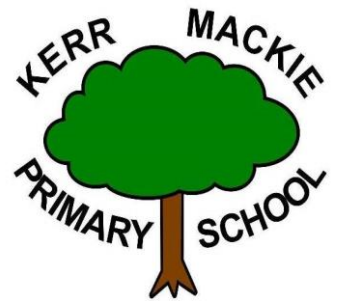


KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

15th January 2016



Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had an 'out of the world' couple of weeks at Kerr Mackie. Year 5 are regularly tweeting the astronaut Tim Peake as part of their project on space. A couple of weeks ago the children sent him photographs of their classrooms. We were really excited when we saw that a photograph of Miss Horwell's reading area had been included in the European Space Agency's weekly blog. It looked amazing. So Kerr Mackie's excellent practice has now been seen by hundreds, if not thousands of people! The children in Year 5 also took part this week in his #Cosmic Classroom when he answered questions from British school children. Please read below for more details.

Safer Internet Day 2016 will be celebrated at Kerr Mackie on Tuesday 9th February with a theme of 'Play your part for a better internet'. On this day, the children will be completing activities that focus on how to make the internet safer. The UK Safer Internet Centre has some very good advice for parents and carers on how to help your child stay safe online. We have put this advice on our website and placed copies in our main entrance.

Mrs Ronicle,
Headteacher

[Dates for your diary are below;](#)

February

Parents' evening dates:

Wednesday 10th February (**No after school clubs**)

Thursday 11th February 2016 (**No after school clubs**)

School closes Friday 12th February 2016 – Half term

School Opens Monday 22nd February 2016

Tuesday 23rd February 2016 – Tempest Photography

March

Thursday 3rd March 2016 - World Book Day

Friday 18th March 2016 – Sports Relief

Tuesday 22nd March 2016 – Easter Egg competition

School closed Friday 25th March 2016 – Good Friday

School closed Monday 28th March 2016 – Easter Monday

School opens Tuesday 29th March 2016

April

Friday 1st April 2016 – School closes

Friday 1st April 2016 – After school clubs finish

Monday 18th April 2016 – Training Day

Tuesday 19th April 2016 – School opens

Please note: Training Days

Monday 5th September 2016 – school will be closed

Tuesday 6th September 2016 – school will be closed

NEWSLETTER

CURRICULUM

RECEPTION CLASS

Reception has enjoyed a very interesting 'ice' morning. They were scientists who investigated ice cubes and ice balloons. They experimented by placing ice cubes in boxes to find out if ice can be kept in a box all day without melting. They did some brilliant learning! Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended.



NURSERY AND RECEPTION – COOKING AND GARDENING

This half term we have been doing more cooking than gardening.

We have been using lots of fruits and vegetables including herbs from our own garden. We have made fruit models such as froggy apples and strawberry mice. We have also made pictures of vegetable faces and flowers. Other recipes include pizza, salad and smoothies.

Our gardening groups have begun to plan which vegetables we will grow next summer. Nursery and Reception have a new bird table installed and we have made bird feeders from pine cones.

RECEPTION CLASS

Tesco Supermarket

Reception classes had a useful trip to Tesco supermarket, firstly to see how we use numbers in everyday life and secondly to see a large shop in action. This is going to be the model for a supermarket to be set up in our classroom!

St Edmunds Church

Yesterday we had an enjoyable visit to St Edmunds church. The children were able to experience the features of a church building. One child said to the vicar, "I think you have a beautiful church!" They particularly liked the stained glass windows.

Reading Workshops

This week we have started our reading workshops which have been well attended. They are proving useful for parents in experiencing how we teach reading in school and how you can apply these elements to home reading.

Thank you to all parents who have attended. Further workshops are to be arranged.

Year 5

As part of our space topic, Year 5 took part in the 'cosmic classroom' experience. Along with thousands of other children in the UK, we learnt about zero gravity from Tim Peake himself as he live streamed via satellite link from the International Space Station.

We learnt lots from the astronaut, and even found out what he could see from his window, which at the time was the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and the coast of Africa.

One of the most exciting parts of the 'cosmic classroom' lesson was when Tim Peake played ping pong with a fizzy vitamin tablet to demonstrate the effects of zero gravity.

