



Kerr Mackie 'Magic News'

July Issue 7

Together Everyone Achieves More

Kerr Mackie Learners...

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

Headteacher Update

It's unbelievable that the end of my first year at Kerr Mackie is here! Thank you to everyone for making the beginning of my journey here so enjoyable and memorable. The whole staff team have shown such care and commitment and definitely deserve their summer break. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a talented team of people.

We will know for sure in the Autumn Term whether we remain a 'Coasting School', but our improved outcomes by the end of KS2 this year should help us a lot. I will of course keep you updated but for now please accept my appreciation for all you have done to support your child's learning this year.

As our talented Year 6 children move on from Kerr Mackie they take with them many memories and achievements-their stunning performance on Tuesday evening said it all! On behalf of everyone past and present I wish every one of them huge success and happiness in all that they do, but hope they come back to share their successes with us.

Sadly, we are also saying goodbye to members of staff, some of which have been part of the team for many years. On behalf of us all, I sincerely wish Mr Allan, Mrs Shillito, Miss Smithson and Mr Bramble lots of luck as they begin the next chapter in their book of life – they will be missed by us all. Mrs Bennett will be joining the teaching team in September and will be cover teaching across school.

I would like to thank the PSA team and everyone who has given their time and support to the wonderful fundraising and social events held this year. We will meet in September to finalise with the PSA what the money will be spent on but we are grateful for all your help

with enhancing what we can provide for our children.

Governors have also been such a support to school this year and I thank them for the many hours they have spent visiting school, meeting with staff and children, monitoring and of course challenging us! Our end of year review of governance was really positive which we will continue to build on next year.

Thank you to those of you who have spoken with myself or senior leaders about the change in time for the after school closing of the main gates in the playground. Veena Murray, our Chair of Governors and I have met on a few occasions to share the positive feedback but also the concerns some people have raised.

I just want to confirm with you all that safeguarding your children has to remain a priority. Our recent Health and Safety audit has shown that open and uncontrolled access to the school grounds after school via the visual control gates poses a risk that I can no longer take. As you know we still welcome children and parents gathering at the end of the day until 3.45pm which is something that senior leaders enjoy sharing with you.

Please can I also politely remind you all that staff are not responsible for supervising the children after school so please ensure that if you are staying on site, you keep a close eye on where your children are and what they are doing. We are still seeing children climbing trees, walking on walls and fighting with sticks. Thank you for your continuing support with this.

Finally, please can I wish you all, on behalf of the whole staff team, a fantastic summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 6th September.

Mrs J Millington
Headteacher

Governor Update

As the summer break is upon us and we reflect on the past year, the Governors are incredibly proud of what the school has achieved. It's been a particularly busy year and the Governors want to thank the Mrs Millington and all the staff for the commitment, energy and enthusiasm they have demonstrated over the past 12 months. It is their dedication which ensures that the children continue to receive the very best educational experience.

The main priority this year has been the school's response to the "coasting schools" status, having been informed that we met the definition of a "coasting school" in the autumn. The Governors have spent considerable time supporting the senior leadership team in the response to the "coasting schools" status. We have reviewed the School Development Plan at each meeting of the Governing Body, ensuring that the strategies developed in response to the school's "coasting" status are fully costed and that the resources required to move beyond being a "coasting school" are made available.

We were pleased that the school's response to the "coasting schools" status was received positively by the School's Commissioner, but recognise that the journey continues. We remain committed to ensuring that the progress and attainment of all the children continues to improve. At the last Governing Body meeting of the year, the Governors reviewed the Department of Education data for Kerr Mackie relating to progress and attainment which benchmarks the school against comparable schools both in Leeds and Nationally. The data includes positive trends and provides a great basis on which to build in the next academic year. This data will be published on the website in due course.

In the May newsletter we referred to the fact that we had just approved for the school's budget for 2016/2017. Budgets across the public sector continue to be squeezed and the current funding being made available for education creates challenges for all schools; including Kerr Mackie. The school's primary source income is a block grant from government which is based on the number of pupils enrolled in the school, but which is not expected to increase for the foreseeable future. However, whilst our funding effectively remains flat, we are forecasting increases in expenditure. These costs increases are due to inflation and additional costs previously met centrally by Leeds City Council which must now be met from the school's budget. This means that for 2017/2018 our projected expenditure will be greater than our projected income. Consequently, we continue to look for ways in which to maximise the school's income from other sources and mitigate expenditure.

The constraints of the budget outlined above also extends to the resources available for the maintenance and improvement of the school premises. During 2016/2017, we started a programme to refurbish the school toilets, and this programme will continue into 2017/2018. In April 2017 new statutory guidelines were issued which included the minimum space per pupil required in Early Years. In early July, the Resources Committee started to review the requirements of these new statutory guidelines and evaluate the impact for Kerr Mackie.

