



Together Everyone Achieves More

Kerr Mackie Learners...

'Can be, can do, can change, can achieve'

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wow, what a busy end to a really positive first half term! The staff have been so proud of your children, settling into their new classes and matching the high expectations that they have of them. Thank you for continuing to work with the staff team to enable your children to learn and achieve their potential.

Over the half term, Leaders and Governors have continued monitoring and evaluating the impact of all our work last year to determine whether we have enough evidence for the DFE and Ofsted to judge ourselves as a 'good' school. This process has confirmed to us that we are definitely 'going for good' when Ofsted finally arrive. With it being 5 years now since the previous inspection, Ofsted is definitely imminent. We will share the feedback you gave us at our recent parent's evenings and I would also encourage you to access the Ofsted 'Parent View' website to complete the on line survey too.

Based on the 2016 definition of a 'Coasting School', Kerr Mackie will no longer meet it, hooray! Progress by the end of Year 6 has significantly improved, bringing us now in line with other schools nationally. This is a great achievement and one that we should all celebrate because it has most definitely been a team effort, thank you all.

When we return to school after that half term holidays you will notice a more secure and safe entrance hall door access system. This, like the earlier closure of the main playground gates, was a key action from the Health and Safety and Safeguarding audits last year. Please bear with us whilst we settle into the new system, thank you.

Finally, the staff team and I wish you all a wonderful half term break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 30th October.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Millington
Headteacher

Governor Update

A warm welcome to all new parents & staff.

As always, it has been a busy start to the new academic year and Autumn term. Governors had their first full governing body meeting in September and I have been re-elected as Chair. We have a new Vice Chair: Philip Moore, Philip has been a member of the governing body for almost 2 years and comes with a strong background in the private sector.

At our first meeting we reviewed the schools results in terms of attainment and progress. We are in line with the national progress standards for KS2, and we are closing the gap for our vulnerable groups. Our focus for the coming year is on strategies and interventions which continue to ensure learning is enjoyable and informative but also that it impacts even more on outcomes for all children across the school.

Hopefully you will have seen this in practice with the new team points systems, welcome sessions for parents and the new format for parents evening.

The PSA is, as always, extremely active in raising much needed funds for the school and the recent Pumpkin Party & Bake Sale was a huge success- a big thank you to all the volunteers (staff & parents) and children for taking part. If you can get involved, I know the PSA would love to hear from parents/carers who can support further activities.

Also, a request on behalf of the Governing Body - if you think you have something to offer and would be interested in becoming a governor, please contact me via the school office.

Happy holidays.

Veena Murray
Chair of Governors

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Summer		Wednesday 6 th September 2017
Autumn mid-term	Friday 20 th October 2017	Monday 30 th October 2017
Christmas	Friday 15 th December 2017	Tuesday 2 nd January 2018
Spring mid-term	Friday 9 th February 2018	Monday 19 th February 2018
Easter	Thursday 29 th March 2018	Monday 16 th April 2018
May bank holiday	Friday 4 th May 2018	Tuesday 8 th May 2018
Summer mid-term	Friday 25 th May 2018	Monday 4 th June 2018
Summer	Friday 20 th July 2018	

Training Days for 2017-18 are:

- Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th September 2017
- Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th July 2018

Upcoming Events		
Month	Date	Event
October	Friday 20 th October 2017	School closes for half-term
	Monday 30 th October 2017	School opens
	Monday 30 th October 2017	SEND Parents Evenings begins
	Tuesday 31 st October 2017	Individual and sibling photographs
November	Thursday 3 rd November 2017	Individual photographs for Nursery End of the Week Sessions
	Monday 6 th November 2017	Open Morning: 9:15am
	Tuesday 7 th November 2017	Open Afternoon: 1:15pm
	Tuesday 7 th November 2017	Flu Vaccinations (Year 1 – 4)
	Wednesday 8 th November 2017	Open Evening: 6:00pm
December	Thursday 7 th December 2017	Winter Fair

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance

A reminder to all parents to please inform the office of your child's absence by 8.45am and to continue to keep the office updated if they are going to be off for a few days. This does not apply if you have filled in a leave of absence form.

Also another reminder about the 48-hours policy for sickness and diarrhoea: your child will need to stay off school for 48 hours after they have last been sick or had diarrhoea.

Leave of absence

If you know your child is going to be off school during term time for any reason, please ensure you fill in a leave of absence form in advance before the absence takes place to allow us to keep a record.

Punctuality

If your child is late for any reason, please remember to sign them in on the signing in system at the office with their first name, surname, correct class, reason for being late and their dinner choice.

Children sent home from school with illness

If you are collecting your child early from school due to illness, please can arrangements be made for other siblings to be collected at the usual school finishing time so it does not have an impact on their learning and attendance in school.

