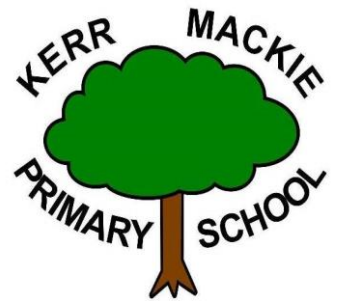


KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

7th October 2015



Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the last few weeks a number of our children have put themselves forward to be on the School Council or to be a Food Ambassador. To be on the School Council, children presented to their class why they felt they had the skills to fulfil the role. To be a Food Ambassador, children wrote to Mrs Lal and then attended an interview. I would like to pass on my congratulations to the children who were successful in Years 3-6.

School Council:

Lucy Bulpitt	Torrin Morton	Dylan Palmer-Weight	Amna Ali
Derry Webster	Anna Bacon	Mahleehah Khan	Hashim Ali
Homaira Begum	Haider Hussain	Harry Sutcliffe	Hannah Currie
Maddie Greer	Zara Azam	Kyron Bristol Craig	Erin Brockway
Charlie Horne			

Food Ambassadors:

Minha Miah	Ra'Eesah Miah	David Joicey	Reg Ellison
Hamza Iqbal	Haleema Mahmood	Hannah Khan	Muizz Hanif
Hashim Iqbal	Monica Grewal		

I will be interviewing, this week, the Year 2 pupils who have written a letter to me about their wish to be a School Councillor. As you can see it's quite a tough process, but the children really rise to the challenge and it develops many skills they will need in the future.

I hope you will find the time to answer our parent questionnaire which was emailed on Monday. Paper copies are available from the school office. Once the deadline for return has been reached, the school will analyse the results, and email them to parents. The results will also be reported to the school's governing body.

Mrs Pepper, our School Business Manager, is moving on to pastures new and will leave on Friday 16th October. I would like to thank her for the fantastic work she has done enabling the school to run so efficiently. A new School Business Manager has been appointed, Mrs Lucy Paddy, who will be joining us on November 2nd.

Finally, we would like to wish Nadiya Hussain, whose child attended our nursery, lots of luck for the Great British Bake Off final.
Mrs Ronicle, Headteacher

CURRICULUM

PASTORAL GROUPS

As in previous years, the pastoral team will be supporting small groups throughout school to promote emotional literacy. It is our aim that all children will get the opportunity to take part in these groups during their time at Kerr Mackie.

NSPCC CHIDLINER

"On Tuesday 29th September, three ladies from ChildLine (NSPCC) came to do a workshop with us in Year 5 & 6. They taught us a few things about ChildLine and we also talked about what is right and wrong. They gave us information about different kinds of abuse, i.e. emotional abuse, physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, cyber bullying and bullying. After that we watched a small clip about a boy named Guy and how ChildLine changed his life. We talked about what Guy was like and how ChildLine saved him. Finally, they gave us each sheets which we had to fill in about what makes us happy and safe." By Hashim & James (Holly class)

MATHLETICS

We have our first gold certificate in Mathletics and it is only week 4! Well done **Cameron Brockway in Y5 Larch**. Let's see if we can aim for at least 1 gold per month. Don't forget Mathletics is not just available through school. You can also log on at home using either a computer, laptop or iPad and now on certain mobile phones. Each child has their own personal log in which can be given to you via your child's class teacher or Miss Meehan who runs the Mathletics lunchtime club. Using Mathletics at home is an excellent way to support and encourage your child to enjoy maths and is linked with the new mathematics curriculum and therefore helps your child with their learning.

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION

PUPIL ABSENCE

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.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance per class for the period 14th to 25th September is as follows. Please note that our attendance target is 95%.

Elm	86.7%	Alder	86.7%	Holly	88.3%
Willow	89.5%	Rowan	89.4%	Cherry	90%
Oak	91.5%	Cedar	92.8%		
Sycamore	87.8%	Lime	91.9%		
Maple	93%	Larch	92.1%		
Spruce	92.8%	Lilac	93.1%		

Attendance figures have dropped in this period due to Eid. We look forward to seeing an improvement over the next few weeks. Well done Lilac class for the best attendance this period!

BREAKFAST CLUB

We are pleased to inform you that we have registered to accept Kiddivouchers for Breakfast Club payment. To link to our account select the out -of-school option on the website <http://www.kiddivouchers.com/> and add the school's postcode LS8 1NE. When making a payment please ensure you quote your child's name and advise Mrs Cambridge that you have paid via Kiddivouchers.

