



Together Everyone Achieves More

Kerr Mackie Learners...  
'Can be, can do, can change, can achieve'

## Headteacher Update

Welcome to Issue 4 of our Mackie Magic Newsletter and, if I have not seen you out and about around school since Christmas, I hope that you are all having a really happy and healthy start to 2017.

As you can imagine, school life continues to be really busy and there is certainly a real buzz and excitement around school as the new projects are evolving. Thank you so much for your continuing support with supporting the amazing experiences that the children are already having on their project linked visits. Later on in this newsletter you will read more about what's happened so far.

Through the Parent Mail emails that I have been sending, you will have picked up on the fact that we are closely focusing our learning to raise achievement for all children in school. With the high aspirations that you have, as key partners in your child's learning and achievement journey, coupled with ours, we feel confident that we will achieve this.

Year 6 have already started their booster sessions as part of the preparation for their KS2 tests in May this year. Within the school day, teachers and our learning support staff are providing additional intervention to quickly address any difficulties that children have with their learning. Reception parents and carers have had an opportunity to 'stay and learn through their child's play' which we hope you found really useful. Year 2 teachers are planning an 'expectations' meeting in preparation for the KS1 test so please watch out for that too.

As you all know, homework plays a key part in improving learning, so consistent completion of tasks set, regular reading, spellings and time tables, plus access to English and Maths activities on the DB Platform will all help your child achieve their potential. Your child's progress will be a clear focus for our discussions with you all at Parents Evenings on 7th and 8th February, so I will look forward to meeting you all then too. Governors and representatives of our PSA will also be present at Parents Evenings too.

*Mrs Millington, Headteacher*

# Kerr Mackie 'Magic News'

January Issue 4

## Governor Update

As you may know I have taken up the role of Vice-Chair of Governors and one of my roles is the training and development of the Governing body. Since September Governors have completed in excess of 30 hours training and later this month I will be attending a workshop being run by Children's Services to ensure that we are meeting the Governor Competency Framework Guidelines. If you haven't seen already our website has been updated outlining the roles and responsibilities for each of our Governors.

The Resources Committee scheduled an additional meeting this month to meet the demands of ensuring the school policies are all relevant and up to date. In addition, changes in government funding means it is necessary for us to ensure we consistently get value for money as our school finances are under greater pressure than ever. We are extremely grateful to the PSA for all the fundraising efforts as these will make a significant contribution to the school, and of course thank you to the school community for supporting all of the PSA events.

We are looking forward to the parent's evenings in February and once again we have Governors attending both nights, I am also told the PSA will be joining us serving some drinks and delicious snacks so even more reason to stop by! Your feedback is crucial to us, we need to know what we are doing right and how we can continue to improve so please come and see us. We have so far had 43 parents use Parent View to give feedback on Kerr Mackie and whilst 91% would recommend our school to another parent we would welcome more feedback, so if you haven't already please take a few moments to complete the Ofsted survey, the link can be found on the front page of our website.

*Beccy Rayner, Vice-Chair of Governors*

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Autumn mid-term	Friday 21st October 2016	Monday 31st October 2016
Christmas	Friday 16th December 2016	Tuesday 3rd January 2017
Spring mid-term	Friday 10th February 2017	Monday 20th February 2017
Easter	Friday 31st March 2017	Tuesday 18th April 2017
May bank holiday	Friday 28th April 2017	Tuesday 2nd May 2017
Summer mid-term	Friday 26th May 2017	Monday 5th June 2017
Summer	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017

Upcoming Events		
Month	Date	Event
January	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Year 2 Trip to Abbey House Museum
	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Year 1 Oak Winter Wellness Workshop, 2:00pm
	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	SEND Parents' Evening
	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2017	SEND Parents' Evening
February	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2017	Stay and Play for Nursery and Reception children ( <i>see page 4 for more information</i> )
		Year 1 Sycamore Winter Wellness Workshop, 2:00pm
	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017	SEND Parents' Evening
	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2017	SEND Parents' Evening
	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Parents Evening for all years
	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	

## Christmas Thanks

We had a school Christmas Choir again this year and what a wonderful bunch they were! Kerr Mackie was at the heart of our local community again this year and their beautiful singing was very well-received. The 58-strong choir performed at: the Oakwood Lights Switch-On in November; Gledhow Lodge Care Home; MHA Gledhow Care Home, the Christmas Fair, Oakwood Library and the *Sounds of the Season* Christmas Concert in school in the final week. The commitment shown by this group was outstanding and it was a real pleasure to rehearse and see them perform. Thank you, too to the instrumentalists within choir who played so well at several of these performances – the variety was wonderful!

