



Kerr Mackie 'Magic News'

November Issue 2

Together Everyone Achieves More

Kerr Mackie Learners...

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

Headteacher Update

Welcome to the November issue of our 'Mackie Magic' newsletter. I know I keep repeating myself, but the weeks seem to be racing by so fast and, with Christmas fast approaching, we wanted to make sure that you had everything you needed in order to join in the festivities with us. Please check through the list of forthcoming events that were also sent out previously to ensure that you don't miss out. Thank you to Errol from the PSA for organising a special visit from the Lord Mayor of Leeds to turn on the Christmas lights at the first of two 'big switch ons' next week.

Fantastic news, it has been confirmed that Kerr Mackie Primary no longer meets the Government's criteria for a 'Coasting School', based on the significant improvement in progress data by the end of Year 6 during 2016-17. The staff team and I are so proud of every child whose learning journey last year contributed to this positive outcome. We also want to thank every one of you for the continuing support you provide to ensure your child achieves their well-rounded potential. Ofsted remains 'forever out there' and we hope that your partnership for school improvement will be strongly acknowledged when they do arrive.

Please can I remind you about accessing the Ofsted 'Parent View' website (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>) which is one place where you can share your views with us, and of course Ofsted, who will judge us based on this (amongst other things). You will remember that during parent's evening in October we conducted a survey of a vast majority of parents. 100% of you indicated that your child feels safe and happy, that they are well looked after at the school and that you would recommend our school to others. Parents also felt that their child was taught well. 99.3% indicated that their child made good progress at our school but a small percentage (2.1%) felt that school could contribute more about communicating their child's progress and 10% felt that their child should receive more homework. We will continue to address the points you raised to ensure that we strive to be the best we can be in all that we do.

This half term we have also enjoyed showcasing the magic of Kerr Mackie to prospective parents with well over a 100 families attending one of the 3 Open Days or one of tours on the 5 additional days. The children really did showcase their talents, with Y5 children conducting excellent tours around school to see all children demonstrating good learning and achieving.

Please can I also remind everyone again about parking safely and sensibly, letting your children get out of the car onto the pavement and not the road, as well as turning car engines off to prevent air pollution. I sincerely appreciate all your continued support with ensuring that our school environment is a safe and healthy one.

In my temporary absence, Mrs Furlong is doing a great job looking after the school, actively supported by the whole Kerr Mackie team, and I should be back at school next week to share in the festive fun.

Jennifer Millington
Headteacher

Governor Update

Governors were delighted to receive confirmation this week that the school no longer meets the definition of a 'coasting school'- this is specifically because the progress of our pupils has improved over the past year, especially by the end of KS2.

A huge thankyou to staff, parents and the school community for their dedication and support over the past year.

However, that doesn't mean we are going to be resting on our laurels- we are very aware that Ofsted could come calling at any time and we are keen to ensure that we continue to progress the school development plan and ensure that every child succeeds and develops a love of learning. We will be meeting before the end of term to review pupils progress and the impact of the activities and approaches we are implementing to support this. We will also be reviewing the school's Anti-Bullying Policy and will be meeting with pupil representatives who have developed a user friendly version for pupils.

It has been wonderful to see the number of prospective parents who have visited the school and the positive comments they have made about the environment, how happy and engaged the children are and our ethos. I must also thank the PSA for their amazing support at the open evenings/mornings, providing refreshments and being available to speak to prospective parents- it makes a real difference to hear parents' views.

I hope to see you all at the Winter Fair - the PSA have been working hard to make it a really special event and have secured some amazing prizes from local and regional businesses and we have a very special Santa this year!

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy holiday season.

Veena Murray
Chair of Governors

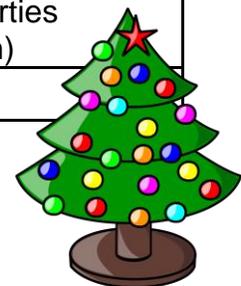
Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Summer		Wednesday 6 th September 2017
Autumn mid-term	Friday 20 th October 2017	Monday 30 th October 2017
Christmas	Friday 15 th December 2017	Tuesday 2 nd January 2018
Spring mid-term	Friday 9 th February 2018	Monday 19 th February 2018
Easter	Thursday 29 th March 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



Christmas Events	
04.12.17	Big Switch On in School Hall from 2:45pm - 3:25pm (Classes taking part are: Alder, Cedar, Larch & Holly) Lord Mayor attending!
05.12.17	Big Switch On in School Hall at 2:45pm - 3:25pm (Classes taking part are: Rowan, Lime, Lilac & Cherry)
06.12.17	Early Years Christmas Play (9:45am & 1:30pm)
07.12.17	PSA Winter Fair Christmas Dinner Festive Fun Day (festive jumper / hat)
12.12.17	Year's 2 & 3 Christmas Parties
13.12.17	KS1 Christmas Production (9:30am & 5:30pm) Nursery, Years 4 & 5 Christmas Parties
14.12.17	School Choir singing at Gledhow Lodge 10:30am - 12pm Reception, Years 1 & 6 Christmas Parties Musical Christmas Concert (6-7pm)
15.12.17	Break up for Christmas Holidays



Staffing Update

Sadly, we are saying goodbye this term to Mr Watson, our Year 1 Oak teacher, who is embarking on the next chapter in his life after Christmas. We all wish him every future success and we know he will be missed.

