

# KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 29 November 2013



Dear Parent/Carer,

The run down to Christmas is upon us, and I'll be opening the first window on my advent calendar (trying to be very good this year, no chocolate in mine!) Our first concert will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December when Year 5 and the school brass band will be singing and playing a range of Christmas songs. The parents of Year 5 have been invited to the concert but please join us later at 3.30pm to sing a couple of songs with us, followed by a 'Big Switch On.'

Please read below for all our forthcoming Christmas events.

Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

### CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN SCHOOL

Please can we remind you all of the Christmas events taking place in December:

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	2.45pm	Year 5 concert & 'big switch on'
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3.30pm	PSA Winter fair
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Yrs 1 & 2 Christmas concert
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	2.45pm	Nursery afternoon Christmas concert
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	11.15am	Nursery morning Christmas concert
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm	Yrs 3 & 4 Christmas concert
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm	Reception Christmas concert
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December		KS1 Christmas parties
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December		Nursery, Reception & KS2 Christmas parties
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	3.25pm	School closes until Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January

### WINTER FAIR

The Winter Fair is now just a week away (**Friday 6th December, 3:30-5:30pm**)! Thanks to everyone who brought in a donation for the tombola or secrets room today. We will be selling raffle tickets at the main school gate throughout next week, along with tickets to visit Santa and the Snow Princess. If you can spare half an hour in the morning or afternoon to help with this, please let the office know. There will also be another opportunity next week to buy Kerr Mackie tea towels if you have not yet done so; they are selling fast so don't delay!

Stall rotas are now in circulation; please sign up to help out on a stall for half an hour (or longer) wherever possible. If you are willing to help but have not yet been approached, then please either contact the office or speak to a member of the PSA in the playground or at the gate next week. The fair cannot run without volunteers!

It would also be appreciated if you could bring donations for the second-hand toys, teddies and books stalls into school from Monday 2nd December. There will be a table by the office on which you may leave any contributions.

Don't forget, cakes and biscuits are also needed for the cafe and we desperately need home-cooked food for the Asian food stall! All donations will be gratefully received - please bring food in on the morning / afternoon of the fair.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you all there.

### CURRICULUM

#### MATHS

We recently entered a team from Year 6 in to the National Young Mathematician's Award and we are pleased to say that they are through to the next round. We received the following comments: "We are emailing you to congratulate Kerr Mackie on reaching round 2 of the competition! We were very impressed with the children's teamwork and the systems that they came up with to solve." Well done and we will let you know how they got on in the next round.

### INFORMATION

#### DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

As I am sure you are all aware, Mrs Maqsood-Shah, will be leaving school at Christmas to take up a new post. Mrs Crowther, our new Deputy Headteacher, has visited the school this week and met with many of the children. She will take up her post when we return to school in January.

NEWSLETTER

### **SCHOOL MEALS**

Please may we remind all parents/carers that school dinners should be **paid for in advance**. We have noticed an increase in the number of arrears on children's accounts. In future we will contact you if your balance is not in credit and we would ask to you deal with this urgently otherwise you will have to provide a packed lunch until the arrears are cleared. Your assistance in this matter would be appreciated.

### **CHILDREN IN NEED APPEAL**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November we had a great day in school dressing up as our heroes and superheroes. We raised a magnificent £479.51 for the appeal which we have now sent to them.

### **POPPY APPEAL**

Thank you to everyone who bought a poppy through school. We raised £86.80 and have received a lovely thank you card from the Royal British Legion.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The attendance for the period 11<sup>th</sup> November to 22<sup>nd</sup> November for the classes is as follows:

Elm	87.7%	Rowan	94.2%
Willow	95%	Cedar	99.2%
Oak	89.7%	Lime	97.7%
Sycamore	92.7%	Larch	99%
Maple	96.3%	Lilac	96.8%
Spruce	95.9%	Holly	98.7%
Alder	96.8%	Cherry	96.7%

Our target for attendance is 96%. Please help us to achieve this throughout the year.

### **SAFETY INFORMATION**

Please can we remind parents/carers that children remain their responsibility whilst on the playground before the beginning of the school day. The cloakroom doors open from 8.45am to 9am. Once children have arrived in their classroom they then become the responsibility of the school.

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Reminder: The last day for after school clubs this term will be Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Information regarding the clubs running from January will be sent home shortly.

### **GRANT FUNDING**

We have recently been approached by the Co-operative to apply for grant funding to spend in school and we have now been shortlisted to go forward for our in store voting in Oakwood store. Please can we ask parents/carers/grandparents to vote for us in the Co-op Oakwood. Voting runs until 23rd December after which votes will be counted and funds distributed according to voting. All that is required to vote is to be a cooperative member and to make a purchase, you may vote as many times as you like on separate occasions with separate purchases. Any money that we received will be used to develop the kitchen and garden areas for the children to use.

### **WOODCRAFT TASTER SESSION**

Please see below the following which we have been asked to promote:

"A group of volunteers are starting a new Woodcraft Folk group, part of a co-operative children's organisation. We run hundreds of grassroots education groups in towns and cities across the UK where children meet to play games, make friends, and do crafts and outdoor activities, including camping. They learn about big ideas from social justice to climate change through co-operative activities. There are now two groups in Leeds for girls and boys aged 6-9: **Tue 6.15-7.15pm at Gledhow Primary School**, Email [gledhowleeds@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:gledhowleeds@woodcraft.org.uk) or **Thu 6-7.15pm at Shire Oak Primary School**, Wood Lane, Headingley <https://woodcraft.org.uk/shire-oak-elfins> Email [leedsshireoak@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:leedsshireoak@woodcraft.org.uk) or ring 07837546283 for an application form for a place, to be completed by 11 Dec.

**Come to a FREE WOODCRAFT TASTER SESSION Thu 5 December 6-7.15pm at Shire Oak School."**

### **SPORT**

#### **ATHLETICS**

Congratulations to the Year 6 Athletics team, who are through to the North East Leeds Athletics Plate Final, the final will be taking place on Wednesday 4th December and we wish all the team the best of luck.

### **PSA NEWS**

#### **BAG-2-SCHOOL**

Please return the bag filled with the items listed on the bag to the main school reception area by 9am on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. There is limited storage in the Portakabin if you need to bring in your bag earlier that week. If you need more than one bag a normal bin bag is fine. Remember the school is paid money based on the weight of what is collected, so the more we collect, the more money we raise!!