RECEPTION OPEN DAYS FOR SEPTEMBER 2016 INTAKE

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2016 then we would like to invite you to come and have a visit and talk with Mrs Ronicle on Tuesday 20th October or Wednesday 4th November at either 9.30am or 4pm. Please advise the office if you will be attending. Thank you.

NURSERY

We still have a few places left for our afternoon nursery session starting in January 2016. If you have a child who has turned 3 and would like them to join us at Kerr Mackie please see a member of the office team. If you have younger children you can register them on our nursery waiting list at any point so they are considered for a place when they turn 3.

DINNER ACCOUNTS

Unfortunately we have a small minority of parents that allow their children's dinner accounts to fall into serious arrears. We must therefore insist that dinner accounts are kept in credit at all times. From this week we will issue weekly texts if you owe over £5.00 and at £15.00 we will cease the provision of any further dinners until the arrears are cleared. Additionally, there are a number of accounts that have small arrears (below £5) which may date back a number of years and we will be sending texts regarding these over the coming month. If you receive a text it will be necessary for you to clear the account in full before Christmas.

Dinners are currently charged at £2.20 per day for Years 3-6. If you need a reminder of your child's dinner PIN or help using the machine please ask a member of the office staff. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

THANK YOU

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Worrall who very kindly offered to collect our unclaimed lost property and wash it before taking it to charity. She has taken 4 bags of clothes and a large box of shoes to the 'Clothes for Iraq refugees'. Thank you Mrs Worrall.

PARENTS' EVENING APPOINTMENTS

Reminder: the online booking system for Yrs 1-6 parents' evening appointments is now open until noon on Thursday 15th October. Please ensure you log on to <https://kerrmackie.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> to book your appointment with your child's class teacher. If you need any further assistance please speak to a member of the office staff.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year our Harvest Festival will be slightly different in that we are going to ask for donations for the refugees at Calais. A letter will be sent home nearer the time.

COFFEE MORNING

This Thursday, 8th October, we will be holding a coffee morning in the parent's room at 9am. All parents/carers are welcome to join us.

FAMILY HEALTH COURSE

Information was sent last week by email regarding a "Family Health course", an introduction to food and nutrition for children and young people. It is a 12 week course (2 hours per week) and it is a CERTA accredited course. It is free of charge and crèche facilities are available if needed. We are recruiting adults - parents, uncles/aunties or grandparents preferably from key stage 1. Please speak to Mrs Lal if you are interested in taking part.

STAFF VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor. The role would include supervising the children at lunchtime in the dinner hall or on the playground. If you are interested please ask at the office for an application form. Thank you.

TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Please note the date for the individual pupil photographs being taken in school has changed to Monday 2nd November. You will have the opportunity to have photographs taken with siblings in the Portakabin from 8.15-9am. A letter will be sent home next week by email.



Great Kerr Mackie Bake-Off and Bake Sale Main School Hall Friday 23 October - 3:30-5:00pm

Are you a Star Baker?

Would you like to help raise funds for Kerr Mackie School?

If yes then please support the Great Kerr Mackie Bake-Off and Bake Sale on Friday 23 October 2015.

Following the final of Series 6 of the Great British Bake Off (and inspired by Nadiya who is an ex-Kerr Mackie parent!) some Year 2 parents in the PSA are running a Bake-Off baking competition and Bake Sale.

You can:

- Enter a bake into the Bake-Off competition
- Donate a bake for sale if you prefer not to compete!
- Come along to the School Hall, buy some cake and join us for Afternoon Tea to celebrate the start of the half-term holiday.

If you want to support the competition, there is a choice of 5 categories to enter:

Children only:

1. Spooky treats (e.g. biscuits, cakes, muffins, cup-cakes) decorated with a Halloween theme.
2. Cup-cakes – there is no theme for this one so decorate as you like.

Open to all (grown-ups and children):

3. Signature bake – savoury treats (e.g. cheese biscuits, savoury muffins, pakoras etc...)
4. Technical bake – lemon drizzle cake (use any recipe you like but must be a lemon drizzle cake)
5. Showstopper bake – no theme for this one – just your most showstopper cake.

Please bring all bakes to the portakabin behind the school office before 9.30 on the morning of Friday 23 October. You can tell us whether your bake is to be entered for the competition or donated straight to the cake sale. All competition entries (once judged) and donations will be sold at the Great Kerr Mackie Bake Sale at the end of the day. Winners will be announced at the Bake Sale and small prizes awarded to first and second place in each category.

For more information please pick up an entry guidelines with an entry form from the school office.

We also need contributions for the Bake Sale so if you do not want to enter the Bake-Off but would like to help, all baking donations will be much appreciated!!!!