Year 6

Boy under the bed

On Thursday the 21st of January Year 6 were lucky enough to have an actor and actress come in and perform a play called 'Boy under the bed'. The story was about a young boy whose life was falling apart, he used his toys to tell the tragic story; the young boy also had a very unhappy side to him who he said lived under his bed. We also did a workshop in which we asked questions to the characters that both us and the actors were interested in. We are all very grateful for letting the actor and actress perform in front of us. We hope to see some more of their plays in the future.

By Tasneem, Sydney, Muizz and hamza

INFORMATION

RRSA SCHOOL AWARD

Kerr Mackie Primary School aims to be a school where every aspect of a child is focused on and developed, including the area of wellbeing. As part of our school's aims to promote a happy and successful school, we have been awarded UNICEF Recognition of Commitment for their Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA). This is an award which is given to schools on behalf of UNICEF.

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

The 'Rights Respecting School' award (RRSA) will help our pupils to grow into confident, caring and responsible young citizens both in school and within the wider community. By learning about their rights our pupils, also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others i.e. their responsibilities.

I talked about this in KS2 assembly on Tuesday and on Wednesday this week, we had the first meeting of our RRSA steering group made up of pupils, staff, parents and governors. We planned how to move forward in our mission to achieve Level One and for the Rights of the Child to underpin our school values.

There will be a RRSA update in each newsletter to let you know how our joinery to achieving Level One is going. Watch this space!



LASTEST NEWS FROM MATHLETICS

We now have 20 Gold certificates and we are well on track to have won 25 Gold's before Miss Simmons returns from her maternity leave.

Year 3, have their first two Gold certificates and it is well deserved as they are always using Mathletics and have achieved the most certificates so far this year.

Using Mathletics at home, benefits your child/children in many ways. It allows them to access the Maths curriculum at home in a fun way and to learn at their own pace. It gives the children opportunities to unpick what they have been learning about the school and if they have any questions, come and ask their class teacher the next day.

If possible please encourage your child/children access this worthwhile website at home. You can follow our progress on Mathletics using the school twitter account, where people from Mathletics also reply at how our progress is going.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Tempest Photography will be in school on Tuesday 23th February to take the class photographs for the whole school.

PARENT/CARER COURSE (FAMILY HEALTH) – STARTS 25TH FEBRUARY

The tutor will have specialists to help support the sessions i.e. Pilates, Zumba instructors and somebody from the health and well-being team. The second part of the session is developing parents understanding of family well-being. Included in the course there will be a key focus on language skills and numeracy and literacy with the children. If you need more information see Mrs Lal (Pastoral Team).

COFFEE MORNING

On Thursday 11th February at (9.05am-10.00am) there will be a Coffee morning for parents/carers in the parents' community room.

Our guest visitors are from Roundhay Children Centre who will provide information and advice to parents/carers and let you know what is going on in your area.



YEAR 6



This is for the Mary Berry's out there.

Year 6 will be holding a Valentine's themed bun sale on the last Thursday and Friday of half term, to raise money for Save the Children. Buns will be priced between 20p and 50p.

So get your aprons on, and whisk up some lovely treats.



ACTIVE KIDS IS BACK

We are now collecting the vouchers issued by Sainsbury's for the above campaign. Please drop your vouchers into the box by the office and help us to get some free items for sport.

SPORTS RELIEF

Friday 18th March is Sports Relief Day. Selling one box of wristbands could pay for life-saving malaria medication for 150 children in Uganda. Pupils can show their support by purchasing a wristband for £1.00. They will be available to purchase from the school office from Monday 22nd February.

SAVE THE RACE

The annual Run4fun at Roundhay Park will be Saturday 25th June 2016. Please make a note of this date – more information to follow.

We also need some parent volunteers to help organise the event. Please get in touch with the school office as soon as possible.

PUPIL ABSENC

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.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a few items that have been handed in to the school office. One is a set of ABS keys with a red CEX webuy.com tag attached, along with another item attached to the keys. There is also a child's silver necklace with a pendant attached.

If you think these items may be yours, please speak to the school office.

LUNCH TIME MENU – HEALTHY HEART

On Thursday 11th February for one day only, there is a change to the lunchtime menu. Details can be found on the school web-site, or you can ask for a copy at the school's Reception Office.

SCHOOL GATES

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU CLOSE THE SCHOOL GATE BEHIND YOU WHEN ENTERING AND LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS.