

# KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

1<sup>st</sup> April 2016



Dear Parent/Carer

It's now the end of our second term this academic year and I can't believe how quickly it has gone. It does not seem five minutes since we had our Christmas performances.

It has been a very successful term with children being so engaged with their projects. Please read below about the products each year group has produced. As I have walked through school it is evident how much the children enjoy their learning and this has been commented on by the many visitors we have had this term.

A key event this term was, of course, the appointment of the new headteacher, Jennifer Millington, who will start in September.

I met her recently at a Headteacher's meeting and she talked about how much she is looking forward to coming and also having the opportunity to meet parents and carers, before September.

Our Early Years Leader, Mrs Watson, has decided to retire and her final day at Kerr Mackie will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Mrs Watson has, during her time at Kerr Mackie, done so much to ensure children developed a love of learning and enjoyed success. She will be missed by everyone and I'm sure you would like me to pass on your best wishes to her for the future.

We have just completed our first 'Showing Learning' event where children had the time to share the work they have done with their parents. From the feedback we received so far from parents and carers, it has been a great success and one that we hope to repeat again next term.

Next term gets off with a bang! Year 4 children will be putting on an exhibition of their learning on 'Water' in the centre of Leeds on April 20<sup>th</sup> at Oxford Place. This is the first time we have exhibited publicly and again, I'm sure it will be successful. The children are very excited.

Also on May 4<sup>th</sup>, the parents of children in Reception are holding a Spring Fair and we hope many of you will be able to attend. Please read below for more information.

I would like to wish you all a restful holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Mrs Ronicle,  
Headteacher

**SCHOOL CLOSURES FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL & OPENS ON TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

## [SCHOOL SPRING FAIR](#)

Parents of Elm and Willow are organising a school spring fair to be held on Wednesday 4th May and we need some more helpers. If you are able to help with baking, running a stall or support in any other way please speak to someone in the school office who will be able to provide you with Beccy Rayners contact details.

NEWSLETTER

## Dates for your diary are below:

### April

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – School closes

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – After school clubs finish

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – Training Day

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – School opens

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – Show Racism the Red Card – Lime, Cedar, Lilac, Holly & Chery Classes

### May

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – School Spring Fair

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – Year 4 Yorkshire Wildlife Park trip

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – Year 6 SATS week

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – School Closes



### RRSA LOGO COMPETITION

We are having a competition to see which pupil can come up with a logo to represent our Rights Respecting Schools work. Last week, Mrs Crowther talked about logos in assembly (KS1 & KS2) and teachers have also spoken to children to explain what makes a good one. Please help your child to come up with their ideas, but the drawing of the logo must be their own work.

The RRSA steering group are excited to see the logos – there will be a winner in every year group and one overall winner. Photographs of the winning logos will be on our website and displayed in school.

There is more information about RRSA on our website; scroll down to the purple *Rights Respecting* 'button' at the bottom left-hand side of the homepage.

Good luck, everyone!

Mrs Crowther



### SHARING LEARNING MEETINGS

It has been a real pleasure to welcome parents to school this week for our Sharing Learning Meetings! I have been extremely proud of the older pupils who have acted as welcomers – they were such a help.

The children have had an assembly about the meetings as well as a talk with teachers about how to 'lead' the meeting (not so easy for our Year 1 pupils, perhaps) and they were so excited about having a meeting with their parents. I think they did us proud!

We have received such positive feedback about the meetings; they have been a wonderful opportunity for pupils to talk through their learning and reflect on how far they have come since September. Just having the chance to flick through books with your child is a valuable opportunity and, hopefully, has made parents feel more involved and informed. With one long term to go, it is helpful to be aware of areas to develop so that you may support learning at home with more purpose.

Whether you had your meeting in school or at home, I hope you found it useful.

Mrs Crowther

## CURRICULUM

### NURSERY

Nursery children were very excited about our Life Cycle Trail on Wednesday. Many parents, children and nursery staff searched the school grounds looking for numbered eggs. The children were in search of half an egg that matched their own and carefully checked the patterns and numbers each time they found one. On their return to nursery, they used their learning all about eggs, chicks and hens to put a life cycle together. It was great to see so many parents joining in with the fun and we hope to use our woodland area lots more next term, to help with our learning all about plants and animals at the park.

### RECEPTION

Reception found the visit to Bilal Masjid Mosque very interesting. They observed the features of the impressive building and listened intently to the imam who told us lots of information about the building and customs of Muslims. We were very kindly presented with cupcakes to thank us for our visit, which the children greatly enjoyed!

