



Together Everyone Achieves More

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

## Headteacher Update

Here we are again at the end of our 5<sup>th</sup> half term, and only one more to go until my first year is complete at Kerr Mackie; I can't believe it!

Tests in Year 2 and 6 have come and gone, with our children demonstrating that they rise, with confidence, to the challenges they face and love to showcase their talents to all.

The feedback we have received from many of you confirms our belief that children can learn and achieve their best within a positive, supportive and non-pressured atmosphere. Thank you to all our families who worked so closely with our staff to make this happens, we really appreciate it.

Community occasions are always so memorable and our Bollywood and Bling evening showcased the togetherness of the Kerr Mackie community that means so much to all of us. I really enjoyed it and I am looking forward to the next community gathering. My sincere thanks go to the PSA and staff team who organised the event so well and to everyone who attended.

Likewise, last weekend's inter-primary football tournament at Roundhay School demonstrated the impact of teamwork. For the second year running our Year 5 football stars reached the final and came so close to winning, but the greater success was in the team spirit and sportsmanship that those children showed. We also had 2 other teams participating which is wonderful in itself; I felt so proud of everyone!

Thank you to those parents who have ensured that their child has come to school prepared for the increasing heat and lovely sunshine. Please can I remind you that every child needs a water bottle to keep hydrated. It's also important that you administer sun cream before the children come to school and I would recommend a non-designer sun cap/hat too. Open-toed sandals and flip flops are not safe for the children to wear, given our tight learning spaces. Please can you name all items of clothing that the children bring in. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank all the children, parents and staff for how sensibly and sensitively every one of us has coped with the tragic events that occurred in Manchester this week. It's so important that, in times of such sadness, we remain united and strong in our commitment to safety in togetherness because, as our motto says, together everyone does and will achieve far more.

I look forward to welcoming you all back after the holidays and we can only continue to assume that Ofsted will be coming soon to see the magic of Kerr Mackie.

*Mrs J Millington, Headteacher*

## Governor Update

As always, it has been yet another busy term for staff, pupils and governors.

Governors have been reviewing and updating the school's policies this term as well as finalising the budget for next year. The school budget is becoming much more challenging especially given the recent changes to SEN funding (a massive reduction) and the local authority top slicing £6,140 for its apprenticeships. Governors are exploring all options to maximise our revenue as well as seeking external funding to support the school. The PSA has been extremely active in raising much-needed funds for the school, as has the entire school community by supporting their activities. Bollywood and Bling was a huge success in bringing our school community, together and I would particularly like to thank the PSA and the Pastoral team for organising the event- I hope the next one will be bigger and blinger!

In terms of Teaching and Learning, our new tracking system is really helping us track the progress of pupils (a key area in the school's development plan in response to "Coasting School" status), all our pupils are making good progress and Governors have reviewed plans/actions to address development areas.

We are also considering offering 30 hours of free childcare in our Nursery Provision. This doubling of free childcare for 3-4 year olds is available to families where:

- both parents are working- or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family,
- each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage
- each parent must have an annual income of less than £100,000.

We are currently consulting with parents and prospective parents to identify the demand but if positive we plan to launch in Sept 2017.

Finally, Governors will be undertaking a review of their impact over the past year on 12th July and we will feedback to you all on what we have achieved and where there is more work to be done. We want to have a Governing Body with a diverse background and where every member is able to contribute to the school with unique skills and experience- I am hoping that following this meeting we will be in a position to advertise Governor vacancies linked to specific expertise (for example someone with a Quantity surveyor background). If you think you have something to offer and would be interested, please contact me via the school office.

Hopefully, there will be good weather for the holidays and for those who will be fasting, may I wish you a peaceful Ramadan.

*Veena Murray, 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
June	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Year 1 Routine Hearing Screening
	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Year 1 trip to Herm Farm – Den Building
	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Year 2 trip to The Deep
		Year 4 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park
	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2017	Reception trip to Scarborough Sea Life Centre
July	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Sharing Learning Meetings 1.30pm – 3.00pm
	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	End of Year Reports sent home
	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Transition to new classes
	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Drop in session for parents
	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Year 6 Leavers' Disco

Please note that parents of children with additional needs will receive a letter about an appointment for a review meeting with the teacher by the end of the first week back after the holiday.

## Attendance

Regular attendance is important for all children. It is the **regular, consistent routines** that allow children to build up the secure attachments they need for healthy development. Regular attendance has a positive impact on all aspects of a young child's learning and development. A regular **routine** supports the child to feel **settled and secure**. Unsettled children have higher stress levels which, in turn, prevent them from being able to benefit fully from the learning opportunities available. Research shows that regular part-time attendance from the age of 2 in a good quality early years setting has a lasting impact on children's **social development and intellectual attainment** throughout school.

Our school target for attendance is 96%. To date, it stands at 95.4% - we need a big push from everyone to reach this goal. Here are some tips on how you can help.

