Teacher, Teaching Assistant, School Administrator, Lunchtime Supervisor or Superintendent. It was very difficult to choose who would take on these roles, the application forms were of a very high quality. The children who were successful were fantastic on the day. They dressed smartly for their role and behaved very professionally throughout the day, and they were very strict! I hope this has inspired some of our children to consider a career in education in the future. I definitely saw some budding teachers (and Headteachers). Look out for the display in our main corridor.

Thank you to the many parents who joined us at the Oakwood Christmas Lights Switch on last Tuesday. The singing by the children from Kerr Mackie was wonderful; they should all be very proud of themselves. Thank you to Mrs Crowther for organising it and for leading the choir.

The teachers in Reception held their first set of parents’ evening this week. We have had some lovely feedback from parents. Here are a few examples:  
“Very clear feedback” “Very pleased with process of parents’ evening”. “Excellent report”.

It means a lot to teachers when their hard work is recognised. Thank you.

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

### **CHRISTMAS PREPERATIONS**

We have started the preparations for Christmas already, the trees have arrived in school and the decorations are ready to be put up.

### **Dates for your diary are below; (all performances will be in the school hall)**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December Big Switch On  
Years 3, 4, 5 at 2.45 pm to 3.25 pm

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Big Switch On  
Years 3, 4, 5 at 2.45 to 3.25 pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Busy, Busy Bethlehem  
Reception performance 9.30 am

Friday 11th December –  
Years 1 and 2 Christmas concert at 9.30 am

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Wear It Festive Day.  
Fundraising day for St Gemmas Hospice. Children to wear festive clothing eg. antlers, christmas jumpers, hats etc £1.00 per child

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Festive Family Fun Event, 3.30 pm – 5.00 pm organised by Year 4 parents. This will include cakes, toys and a variety of game stalls.

### **Warm welcomes and fond farewells**

We would like to say a warm welcome to Mr Brian Matandaware our temporary Caretaker as well as Mrs Elliott our temporary admin assistant and goodbye to Miss Kaur who is leaving us today.

NEWSLETTER

## CURRICULUM

### COOKING AND GARDENING UPDATE

Our school gardening groups have provided each class with a spider plant to look after. They have also written the following about their group work:

"We have planted hyacinths that are purple and white. It was fun planting the bulbs. We are going to take them out in January after the Christmas holidays."

"First we collected leaves. Next we picked up all of the weeds. We found worms, millipedes and centipedes. Then we emptied the leaves from last year into the vegetable patches."

We also have a new notice board near the school garden which we are beginning to fill with pictures of the garden.

### COOKERY UPDATE

The school kitchen has been busy with different classes this half term, Year 6 have made tasty treats from Waitrose Cookery books, which is where we thought about food on rations. Reception have made Gingerbread Men and our usual cookery groups have been making a variety of foods including Christmas Puddings.

## INFORMATION

### SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

This year the school council is raising money for St Gemma's Hospice and Water Aid. We have done a Halloween Fun Day where we dressed up as spookily as possible. We have also been asking our class mates for their opinions e.g. Do they feel safe and healthy at our school? We are planning a fun day on the 11th of December. We are hoping to wear Christmas jumpers and awesome fun clothes. This will all go to St Gemma's Hospice. We hope you approve of this.

**Written by Lucy Bulpit CHERRY**

We are the School Councilors, who had to work extremely hard to get the job. We persuaded our class to elect us with a small presentation. The idea was for each child in their class to vote for one boy and one girl who they thought would be the perfect pupil for the job. The boy and girl who got the most votes would be the School Council people.

**Written by Harry and Zara HOLLY**

The reason why I am a school councilor is because my class elected me. I am a fair leader we have done a few fundraising activities for different charities.

**Written by Kyron Bristol-Craig**

As a school councillor, you have a big job. It starts where you put yourself forward and show a presentation. Then you vote for who you want to be in the school council. When we have meetings it is for us to say how we could improve our school and have fundraising ideas.

**Written by Torren Martin Yr6**

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> November is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	97.4%	Alder	96.2%	Holly	98.7%
Willow	95.8%	Rowan	95.3%	Cherry	97.8%
Oak	93.2%	Cedar	98.2%		
Sycamore	97.7%	Lime	97.3%		
Maple	95.5%	Larch	96.6%		
Spruce	96.8%	Lilac	96.1%		

**Some fantastic attendance figures here. Well done Holly class for the best attendance this period, and every class above 95%.**

### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Tempest attended school at the beginning of this term. All photographs have now been printed and given to children this week. We hope you are happy with the pictures you have received.

