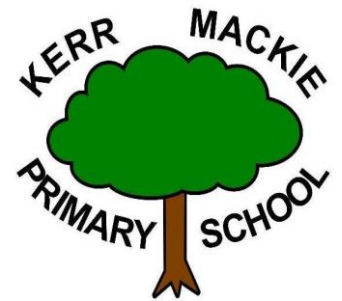


KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

28th June 2013



Dear Parent/Carer,

INFORMATION

IMPORTANT VISITOR

This week Paul Brennan, Deputy Director of Learning Skills & Universal Services from Children's Services at Leeds City Council came to visit school. Please see below the letter which he sent to school in response:

Dear Angela

Thank you so much for your very kind hospitality during my recent visit to the school. It was an absolute delight to meet the children of the school and see the great work that is going on.

I was so impressed by the learning ethos and culture, some stunning learning environments and the purposeful behaviour across the whole school. There are clearly some very hard working teachers and children in the school and I was especially impressed by their commitment to continue to improve the school still further with your ambitious plans to further develop the school curriculum with a focus on child centred learning and project based approaches to an integrated curriculum. Your plans for the environment are also impressive.

It was noticeable how confident your children are and how they have such good relationships with adults. The school has clearly developed greatly over recent years and this is evident in the broad and balanced curriculum as well as the range of extra-curricular provision. The richness of the learning experience is clear to see.

I would like to wish you well for your future developments as you move the school to outstanding.

Once again very many thanks for your time and the warmth of the welcome.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance for the period 10th June to 21st June for the classes is as follows:

Elm	98.4%	Rowan	99.3%
Willow	96.8%	Cedar	95.2%
Oak	90.2%	Lime	96.7%
Sycamore	91%	Larch	98.2%
Maple	89.8%	Lilac	95.5%
Spruce	88.7%	Holly	96.7%
Alder	97%	Cherry	98.2%

Please note that we have had an outbreak of chicken pox which has affected attendance over the last few weeks, particularly in KS1.

TRIPS & PERMISSION SLIPS

The Department for Education has recently published new guidance on parental consent for children taking part in off-site activities. The document entitled 'Health & Safety: Advice on legal duties and powers' can be found on their website. The department has prepared a "one off" consent form which schools can ask parents to sign. It will cover a child's participation in off-site activities including adventure activities, off-site sporting fixtures outside the school day and residential visits. The school will be sending forms home on Monday 1st July, or it can be downloaded from our website. The form will cover the child's participation in any of these types of activities throughout their time at Kerr Mackie. Please complete the form and return it to the office as soon as possible.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

A letter is going home today confirming that we are providing after school care from September. Please return the reply slip to school as soon as possible if you would like your child to have a place. A copy of the letter can be found on the school website.

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL DINNERS & MILK

Please note that there will be a 5p increase in school dinners from 3 September 2013. The charge will be:

£1.95 for Reception to Year 4

£2.00 for Years 5 & 6

Milk for children in Reception to Year 2 will be £12 for the year. Letters have been sent home this week or you can find a copy on our school website. If your child would like milk from September please return the slip and payment as soon as possible so we can ensure the order is correct for the new term. Thank you.

IDEAS FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Title : Skelton Rangers - Summer Playscheme!

Author : Skelton Grange (The Conservation Volunteers at Skelton Grange Environment Centre)
"Let's go and explore the world out yonder..."

For **8-12 year olds** at Skelton Grange Environment Centre

5th – 9th August 2013 - 9:00am 'til 5:00pm

This playscheme is **ALL** about getting outside and we aim to be out in the fresh air for most of the day, every day!

We will be doing a range of craft activities, games, walks, fire lighting, den building, nature study and camp cooking. There's also an optional sleepover on the Thursday night!

Cost: £150 for a whole week of activities. Email: Skelton@tcv.org.uk or Phone: 0113 2430815.

CURRICULUM

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

"Year 6's residential to Herd Farm was a great experience for everybody there. All of the activities built teamwork and gave us all special memories. We did so many activities from jumping off high platforms to archery. For most, sleeping in the same rooms strengthened friendships and relationships. The food was great and the staff were friendly. Herd Farm is truly an awesome place!" Written by Harry Banham in Holly class.

ROUNDHAY RADIO

"On Friday 21st June, 30 Year 6 pupils were on Roundhay Radio to talk about exciting things that have happened in Year 6. It was nerve racking at first but as soon as we were on air we were confident. You never know we might be the future radio presenters." By Amandine Lefevre in Cherry class.

YEAR 5 TO GRASSINGTON

"On Monday 17th June Year 5 went to Grassington for the day. It was an exciting and educational trip where we learnt lots about the differences between Roundhay and Grassington. We had fun on the trip and we enjoyed interviewing people in our pairs. We did lots of walking and we saw Mr Widger fish for crayfish in the river but he failed to catch anything!" By Laurie Cooke and Izzy Day in Larch class.

