

# KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

7<sup>th</sup> February 2014



Dear Parent/Carer,

As you can see from the newsletter, exciting events continue to happen at Kerr Mackie Primary School, all helping children to develop a love of learning and a sense of pride in the school.

Our athletics team did incredibly well to get through to the semi-finals, the furthest we have gone. You can read all about it in Tom and Aissa's report under the Sport section of the newsletter.

Our good practice is also recognised nationally and as a result Mr Stout, myself, Zoe Hunter, Harry Small (Year 6 pupils) and James Carden a pupil from Roundhay all through school, presented a workshop at the International BETT conference in London. We received very good feedback from the audience and a high level of interest.

Last week, a team of teachers and a headteacher from another authority, visited Kerr Mackie to observe our outstanding practice in Early Years. They were very impressed with the progress the children were making, the quality of teaching and the vibrant and engaging learning environment.

Our school roof seems to be coping relatively well with all the rain we have been having recently. I am supposed to be going by train to Cornwall over the forthcoming half term, I think I will need to pack a pair of galoshes! I hope you all enjoy the half term holiday.  
Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

## CURRICULUM

### YEAR 2 VISIT

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Year 2 flew off on their magic carpets to the Alhambra in Bradford where we were treated to a fantastic performance of Aladdin (Oh no you weren't...!!). The children were transfixed as we were whisked off to the Far East to cheer for the brave Aladdin and boo the evil sorcerer.

"I really enjoyed our trip to Aladdin. My favourite character was Aladdin because he was very funny. The bit I liked best was when the gymnasts performed," said Aaron. "My favourite character was the genie because he was on Aladdin's side. My favourite part was when Aladdin shrunk in the washing machine. He looked really funny and talked in a very high voice," added Mohammed

### YEAR 5 VISIT

"Recently year 5 had a visit from the fire brigade. The firemen showed us how a fire can start. A fire needs 3 things to start oxygen, fuel and heat. They said it takes 3 minutes for a fire to destroy a room. When there is a fire there is a lot of smoke. Smoke is black, deadly and poisonous. Next the firemen showed us all a fire escape plan video. They told us all about the importance of making a fire escape plan with our families to help keep us safe."  
Written by Abdullah Kayani in Larch class.

### YEAR 6 TOILET TWINNING

"Year 6 are very excited about our toilet twinning project. After our initial fundraiser at school, which raised almost £200, we are now looking to local businesses to support us. We have written to most of the businesses in Oakwood and have handed out leaflets and posters for their windows, and we will be ringing them soon to check on progress and interest. If you are involved in any local businesses and feel that it is something you would like to contribute to, please come in and see Mrs Harrand, Year 6.

You can check out our fundraising progress, when our next event is, and other information on our display in the main entrance. Any ideas for future fundraising events are always welcome, too.

Thanks- and don't forget to look out for our posters in Oakwood! Year 6".

## INFORMATION



In 2014, Leeds is supporting the new Change 4 Life campaign 'Smart Swaps' to help families cut sugar and saturated fat from their everyday snacks, drinks and meals. Change4Life is calling on families across the nation to sign up to the smart swaps campaign and make one easy change - like swapping to a healthy school meal or swapping takeaways to cooking from scratch.

NEWSLETTER

Families who sign up to the national campaign at [www.change4life.com](http://www.change4life.com) will receive a FREE smart swapper full of healthier swap and meal ideas, money off vouchers and fridge magnets.



#### **Smart Swaps at Kerr Mackie**

Our children will be encouraged to make sensible food swaps. During registration time, teachers allow children to discuss the swaps that they have made, and allow them to place tokens into the totaliser.

The class with the most swaps will receive a certificate at our celebration assembly on Friday.

To record your smart swaps, please go to Kerr Mackie's *Change for Life* dedicated page:

<http://www.leedsletschange.co.uk/smartswaps/organisations/kerr-mackie-primary-school>

Or Google: smart swaps organisation Kerr Mackie

Click on 'ADD SWAP' at the top of the totalizer and type in information about your swap.

To date we have 442 swaps already! Good luck, Kerr Mackie – let's get swapping!

If you have any questions, catch me in the playground before school or ask your teachers.

Thanks,

Mrs Crowther

#### **SCHOOL COUNCIL FUN DAY**

The School Councillors of 2013/14 are arranging a fun day to raise money for indoor wet playtimes.

We have bought toys already for upper KS2 and now we want to buy some more for the other key stages. Our fun day will be non-uniform and there will be various activities to choose from as well.

We will send out further information shortly.

#### **PARENTS' EVENING**

The online booking system for parents' evening appointments taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> February is now open. A letter was sent to you by email on 20 January 2014 with the instructions on how to book and for your convenience we now have a link on the homepage of our school website.

Bookings can be made on the system until 10am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. We have had some very positive feedback from parents, e.g. "Excellent way to book parents' evening, paper free and less hassle for teachers and we can choose our own timing".

#### **ATTENDANCE**

The attendance for the period 6<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> January for the classes is as follows:

Elm	95.2%	Rowan	96%
Willow	98.3%	Cedar	98.3%
Oak	93.2%	Lime	97.6%
Sycamore	95.9%	Larch	98.6%
Maple	97%	Lilac	97.9%
Spruce	98.2%	Holly	97.6%
Alder	99%	Cherry	96.7%

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

#### **MUSIC CONCERT & LESSONS**

We have been asked to pass on the following two pieces of information:

On Sunday 9th February 40 Horn players of all ages will gather at Leeds University's Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall for a spectacular family concert. Directed by Bob Ashworth (Orchestra of Opera North) they will provide an entertaining programme showing the French Horn in a multiplicity of guises from elegant chamber music to cinematic blockbuster. To encourage a family audience tickets for adults cost only £6 and accompanied under 16s are admitted free of charge.

For programme and booking details (including online ticket purchase) see

<http://concerts.leeds.ac.uk/events/event-26-family-concert-a-multiplicity-of-horns/>

The new term is now underway at Chapel Allerton Music Centre, which takes place at The School of Philosophy (Woodland Lane) on Friday evenings. The centre is run by YMES, a not-for-profit music service, and offers lessons on a wide range of instruments. There are still places available in most classes - so come along and have fun making music! To find out more, go to [www.ymes.org.uk/chapel-allerton](http://www.ymes.org.uk/chapel-allerton) or visit us any Friday evening in term time.

#### **SPORT**

##### **ATHLETICS**

The semi-final of the athletics took place on Wed 29<sup>th</sup> January and two of our pupils have given the following report:

"At first, everybody was a little nervous, but we soon got into the swing of things. Miss Howard was always encouraging us, trying to raise everyone's confidence levels. Athletics became a walk in the park for us. However, as we excelled through stages and through more stages, we had to work harder. The final loomed over us and there was nothing we could do about it: winning was everything. Unfortunately, twelve points behind in third place was Kerr Mackie. Our journey had ended. Even though we had lost everybody had a great time and we came back to Kerr Mackie proud." By Tom Whelan and Aissa Grierson in Year 6.

## PSA

### Next Meeting:

The next PSA meeting will take place on Thursday 13th February from around 9:15am at Tasty's in Oakwood. We shall be planning our Easter event, which is to be held in the hall after school on Friday 4th April. Please come and join us for a coffee and share ideas! All welcome.

Remember, the majority of correspondence is now being sent home via email so please check your inbox on a regular basis. Thank you.

**Don't forget to drop your Sainsbury Active Kids Vouchers into the box by the office.  
Thank you.**

**Reminder, school closes on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February for half term and re-opens on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February. School class photos will be taken on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.**