Appointments during school time

If your child has a hospital/medical appointment during school time, please can you ensure that they are not collected more than an hour before the appointment time. This is to ensure it has minimum impact on their learning. If they have other siblings in school, they should be collected at the usual school finishing times.

School Dinners

Reminder: Reception and Key Stage 1 receive Universal Free School Meals.

From Key Stage 2, (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6), school dinners are not funded and are charged at £2.30 per day. We advise that all school dinners are paid in advance so your child's account is in credit. Payment can be made on ParentMail.

Should you wish to change from school dinners to packed lunches, or vice versa, please inform the office, giving 2 weeks' notice.

Year 1 Art Gallery

On Tuesday, Year 1 opened the doors for one day only to their very own art gallery. We showcased their art work to the rest of school and parents. The children had worked exceptionally hard on their sculptures and self-portraits which they showed off with great pride.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti – Bullying Week is taking place on Monday 13th – Friday 17th November.

This year the school will dedicate as much time as possible to discussing and understanding the messages around bullying. The theme this year is 'All Different, All Equal.' If you require further support and guidance around this emotive topic, please talk to your class teacher or visit the website below.:

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>

Take Over Day

The children are taking over!

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 will get the opportunity to apply for numerous jobs in school.

We launched the event on Monday and the children are already very excited! As with all jobs children request an application form and fill in stating their relevant skills and reasons for applying for the role. Children need to return forms by the 2nd November. Children will be notified by letter if they are successful. Good luck to all applicants.

KMPS PSA

Keeping in touch!

The PSA has recently joined the 21st century! you can now find us on Facebook if you search for "Kerr Mackie Primary School PSA". We'd like to invite all of you to come and join the group so you can keep up to date with we're up to and the events we'll have planned for the year.

Thanks to all of you who stopped by to visit the PSA tea and coffee stall at last week's parents evenings, we raised £60 for the PSA fund. We'll also be at the Open Days on:

- Monday 6th November, 09:15am
- Tuesday 7th November, 1:15pm
- Wednesday 8th November, 6:00pm.

Can you help us man the tea urns and break out the bourbon biscuits? See below for more details about volunteering....

Volunteering and the Winter Fair

Without parents, there is no PSA and we always need your help. If you want Kerr Mackie to be the best school it can be for your children then helping the PSA is a good place to start. In the short term we're looking forward to the Winter Fair on Thursday 7th December.

How can you help? Have you got a talent, a skill, something that you could use to raise money for the PSA? Perhaps you're an artist or a graphic designer who could help draft a flyer for the winter fair. Perhaps you're part of a small business that could offer a prize for our raffles or tombola's. Perhaps something as simple as donating some time to help set up or tidying up after the event or just baking us a cake for the cake stall.

We understand everyone has busy lives, but whatever help you give, no matter how small, will be appreciated.

Last year the PSA raised £3,843, we have total funds of £12,563 at the moment but we're a long way off our target of £23,000 which we estimate is needed to install new outdoor play equipment and safe flooring around them.

If you want to know more about getting involved or if you have any ideas drop us a line at kerrmackiepsa@gmail.com or contact us through the Facebook group.

Kerr Mackie & With Love exclusive Christmas Shopping evening

On Wednesday 29th November, come and join us at With Love in Oakwood for an exclusive Christmas shopping event with a glass of fizz and a mince pie. Entry is £5 and entitles you to a 10% discount on all gifts and cards bought on the night. Tickets will be limited and on sale after half term.

Pumpkin Party

Many thanks to everyone who helped at our first Kerr Mackie Pumpkin Party and Bake Sale.

We had over 200 parents and pupils, four tables of cakes, a hundred samosas, dozens of bags of pakoras, thirty fancy dress costumes, and eighteen pumpkins!

Congratulations to all our Pumpkin Designers and Monster Fancy Dress winners, including Anna in Holly, Emily in Maple, and Hannah in Spruce.

We are also grateful for our prizes donated by Knickerbocker Shakes, Jump Arena, Hyde Park Picture House and Jack Rabbits.

If you left a pumpkin behind, please collect today, or they will be disposed of.

Supporting Military Veterans

Age UK Leeds have a project called Aged Veterans, Active Service in Later Life, which is funded by the Ministry of Defense.

The veterans are men and women who have served in the Army, Navy or Royal Air Force during WW2 or completed their National Service.

The project supports veterans, their families and/or carers who live in the Leeds area providing practical support, advice and information, linking into local networks so clients do not feel lonely or isolated.

Age UK Leeds have now been successful in securing further funding from the Ministry of Defense to expand their existing work with older veterans incorporating Aged Veterans sharing stories, sharing lives.

As part of this project they are going to link in with **students from Year 6**. Also as part of this work they will also be linking in with care homes local to the school, and possibly the museum's community team.