Thank you to every single pupil who performed in the *Sounds of the Season* Christmas concert on 12<sup>th</sup> December. It was a very special night full of Christmas cheer and, more importantly, superb singing and playing. It was great to hear ensembles from children who have music lessons in school, as well as others who have lessons out of school. Thank you to those who came – so many people and so supportive!

At the end of this term, I will organise an evening Spring Concert which will take on very much the same format. If you are an instrumentalist and would enjoy the experience of performing in a very informal context, please think about what you could prepare – there is plenty of time to get ready!

I will establish a Key Stage 2 Spring Choir for this concert, too, so if you enjoy singing – look out for more information.

Thank you for making Christmas special for so many people – you really did us proud!

*Mrs Crowther, Deputy Headteacher*

## RRSA Update

The office has sent out the Parent Guidance about RRSA again just in case some of our new families are not aware of our work on Children's Rights. There is more information on our website, too.

We achieved Level 1 last year and are working towards Level 2. With that in mind, the next job the steering group are doing with me is planning an assembly to take 'on tour' to local primary schools and to our nearest high school to let children and adults know a bit more about what being a Rights Respecting School really means.

Next week, a Headteacher from Manston Primary School is coming to see what we do and what RRSA 'looks like' at Kerr Mackie. We are very proud of our RRSA work; it underpins our ethos and learning, too.

Every Monday, I take assemblies for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 about 'Article of the Week' – please ask your child what article of the week is and ask them to explain what that means. If you have any personal specialism in sustainable development or an interest in RRSA, please contact me – we would love to have you on our steering group!

*Mrs Crowther, Deputy Headteacher*

## Reminders

### Health and Safety Update

Please can I remind everyone that parking safely and sensibly, turning car engines off, is an essential. We continue to have concerns raised by parents and local residents which we as a whole school community must address. I sincerely appreciate all your continued support with ensuring that our school environment is a safe and healthy one and our profile within the local community is positive one.

### Packed Lunch

Please can I remind you that all packed lunches need to be sent in to school with children **first thing in the morning** to ensure your child knows that they have everything they need to enjoy their lunch.

### Every minute counts - School day starts at 9:00am

Please can I remind all parents and carers that the doors open at **8:45am** for the children to begin their morning learning task. At **9:00am** the registers will be taken, so all children need to be in their classroom by 9:00am **at the very latest**. All children who arrive after 9:00am will need to be signed in at the school office. As you are already aware the school gates will be closed at 9:15am.

### Office Hours

Please note that the school office opens from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Please ensure you press the white button outside the main office, which is a separate buzzer to the left of the main buzzer, for a member of staff to allow you access to school before or after these times.

## Year 1 Pirate Day



On Thursday 5th January, Year one became pirate explorers for the day! We counted treasure, studied treasure maps, sang pirate songs and worked on our team skills by playing pirate games. This was an exciting day and was a great hook for the children's learning!



## Rob The Explorer

A real explorer came to visit Year 1 as part of our project on 'explorers.' He talked about his survival skills in the jungle, his equipment in the Antarctic and showed us many exciting photos from his travels. Year one were very enthusiastic and asked some fantastic questions!

## Stay and Play

It was a great turn out for the Stay and Play sessions in Reception and Nursery last week.

Parents were given the opportunity to look through their child's maths and writing books and the

children really enjoyed sharing their hard work.

The children were very proud to show their parents around our classroom and thoroughly enjoyed having them stay and learn with them.

Parents and children enjoyed activities such as making a winter scene collage, sharing stories together and painting penguins! It was a lovely day which was enjoyed by all, staff really enjoyed having the opportunity to celebrate and share the children's fantastic achievements. We had a chance talk with their child and share their learning journey in their books and on Tapestry.