The Resources Committee has also recently reviewed and approved the plan for educational visits for 2017/2018. Educational visits away from the school are an important element of the curriculum and help to bring the classroom learning to life for the children. The plan we have reviewed makes every effort to ensure that these planned visits are as cost effective as possible. Consistent with previous years, parents will be asked to make voluntary donation towards the costs of the visits and the school will be providing parents early in the new academic year with details of the planned visits for the year along with details of suggested donations per child. Where donations are insufficient to cover the cost of the visit, then we will attempt to meet the shortfall out of the already stretched school budget. However, there could be circumstances where visits need to be cancelled due to insufficient funds.

We are by no means on our own in facing financial challenges as a school. Issues around school funding nationally have been well published in the national press over the past six months. The Governors are committed to ensuring that the budget we have is spent in providing the children with the best possible education and environment in which to learn. However, we continue to face difficult choices. We welcome any suggestions from parents for ways in which we could generate additional income.

Finally, we'd like to wish all our children and their families an enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming you back to school in September.

Richard McGinn, Chair of the Resources Committee

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Summer	Friday 21 st July 2017	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

Trips

We strongly believe that trips and visitors bring learning to life and as a result are a vital component of every child's learning. To maximise the children's learning, the staff have organised the following trips for early on in the Autumn Term so the children can kick off their projects by seeing, touching and feeling what it was like to live in these periods of history.

As you are aware, because of the tight financial constraints upon the school budget we are unable to fund these trips as we have in the past. Therefore through discussions with parents and staff we propose to support these trips through individual year group fundraising and your continued voluntary contributions. Each year group have proposed different fund raising activities and will be in contact with you as the year progresses. I hope you will continue to support us in this.

Mr A Stout

Educational Visits Co-ordinator/Curriculum Leader

Year	Trip	Date
Nursery	Various visitors arranged to come to school to support the learning.	Not applicable
Reception	Various visitors arranged to come to school to support the learning	Not applicable
Year 1	Various visitors arranged to come to school to support the learning	Not applicable
Year 2	Abbey House Museum, Leeds - Looking at Victorian life and homes.	26 th September
Year 3	Herd Farm, Leeds - Investigating changes from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.	Alder: 15 th September Rowan: 18 th September
Year 4	Yorvik Museum, York - Investigating how the Vikings lived	Late September (date to be confirmed)
Year 5	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Year 6	Durham Oriental Museum - Investigating the contribution made by the Islamic Civilisation in Bagdad.	29 th September 2017

Leeds Children's Mayor Elections

Every year, children and young people in Leeds elect their new Children's Mayor.

Children in Year 5 spent time writing manifestos about the city and their local community and we received the amazing news that our entrant, Arran Carter, has reached the final 12 out of 48 entries across other Leeds schools. This is a fantastic achievement for Arran and the school. Well done!

Please read through all twelve entries and cast your votes online. Entries and the voting page can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/LeedsChildrensMayor>

Voting will closed at 12pm on Friday 15th September.

Get voting if you believe, like we do, that Arran would make an amazing Children's Mayor.

Summer Fair

Many thanks to everyone who supported last week's Kerr Mackie PSA's Summer Fair. The weather threatened thunderstorms, but held off to give us scorcher of an afternoon.

The pupils enjoyed cakes from parents, delicious asian food and pizza. We also had a special appearance from the Lord Mayor, who was very impressed with our school, and promised to come back next term!

After all expenses it's an absolute smasher this year - we raised £1479 profit! This will all go into improving the learning experience at Kerr Mackie School.

We are very grateful for the support of parents, staff and all the volunteers who gave their valuable time for free. But please remember, unless we have more volunteers come forward, we can't guarantee events such as Bollywood and Bling, Bake Sales and the Winter Fair taking place.

We urge you to please get in touch and support your school - in whatever way you can!

Best regards, and have a happy summer holiday!

Kerr Mackie PSA



Child Seasons

We would like to thank all the families who have supported us over the past 4 years. The children have enjoyed taking part in lots of fun activities such as crafts and baking. They have also enjoyed group games such as dodge ball and football which has helped to raise their confidence and self-esteem.

For the new term, we will be introducing craft activities such as kite making, junk instruments and different baking activities based around the children's choices.

Our current staff are Julie (Play Leader), Perminder (Deputy Play Leader) and Nathan (Play Worker). Julie will be leaving the after school club at the end of this term. She has been a great part of the team and will be sadly missed. We wish Julie every success for her future.

Our new Play Leader, Kalsoom, will be taking over from Julie in September 2017. We welcome her to the team.

A reminder to all parents, that we offer a service on a Friday until 6pm. If you would like to book a place, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For all enquires please call 0776 372 1942 or 0771 219 1042, or email us on: childseasons@hotmail.co.uk

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the year is 95.8%, which is an improvement on last year and is very close to our school target of 96%. Next year we are aiming for 97% whole school attendance. Gold and silver certificates have been presented to children today to acknowledge their attendance. Thank you for making sure your child attends school, where possible, every day.