## RECORDER LESSONS

We are pleased to confirm that recorder lessons have begun now that we have received enough interest. So Sofia Wilde from Sound Generation has organized this group which now takes place during the school day on Tuesday mornings 11 am until 12 noon. The children have been learning 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.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN

Here at Kerr Mackie, Year 6 are organising fund raising events, to raise money for the 'Save the Children' campaign. We have already raised £62.35 selling some food that we made at our WW2 presentation. Our goal is £2,000, so lots more events to come.

Why are we raising this money? Across the globe, children are ill, dying or even dead because they don't have enough food or clean water. There are also children who have to leave their home countries because of war and violence.

**Written by Year 6 children and staff**

## LOST PROPERTY

We have another large collection of lost property. This will be disposed of on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December so please check if you think you might have misplaced something.

## ATHLETICS CLUB

The first round of the Athletics Tournament was very fun. At first everyone ran around like mad talking to each other. The thing that was funny was that the hurdles got broken just in the practice! Fortunately, we won but only by 2 points.

**Written by Torrin Year 6**

Arriving at athletics at David Lloyd Academy I felt nervous and excited. First we waited, stretched and practiced. Finally the teams arrived; there was St Matthews, Harehills, Immaculate Heart and us. We sorted out which races we were doing and the whole thing took about 1 hour 30 minutes. At the end it was very tense Harehills came fourth, Immaculate Heart came third. Then they announced there were 2 points in it and then they said "in second place is St Matthews. "Then we started cheering and dancing" It was a great day.**Written by Charlie Year 6**

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON AT OAKWOOD CLOCK

42 of our Junior pupils sang their hearts out on Tuesday evening as part of the Christmas Lights Switch on event. Local celebrity, BBC's Nicola Rees, turned on the lights after some impressive performances. Breeze organised for an Arts group to perform which started with song and dance and then for the highlight – Kerr Mackie Christmas Choir! We sang a special version of 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' (with some extra lyrics) and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'. Some pupils from Roundhay Primary School sang and then all Choirs finished the event by singing 'Away in a Manger'.

There was a huge crowd and a fun atmosphere – a sea of Christmas hats, scarves and gloves – even free mince pies and coffees!

Our children sang with joy and confidence and their beaming faces were a delight to see! Kerr Mackie would like to express our thanks to the children for volunteering to sing and to Mrs Drew and Mrs Ronicle for helping out on the night. We have received wonderful feedback both on the night and on Twitter. A local woman (with no connection to Kerr Mackie)- tweeted '*That was the best rendition of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer I've ever heard!*'. Councillor Christine Macniven, who organised the event, was full of praise for our children: their behaviour, their attitudes and not least, their singing!

It is magical when a school is at the heart of community events – I felt immensely proud of all the singers. We have enclosed some pictures of the event.

**Written by Mrs Crowther**



## YEAR 6 PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November both year six classes went to Lidgett Park Methodist Church hall to show parents all of their fantastic learning in our World War 2 topic. Each class was split into different groups covering different topics of World War 2. The groups then made a short video in the style of Pathe news which was popular during the World War. We all had great fun making the news clips dressing up as different roles from WW2, with the help of Roundhay Sixth form students we managed

to make a Pathe news DVD which was show to the parents. A day before we went to the hall we baked carrot scones and made fresh jam for the parents to buy. All the money was going to our charity Save the Children. All the parents had a great time watching the Pathe news we had made and so did the whole of Year six.

**Written by Zofeer Shabir**

### **FOOD AMBASSADORS**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November, the Food Ambassadors were invited to the Launch for Food Ambassadors in schools.

The launch was held at the Carriageworks and our 12 school food ambassadors had created a presentation for teachers from other schools to explain what they do in school. The powerpoint presentation included why they wanted to be Food Ambassadors and what kind of roles they have taken on. They talked about the school meals and about the family services. Other schools were really impressed.

This is what some of our Food Ambassadors said;

"I love being a School Food Ambassador. It is really fun and I feel proud to help our school."

"I like making the school a better place."

"I feel proud and more confident and I am happy I can help children in my school."

### **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 sadly we 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.**

**SCHOOL VACANCY:** School Crossing Patrol Person

**Hours:** Made up of two sessions, 8.10am until 9.10am and then 3.00pm until 3.45pm

Please contact Belinda Blethan on Mobile 07891272478 for more information.

### **REMINDER:**

School closes on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and re-opens on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of January