We received the following email on the afternoon of the trip. We are immensely proud of the children at Kerr Mackie but it is always lovely when someone else takes the time to pass on their thoughts.

*"My friend and I have just been to Grassington and were interviewed by two delightful little girls from your school. It was lovely to meet such polite, articulate and interesting children.
From: Two Over 60s Ladies from Bradford."*

YEAR 2 TO SCARBOROUGH

"Year 2 went on a school trip to Scarborough on Thursday 20th June. We went there so we could work out if it was better to live in Scarborough or Leeds. After an hour on the coach we got off and had our snacks, milk and some fruit, yum yum! In Scarborough we went up some big, narrow steps and our teacher said she had a surprise but she could not tell us. We couldn't wait. The surprise was a train which we all got on and during the ride lots of people were waving to us. When we got off the train we had a walk through a park called Peasholme Park. After that we found lots of benches where we could eat our lunch. We all finished our lunch so we could go to the beach. We got changed into our beach clothes and had a paddle in the sea. Then we all got changed to have an ice-cream. Finally we got back on the coach and had a chat with our friends on the way back to school." Written by Ellie Keeble, Spruce class.

RECEPTION TO SCARBOROUGH

Reception classes enjoyed a fantastic day visiting Scarborough Sealife Centre. We saw lots of interesting sea creatures and have talked about them avidly ever since! The visit has been an inspiration to our writing and play experiences. We enjoyed a quick paddle in the sea which we found a bit cold! The children judged our visit to be "awesome!"

YEAR 4 TO YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PARK

“On Tuesday 25th June, Year 4 went on a fantastic visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park. At the park we saw meerkats and yellow mongoose. They were both pretty active, especially the meerkats. Next we saw very pink flamingos that balance on one leg. After that we went into the wallabies enclosure and patted the wallabies. We learnt what they eat, saw them being fed and saw some wallaby joeys. Then we went into lemur woods and went in their enclosure. There were some very cute babies that jumped around. We then saw some strange animals called red river hogs that fight their own kind a lot. They whip their tails when they fight. Next we saw a beautiful multi-coloured parrot talking. After lunch we went to the workshop. We saw a bearded dragon called Sally, we played games and found out about the animals that were living there. Next we saw some Bactrian camels. They have two massive humps and we also saw some extremely tall giraffes. After that we climbed up to leopard heights and saw some leopards. They were extremely hard to spot. Finally we ended our trip by going to the adventure playground. We really enjoyed our school trip.”
By Adella Morton & Joe Gordon in Lime class.

YEAR 3 TO HARLOW CARR, HARROGATE

“On Friday 14th June, Year 3 Rowan went on an amazing school trip to Harlow Carr. We went in many exciting areas including the ‘Gardens through times’ and the tree house. In the gardens through time we completed our booklets. We explored the ‘bird hide’ and ‘scented garden’ we had a great day and learnt lots about plants.” Written by Maddie Greer in Rowan class.

KERR MACKIE GUITAR TUITION & CONCERT

Sound Generation have provided guitar tuition at Kerr Mackie School, for two years now. I attended the end of year guitar concert on Friday June 21st, and was really delighted by what I heard. All the pupils who performed were fantastic! Not only did they demonstrate an improvement in their playing, but also in their confidence and enjoyment for the subject, which we believe is just as (if not more) important.

Huge congratulations to the pupils who performed at the concert, and to all the guitar pupils who have taken lessons this year. Keep up the enthusiasm and keep practicing!

Guitar tuition takes place on Fridays during term times. If you are interested in your child starting next term, please speak to Bev Airey in reception to request a registration form, or contact me directly: sofia@soundgeneration.co.uk. Lessons cost £7.50 per class.

We also provide private instrumental teaching in your home and bands and musicians for events too! For more information on what we do, please visit our website:
www.soundgeneration.co.uk
Sofia Wilde, Sound Generation

SPORT

ROUNDHAY INTER-PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Saturday 15th June, Kerr Mackie took part in the Roundhay schools football tournament at Roundhay High School. Our Year 5 team (with one Year 4 pupil) played brilliantly, drawing in their first match before winning their next two matches 2-0 and 3-0. They thoroughly deserved their place in the semi-final where they put up a valiant fight, narrowly missing out on a place in the final to St Matthews (the ultimate winners) on penalties. Well done to Joe Gordon, Luke Olsen, Daniel Wilson, George Sutcliffe, Tom Whelan, Harry Small, Harvey Hawley, Kaele Pemberton-Williams and Athul Dinesh for an outstanding team performance. Many thanks, as always, to John Davison, the after-school club football coach, for his dedication and commitment; to all the boys' parents for their ongoing support and to Mrs Ronicle for coming along and cheering on Kerr Mackie on the day!
Rachel Wilson

PSA

Reminder: our Summer Fair is taking place this Saturday, 29th June from 11am-3pm. We hope to see lots of you here to support this event and enjoy the many activities, stalls, games etc. Let's hope the sun is shining!!