Also Mrs Barrett, a long standing and valued member of support staff, has decided to take the next step in her life's journey. The staff team and all families who have known Mrs Barratt over her many years at Kerr Mackie wish her every future success.

We have recently appointed a new Site Superintendent who will take up his position after Christmas. We Welcome Mr Behan to the Kerr Mackie team.

This week and next week we will be recruiting the new teacher for Year 1 Oak class, a new Teaching Assistant and a Senior Administrator to cover Mrs Begum's maternity leave that begins towards the end of January.

We will update you on all the new appointments as soon as we know more.

Office Reminders

Parent contact details

Please ensure you update the office of any changes with contact details. We have had issues where we have not been able to get through to parents when children have been unwell. We require a day time contact number for every child in case of emergencies.

Collecting children for appointments

Please note children will be collected once parents arrive at the school office. We cannot collect children before parents arrive as sometimes there is a delay on arrival which means the child is missing out on valuable learning time.

Signing in late children

Please ensure you sign your child in correctly with their **full name** and class and reason for being late. Don't forget to choose a dinner for them too.

Lost property

We have an on-going and ever increasing collection of lost property so please come to the office and ask

any unnamed, unclaimed items left by the end of this term, we will have to offer them to local charity shops as it is becoming increasingly difficult to store such a large amount of lost property. Thank you for your support with this.

Winter and Weather Communication

Please can you ensure that your child arrives in school suitably dressed for these arctic conditions that seem to have descended upon us, wearing their school uniform jumper/cardigan under a warm winter coat, sensible black shoes/boots for slippery conditions, hat, gloves and scarf. We will ensure that children are reminded about wearing these clothes at break times and looking after them, but ensuring that all items of clothing are named definitely helps.

With this onset of icy conditions, we will continue to monitor the safety of pathways around school to ensure that they are gritted. Should snowfall arrive, we will inform you of any adjustments to access to ensure the safety of everyone. Please check your Parent Mail account as well as our school website for any emergency notifications. If any parent is experiencing problems registering with Parent Mail, please come to the office as soon as possible.

Attendance

Kerr Mackie is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality. Remember our whole school target is 96% for every child. Please help us and your child by ensuring their attendance remains above 96%, allowing them to achieve their potential.

We had a fantastic start to the new school year and our attendance was rising each week. Unfortunately, the sickness bug has meant that over the past few weeks our attendance has slipped below 96%. Hopefully, after the Christmas break we can get back on track and with everyone's help raise the attendance to above 96% again!

THANK YOU SO MUCH to those families who have been working hard to ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high. THANK YOU for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a difference in their futures

We will continue to reward our excellent attenders in our weekly assemblies and later in the year there will be prizes for our high attenders and also for those children that have significantly improved their attendance.

It is also important that children are collected from school on time. If you have an emergency and are unable to collect your child at 3.25pm please contact the school office to inform us when and who will be collecting them. All children will be brought to the office if they are not collected by 3.35pm. Although we appreciate emergencies occasionally do happen we would ask that you endeavour to make alternative arrangements so your child is not collected late.

Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas Dinner takes place next week, Thursday 7th December 2017. Please order your child's dinner as normal and the account will be charged for accordingly. Dinner for the day is welcome to all children including those on packed lunch. Please see below for the Christmas Dinner options:

Mains:

Traditional roast turkey served with mini pork sausage



Halal chicken fillet served with sage and onion stuffing



Vegetarian sausage served with sage and onion stuffing

All the above will be served with Yorkshire pudding, roast, mash potatoes, brussel sprouts, seasonal veg and gravy!



Dessert:

"Smiley face" ice cream
Christmas pudding and custard
Fruit and yoghurt



Superheroes Day

Last week Reception all came dressed as Superheroes for Superhero Day. Children were invited by Captain America and his team to attend the Superhero training academy, they each completed 5 tasks during the training and received a certificate from the academy to recognise that they were official superheroes. Children selected food to make a healthy meal to keep their super powers, they also made their own superhero vegetable to become their sidekick. It was a super day for both children and staff. Thank you to those who donated

£1 for this day, the money collected will help to fund our trip to the seaside in the summer.

Please remember Early Years are performing their Christmas play on Wednesday 6th December. There will be two shows, one in the morning at 9.45am and another in the afternoon at 1.30pm. The children have worked really hard to put on this performance; it would be great to see someone from every family attending.

