

KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

28th November 2014



Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a couple of weeks of 'firsts' for Kerr Mackie Primary School.

On Friday 21st November we held our very first Children's Commission 'Takeover Day' across school. The day gives children the chance to work with adults for the day and be involved in decision making. Children benefit from the opportunity to experience the world of work and make their voices heard, while adults and organisations gain a fresh perspective on what they do. Organisations across every sector take part.

At Kerr Mackie, 107 children applied for a role on our Takeover Day. The roles they could apply for were the Headteacher, class teacher, teaching assistant, caretaker, school office and lunchtime assistant.

26 children were selected, and for those not successful we plan to give the children an opportunity to 'Takeover' for an hour at some point during the school year. Children came 'dressed' for the role, wearing suits & ties or skirts and jackets. Some of the jobs children did included: answering the school phone, making decisions ordering equipment and the school budget, teaching maths, observing children's learning attitude through school, presenting reports to members of the leadership team, litter picking and working with groups of children. The children really rose to the occasion and all the staff were very impressed with how well they approached the role and their attitude. I think we definitely have some potential headteachers in the school.

We have displayed photographs and children's thoughts of the day in the school's main entrance. Please have a look if you get the chance, and we will definitely repeat the event again next year.

Our other first is the introduction of 'Family Service' at lunchtimes. We started on Monday 24th November, it was quite hectic as it is a completely new system but by Tuesday it went much more smoothly. I believe we will have 'cracked it' in a couple of weeks. So what's different? There are two sittings at lunchtime, the first sitting is 12.00-12.25 and the second sitting is 12.35-1.00. Children in Y1, 3 & 5 come in together at 12.00. Children have been grouped into 'families' where each family is made up of either 2 x Y1s, 2 x Y3s and 2 x Y5s or 2 x Y2s, 2 x Y4s and 2 x Y6s. When children come into the hall they sit in their families and the food is served at the table. When everyone in their family has finished they got out to the playground. Why is it better? Children no longer need to queue for their dinner, children no longer wander around the hall with their dinner trying to find somewhere to sit, it is calm and quieter, it creates a lot more space in the playground and best of all, children get to know other children right across the school and have the opportunity to take on responsibilities, care for each other and encourage each other. Again, the children have really risen to the challenge, as have the kitchen staff and lunchtime staff.

Road safety

On Tuesday 25th November, a pupil was knocked down on the way home from school. Fortunately the pupil was not seriously hurt but had some nasty grazes and bruising as a result. This though, is a reminder of how important it is that children and adults take care when crossing busy roads and drivers to be vigilant at all times. We will be discussing the importance of road safety with the children at school next week.

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

CURRICULUM

YEAR 5 EXHIBITION FOR PARENTS

On Wednesday this week, parents and carers were invited to join Year 5 in their classrooms to look at their project based learning. Here are some of the comments left by the parents:

"Excellent presentation by the children. Very informative and a lot of hard work. Well done."

Fantastic work from ALL the children. Excellent designs, constructions and informative leaflets!"
All the children were persuasive so it was a very hard choice!"

"Well done everyone. A really interesting event with some amazing information on each state, presented with gusto by inspired kids!"

SWIMMING

A member of the public this week commented on the behaviour of our Year 4 children, Cedar class, whilst they were swimming at Fearnville Leisure Centre. They said all the children were extremely well behaved which was lovely to hear. Well done Cedar class!

NEWSLETTER

BULB PLANTING

"On Thursday 27th of November, 11 children in year 5 helped the Friends of Roundhay Park plant daffodil bulbs under the trees by the lake. We planted over one thousand bulbs and we really enjoyed it. We enjoyed digging the holes to put the bulbs in and loved putting five bulbs in each hole. When we had finished we had a relaxing break before watching the swans go by. Then we walked back to school - it was an enjoyable day. A big thank you to the Friends of Roundhay Park." Written by Ollie Day and Harry Sutcliffe in Larch class.

INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Christmas lunch menu will be served to children on Wednesday 10th December. The menu will be:
Roast turkey served with mini pork sausage
Roast halal chicken fillet with sage and onion stuffing
Christmas bauble and bow vegetarian pasta bolognese

Roast and mashed potatoes, Brussel sprouts & seasonal vegetables with gravy
Roast potato or garlic bread to be served with vegetarian option
Snowman ice cream log or Christmas pudding and custard or Satsuma or yoghurt

POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated and bought poppies or gifts last month. We raised £217.28 for the Royal British Legion appeal.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance per class for the period 10th November to 21st November is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	91.7%	Alder	98.8%	Holly	96.8%
Willow	82.2%	Rowan	98.5%	Cherry	97.1%
Oak	96.2%	Cedar	93.4%		
Sycamore	96.1%	Lime	95.5%		
Maple	98.7%	Larch	96.8%		
Spruce	97%	Lilac	98.3%		

There are some fantastic attendance figures here again – let's keep it up!

CHILDREN IN NEED DAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed on Children In Need Day. We raised £447.49 which has now been donated to the appeal.

SICKNESS & COMMUNICATION

Please can we remind parents that children who have had sickness/diarrhoea should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last episode of illness. This is to prevent the spread of the illness throughout the school. Also can you please telephone the school office on the first day of your child's illness to advise the reason for their absence. If you need to contact school throughout the day to leave a message please use the main telephone number 3368499 or email office@kmps.org.uk. The service used to send out texts/emails to parents is not checked on a regular basis for incoming messages. Thank you.

MILK FOR YEARS 3-6

If your child would like milk from January please return the slip and your payment of £12.00 before Wednesday 17th December so the order can be placed before we break up. A copy of the letter can be found on the school website or from the office.

MRS HARRAND

Mrs Harrand and her husband welcomed their baby girl last Friday. She is called Evelyn Mae and Mum and baby are doing fine. We are looking forward to seeing her.

SPORT

ATHLETICS

The Year 5 and 6 Athletics team took part in Round 2 of Indoor Athletics last night. They came third this time but all did really well and tried their hardest. Better luck next time.

RUGBY

On Friday 21st November, the KMPS rugby team played against Alwoodley Primary. Alwoodley have always been tough competition for us and unfortunately we lost the match. Joe made some crunching tackles against their big props but we couldn't keep them off the line. In the second half, Bezhan was inches away from the line but was tackled on the line. The result ended 26-0. Year 6 rugby team.

PSA

WINTER FAIR - 5th DECEMBER, 3:30-5:30pm

The Winter Fair is now only 1 week away! We hope you are all planning on coming along!

Santa / Snow Princess Visits:

v Tickets will be on sale from **Monday 1st December** in the playground before and after school, and at breakfast club from Tuesday 2nd. Tickets are £2 each and they sell out fast so make sure you get yours!

Donations:

v ALL donations for the tombola, Secret Santa, 2nd hand toys & books can be brought in from Monday 1st December and there will be a table by the office.
v DONATIONS of CAKES can be brought in on Friday 5th December and will be taken from you. Whilst we all like mince pies, we love cakes and biscuits more!!

Stalls:

v We are always looking for volunteers to help on the fair...the rota is on the PSA noticeboard – please add yourself to the stall of your choice! We are in need of more FACEPAINTERS...

Thank you for supporting the KMPS Winter Fair and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Many thanks, the PSA.

Any questions, please call Philippa Lamb (07768 233151)



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