### How parents/carers can help their child have good attendance:

- Make sure your child arrives at school **on time, every day**, it encourages habits of good timekeeping and lessens any possible classroom disruption;
- Always encourage your child to **take part in school activities**;
- Don't let your child take time off school for **minor ailments** - if it would not stop you from going to work, it should not stop your child from coming to school;
- Encourage your child to tell you about any problems they may have at school, and always speak immediately to your child's class teacher to try & resolve them. It is better to do this sooner rather than later, as most **problems can be dealt with very quickly**;
- If **problems at home** are affecting your ability to get your child to school on time every day, please speak to a member of our Pastoral Team;
- Make **appointments** after school, at weekends or during school holidays, whenever possible. A morning appointment does not mean a whole day of school should be missed;
- Family **holidays** should always be taken outside of term time – School term dates are provided to all parents and can be found on our website.

*Mrs H Crowther, Attendance Officer*

## RRSA

*(Rights Respecting Schools Award)*



At Kerr Mackie, PUPIL VOICE is really important to us. There are several ways for children to have their views heard such as our School Council, the RRSA steering group, the Food Ambassadors group, the Playground Pals along with the usual routes of talking to class teachers in circle time activities etc.

This term, pupil voice has been heard in several ways which link to our ethos of Respecting Rights. On hearing about the plight of lone refugees and the Dubs Amendment, our pupils were saddened to hear that our country pledged to help 3000 children but only helped 250. The RRSA steering group were concerned about the rights those refugees would be missing out on and wrote letters to 3 local MPs and Theresa May. Disappointingly, we still haven't heard from our local councilors, but 10 Downing St replied immediately and even passed our letter to the Home Office, from whom we had a separate reply!

More recently, pupils have been thinking about their right to a clean and safe environment (Article 24) Thank you for responding to the 'idling engines and inconsiderate parking' posters we displayed last term. Next half term, we are celebrating National Clean Air Day with a 'Walk to School Week' – please support this important initiative promoting healthy choices and clean air.

It never ceases to amaze me how compassionate and kind our children are – through learning about their rights they are now more aware of the rights some children across the world do not access. They are beginning to notice the influence they can have just by writing a letter, or by creating a poster. We are very proud of your children!

*Mrs H Crowther, RRSA Lead*

# Walk to School Week – National Clean Air Day

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017



To celebrate National Clean Air Day on June 15th, we are holding a walk to school week. If at all possible all staff and pupils will walk to school (or at least some of the way). If you live too far away to walk to school, please do consider parking a good distance away so you can walk for part of your journey. Encouraging walking not only raises awareness of clean air and follows on so well from our thinking about idling engines, but helps to educate children about healthy choices. The percentage of obese children in the UK is increasing year on year – it is important that exercise and healthy living is part of everyday life for our pupils.

Y6 Cherry has produced some impressive posters which have been highly praised by the National Clean Air Day team based in London! The organisation has used our slogans in their publicity and have asked if they can use the images of our posters on their Facebook page, too!

To see the posters, please go to our twitter feed on: @kerrmackieP



## Bollywood & Bling Night

Many thanks to everyone who supported the PSA's first - and sold out - Bollywood and Bling Family Night Out last month.

Over 100 parents and pupils enjoyed delicious curry, professional Bollywood dance performances, face painting and mehndi in the glammed-up surroundings of the school hall.

We asked all our guests to dress up, and they didn't disappoint, with many in their saris and kurtas.

Several parents made a point in saying it was their first social event at Kerr Mackie, and they had fun watching the dancers along with their families, enjoying three different types of curry, and having a chance to speak to parents and staff in a more informal environment.

Many thanks to Trishool Dance Academy (who are also looking for new dancers of all ages <http://www.trishoordanceacademy.co.uk/>), all the parent volunteers, and the amazing staff at Kerr Mackie who were happy to roll up their sleeves and help serve food and decorate the hall.

We'd also like to thank Mrs Lal from the Pastoral team, as her hard work ensured that the night was fabulous.

*Kerr Mackie PSA Team*



Mrs H Crowther

## Nurture Provision Donations

The Pastoral team are in the process of setting up a new Nurture environment in the portakabin and would greatly appreciate any old/nearly new donations of fancy dress clothes, home corner resources and construction toys.

Thank you so much for your support.

*Pastoral Team*

## Year 3 Roundhay Park Visit

On Monday 8th May, Year 3 visited Roundhay park where they had the opportunity to become real plant scientists.

They spent half of the day with a park ranger looking at the different flowers and trees, finding out all about evergreen and deciduous trees. The children investigated the role of bees and played a pollination game. They learnt about the work a bee has to carry out to collect pollen from different plants; this was also a great team building activity.

For the rest of the day the children explored the different areas of the park. They visited canal gardens for inspiration for their own garden designs, looking at pattern, colour and symmetry. The children also produced excellent detailed sketching of leaves.