Cookery & Gardening Update

This term the gardening groups have finished harvesting our fruits and vegetables. We have been preparing for winter by clearing leaves and planting bulbs ready for next spring. We have made space for wildlife, including a bug box and hedgehog house.

We have been working towards the RHS School Garden Awards and have achieved our Level One. Our groups had to think about our future plans for our school garden. We are currently being busy for Level Two.

The cookery groups have been making a variety of different foods. We use fruits or vegetables in most of our dishes. This term we have made pumpkin soup, bread, raspberry buns, carrot and orange buns, spiced biscuits, harvest soup, and raisin buns. Nursery and Reception made Rainbow Salad from lots of colourful vegetables.

Christmas Parties

Please see page 2 for when your child's Christmas party is taking place. Please can we remind parents that all children MUST arrive to school in full school uniform but may bring a change of clothes with them in a bag to change into for their party.

Last Day of Term

School closes at 3.25pm on Friday 15th December 2017 and reopens on Tuesday 2nd January 2018, 8.45am. Child Seasons will be open as usual until 6.00pm on Friday 15th December 2017.

Nursery Alien Day

Yesterday in Nursery, we had a really exciting Space Day!

An alien crashed in the playground and we had to hunt for clues. We had lots of challenges to complete for our space missions and all got a certificate from Buzz Lightyear!

Lots of the children came dressed in a space theme costume, and to finish off the day, they had an alien disco! It was out of this world!



PSA Update

Our main fundraising aim is to improve the playground equipment and the surfaces along the front of the playground. School budgets are focused on education and the buildings, so we need to explore other sources to pay for new play surfaces. The quotes coming in are double what we have in the kitty, so we have a challenge in reaching our aim. But I'm sure that with all parents coming together, we can achieve this.

We also do more than put on Winter/Halloween parties. This year the PSA has raised and donated funds to EYFS so each of our pupils receives a gift of a book at the Reception Christmas party.

Around 100 parents attended our recent school

Open Days – and more are still coming!

The PSA was on hand to raise more funds serving refreshments and chat to the prospective parents. We received plenty of really positive feedback from them about our happy pupils, a strong school focus on nurture, and the cleanliness of the grounds and streets outside (many thanks to our caretaker Richmond). It just shows how popular Kerr Mackie Primary School has become, and the aspirations of parents for their children to join us.

Many thanks to everyone who is supporting Kerr Mackie PSA Winter Fair on Thu 7 Dec from 3.30-5.30pm. We've had exceptional support for our raffle this year, with prizes from Yorkshire Cricket Club, Adventure Zone, Betty's Tea Rooms, Canon Hall Farm, Bengal Brasserie, Nawaab Khan, Canton Flavour, Daisy Chain Florist, and more! Do you know someone or do you work for someone who could support an event like this? Could you help us with goods or services instead?

Please get in touch at kerrmackiepsa@gmail.com

We also need volunteers to set up the fair, run or serve on stalls, and clear away at the end of the day:

Fancy running the Toy Stall, the Cake Shop or the Nail Bar?

Can you serve cakes, sell toys, or paint nails?

Can you help clear up from 5.30-6.00pm?

How much time can you give?

Please get in touch at kerrmackiepsa@gmail.com

Raffle tickets are now on sale, please **check your child's book bag for raffle tickets**, and look out for us in the playground. Donations for the chocolate tombola, gifts for the 'secrets room' and good quality second hand toys can be left at the school office now.

Please join our Facebook page to keep up to date with the great raffle prizes and our fundraising plans. Go to Facebook and search for Kerr Mackie Primary School PSA.

Looking forward to 2018 what events would like the PSA to hold? What else should we spend funds on? Please leave your comments on our Facebook page or email kerrmackiepsa@gmail.com

We want to make Kerr Mackie the very best for our children, but to do this we need your help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kerr Mackie PSA Team

Anti-Bullying Week

Lots of opinions and debates took place during our dedicated week. The whole school got the chance to take part in workshops relating to themes associated with bullying and Year Five and Six had the opportunity to work with some life coaches. Currently, some Year Six children are busy writing a child centered policy linked to Anti Bullying.

During the week we captured some quotes from children:

“He is my best friend because he treats me and my friends equally.”

“When we are different that makes the world a special place.”

Takeover Day Success

This year Takeover Day was a huge success. Over 100 children applied for a job!

Unfortunately, not all were successful but we hope they apply again next year.

The successful candidates were amazing role models for the school and extremely professional during their time in the roles. A most memorable day was certainly had by all.

Charity Events

We have had a very busy half term raising money for our local charity St Gemma's Hospice and the national charities, the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need.

We are still waiting to find out how much we raised for the Poppy Appeal but dressing up in spots and bright colours for Children in Need raised a fantastic total of £382.20.

We also marked Remembrance with a whole school community gathering on the playground and were treated to a beautiful rendition of the Last Post by one of our Year 6 musicians on his cornet.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these events and we know it will have made a huge difference to the lives of others.