In the early years we value parental involvement and recognise how important your input is during this special first year. Remember our next Reception Stay and Play is Wednesday 1st February, from 8:45 to 9:45 and then again in the afternoon from 2:00 till 3:00, we hope to see you there!

The children were so excited about showing their parents round, so please come along if you can.



## Year 5 Trip – Leeds City Museum

As our topic is all about Ancient Greeks, it was decided to go to Leeds City Museum. Interestingly enough, there are only three museums in England that have Ancient Greek Artefacts.

After we had entered the Museum, we followed our tour guide (Natalie) to a special workshop where we did lots of Greek related activities.

First of all, we all we had a large piece of cloth that would unravel a different section of the time. By working together, we created a timeline from the Stone Age and Ancient Greeks all the way to the Suffragettes.

After that, we examined some Greek coins and used blue-tac to try and stamped our own.

Next, we examined some Greek artefacts and had to work out what they were and what they were used for.

The third activity was to make theatre mask showing emotions (epic!).

Finally, after lunch, we had time to explore the Ancient Greek and other Ancient sections of the Museum.

*Arran, Mahleehah and Mohammed  
(Lilac Class)*

## Year 4 Trip – Jorvik Viking Center

On Tuesday 11th January, Year 4 went on a very exciting trip to the Jorvik Dig Centre in York.

This was in preparation for our learning all about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons.

We travelled there by bus, which took about 40 minutes, and then had a short walk through York to our destination. The Jorvik Dig is set in an old church so the building was beautiful.

First of all, we had an archaeology lesson from an Anglo-Saxon expert. We learned about what archaeology was and then even had a chance to dig for artefacts in some fake mud. We found lots of bones, pottery and even an old Roman toilet!

After our delicious lunch in the lunch room, it was time for our Viking Battle Tactics workshop!

We got to hold replicas of Viking weapons and some of us even got to try on Viking helmets and armour. The whole class then had a battle using Viking shields, which Mr Allan had to declare a draw.

We had a lovely day and would recommend this to anybody who wants to learn about Anglo Saxons and Vikings!



## Year 3 Trip – DEWA Roman Experience Center

Last week Year 3 visited the Dewa Roman experience centre where they were led by a Roman gladiator chanting and marching through the streets of Chester.

They visited a Roman amphitheatre where they were trained in self-defence and marching formations. Furthermore the children stepped back in time, exploring behind the city walls visiting Roman hospitals, kitchens, baths and living quarters.

The children became archaeologists, identifying key features of Roman buildings and artefacts within the excavations. This highly interactive day really brought to life Roman history for year 3, and has sparked engagement and curiosity with their project learning.

## SEND Trip – Pudsey Civic Hall

In the last week of term, a small group of our pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities took part in a Snow and Ice themed Sing-a-long at Pudsey Civic Hall with children from schools all around Leeds.

They had an amazing time dancing around the Christmas tree, playing instruments and even got to see Santa himself! It was a great way to end the term and got us all in the festive spirit!

## Maths Time Tables

This term we are having a real push on learning our time tables in all year groups across school.

The children will be completing Times Table Rockstar checks in school for their relevant year groups times tables, these will include the multiplication and division facts both in and out of order.

We would really appreciate it if you could help support your children with this by helping them practise at home.

Below are some websites which have times table games on them that you could use with your children:

[www.mathletics.co.uk](http://www.mathletics.co.uk)

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/times-tables>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/ma13tab-l-game-tables-grid-find>

<http://www.conkermaths.org/cmweb.nsf/products/timestablesballoons.html>

<http://resources.woodlands.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.html>

## Dinner Menu

We will be introducing a new dinner menu from next term. We will keep you updated and this will appear on the school website.

## Family Learning Programme

This course will give parents / carers the opportunity to use ICT to enable them to experience how their children learn Maths and Literacy. It aims to refresh & extend adults' skills in using ICT for their own learning and to supporting their children's learning.

Parents / Carers will be able to improve their skills using activities including using Tapestry, inserting photographs, setting up email accounts, using general keyboard functions, making books, and making games

The course will be starting from Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 from 12:45pm – 3:15pm.

For further information, please contact Mrs Lal at Kerr Mackie Primary School.