At the specialist gardens, the children created their own senses poem and identified the different parts of a flowering plant.

It was an amazing opportunity for the children to showcase all their learning about our plants topic so far.

Thank you to all the parents that came on the trip to support us.

*Year 3 Teachers*

## Reception Tropical World Visit

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May Reception had a wonderful trip to Tropical World. In small groups we walked through the venue and explored a range of mini-beasts gaining real-life understanding. When asked what we saw on our trip through Tropical World Jardell said: "The colourful butterflies as we

walked in, the giant sting-ray, the deadly python and the cute Meerkats standing up on their legs".

After this we had lunch in Roundhay Park followed by team games on the field. On our return home we stopped in the woods for our very own Minibeast Hunt! Children hunted around lifting logs, stones and moving leaves to see what creatures they could find. Taliyah said "We found spiders and ladybirds and some beetles and then a worm too. It was so much fun, Miss Brown, let's do it again!"

Reception has had a fantastic half-term learning about mini-beasts; they have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and are bursting with knowledge! This week we have seen our class caterpillars finally transform into cocoons and hopefully they will have hatched into butterflies upon our arrival back after the holidays. Reception has had a wonderful half term, showcasing lots of knowledge, a big well done is deserved!

*Reception Team*

## Football

On Saturday 20th May, Year 4, 5 and 6 football teams took part in the annual Roundhay Interprimary Tournament. Year 4 got off to a shaky start with a loss but then went on to win their remaining two group games. Unfortunately, they exited the competition at this stage because of goal difference but put up a great fight to the end.

Year 6 were drawn into a very competitive group and managed to get two draws and two losses. They also exited the competition at this stage on goal difference.

Year 5 progressed through their group with two wins, a draw and a loss. They then went on to beat Talbot in the semi-finals 4-3 on penalties after drawing 1-1 in normal time. St Matthews were awaiting them in the final and after normal time the score was 1-1, which meant the final headed into penalties!! Unfortunately, they went on to lose 3-2 on penalties.

Everybody who took part represented Kerr Mackie amazingly and we even received praise from spectators about how well we worked as a team! Bring on next year!

*Mr Allan, PE Coordinator*

## Mathletics

Mathletics is a super maths resource that all children are signed up for so that they can use this at home. We have had great success with it this year; we have given out 1257 bronze, 240 silver and 46 gold certificates across school which is amazing!

It would be fantastic if we could get to 60 gold certificates so can we ask you to encourage your children to go on Mathletics every week to complete the activities set by teachers. If you do not have access to a computer or tablet at home, please let us know so we can organise for your child to use one within school.

*Miss Simmons, Maths Coordinator*

## Short Breaks and Fun Activities

Leeds City Council have emailed us a brochure with a list of short breaks and fun activities currently available to children and young people aged 0-18 in Leeds. The directory is accompanied by a guide which explains more about the different kinds of short breaks and fun activities available and how to access them.

We will email you all a copy of the brochure via ParentMail. All the details and contact information can be found on there.

## Office Reminders

### ParentMail

We are continually introducing new features to you all through the use of ParentMail. We currently use a trip letter consent slip for you to sign and return to school.

ParentMail has a 'forms' section to import the trip letter and consent form which can be completed online. Whether you pay online or use a barcoded letter, you will still have access to the 'forms' section.

Please ensure you familiarise yourself with this section. We will begin using it from next term.

### Absences

Please can we kindly request that you inform the school office of your child's absence before 10am. You are advised to call each day of the absence

so the school are aware of any updates.

### After School Club

A quick reminder to remind parents to park at the front of school when collecting children from after school clubs run by the school. There will be no one in the office from 4.30pm to allow anyone in through the barrier.

Staff coordinating the clubs on the day will be at the main office entrance to allow you access in to school.

*Office Team*

## Staffing Update

As you know, Mrs Crowther, our Deputy Head, is going on her maternity leave very soon now. All being well, Mrs Crowther's final day is Friday 6th June. We all wish her well for the exciting arrival. Mrs Furlong, who is covering Mrs Crowther, has settled in quickly since Easter and is going to be with us for the whole of the next academic year.

Sadly for us, Mr Allan has secured a teaching position overseas for September 2016 so next half term will be his final one at Kerr Mackie.

Mr Allen will be greatly missed by everyone and we thank him for the difference he has made to children's learning in the classroom and definitely on the football pitch.

Mrs Bennet has been appointed today and so will be joining the team in September.

*Mrs Millington, Headteacher*

## Safety After School

Recently we have had a number of incidents due to children playing on the playground after school has finished. Please can I remind parents that all children need to be picked up on time and then supervised by that adult if remaining on the school grounds for a short play.

Any child in year 5 or 6, who is not picked up by an adult from the classroom, needs to leave the school grounds straight away as they will not be supervised and are therefore unsafe.

Thank you for your cooperation.

*Mrs Millington, Headteacher*