### YEAR 1

Year 1 held their explorers exhibition this week. We were really excited to share all of our amazing learning with our families. All of us were keen to talk about our space topic where we learnt all about the solar system and the planets. We also showed off our fantastic jungles tree houses and explained the different layers of the rainforest. As pirates we explained all about our lives and shared some of our exciting pirate stories.

All the children wowed us with their knowledge and the parents were amazed by the high level of learning, one parent wrote in the guestbook "Wonderful exhibition. The children have clearly enjoyed their work this term and are happy to show it off."

A huge thank you to all the parents that came to the exhibition to support all the children's learning.

### YEAR 2

We have been enjoying learning about robots and what their purpose is in our world. As part of our writing unit, the children wrote warning stories, which included a robot baddie and three 'little' characters. Then we had a go at creating story boards of the stories, so we could film them using a stop frame animation app. The children really enjoyed being film crews in small groups and setting up the different scenes in their movies. At the moment we are just putting the final touches to our films.

They will be completed after the holidays for our big reveal at Hyde Park Picture House. Keep your eyes peeled for a letter on Tuesday 19th April with all of the details.

### **YEAR 3 – HOW CAN WE BRING A TASTE OF ITALY TO KERR MACKIE?**

As we are nearing the end of our learning linked to this topic, Year 3 would like to let you know about two events. The children have been liaising with our kitchen staff and we will be organising and advertising an Italian lunch day, which will happen in the first week back after the Easter break.

We are also very busy recording our tourism videos all about the Italian city of Naples. This has taken a little longer than anticipated, but we are pleased to announce that we will be exhibiting these just after the holiday. More information to follow Ciao!

### **YEAR 4 Learning Exhibition**

We are very proud of all the children and their Topic learning this term and would like to invite parents to join us to share their child's Project based learning on the 20<sup>th</sup> April.

This exhibition will be a little bit different to our last exhibition, as it will take place in our very own 'pop-up shop' in Leeds City Centre. Both classes are very excited about showing their videos and showcasing some of their Monet inspired art too. Everyone is welcome to come and spend time looking through their child's learning and we would encourage you to bring any friends and family that might want some more information about saving water around the home!

The address for the Year 4 pop-up shop is:

5/6 Oxford Place.  
Leeds  
LS1 3AX

### **YEAR 5**

Year 5 are putting the finishing touches to their morning toy models. They have learnt how mechanisms can work having made prototypes. We hope to invite parents to view the models at the beginning of the summer term. (Date and time to be announced)

We must say that they have taken time and care on their designs and are already looking spectacular!

### **YEAR 6 CHARITY FUNDRAISER FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN**

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March year 6 announced the winner of the Easter egg fundraiser. The winner of 'How many eggs in a jar' was Joe Dack in Cedar with the closest answer of 323 and the winner of 'name the chick' was Imran in year 2 Spruce. Although he didn't guess the correct name his name was pulled out of a hat since no-one got the right answer of Anna. The chick was named by Lucy McDermott in Nursery, Miss Meehan's daughter.

### **COOKERY AND GARDENING**

The children have been looking for signs of spring in the garden. Please see a message in our 'Gardening Book' written by one of our groups:-

"Today we went round the gardens and saw all the signs of spring. We saw daffodils, crocuses, blossom and a caterpillar." We have also seen frogs and frogspawn in the pond.

We have started sowing seeds including broad beans, peas, sweetcorn, carrots, sunflower, beetroot and lettuce. We have put some in the polytunnel to be a little warmer.

Our cookery groups have been baking tasty foods including pizza, pasta with tomato sauce, bread and jam tarts. We have made seasonal foods such as Welsh cakes for St David's Day, Irish soda bread for St Patrick's Day, spring cakes and Easter nests.

## **WHOLE SCHOOL EASTER EGG COMPETITION**

There have been lots and lots of wonderfully decorated Easter eggs in school this week, which made it very difficult to choose some winners.



KS1 Winners



KS2 Winners

## **SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD**

The Red Card workshops for Lilac, Lime, Cedar, Holly and Cherry class will now be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## **SPORTS RELIEF 2016**

For Sports Relief this year classes ran, jogged or walked a mile during their P.E. lessons. Everyone dressed up in sporty clothes for a £1.00 and the official Sports Relief bands were sold from the beginning of March.

In total we raise a massive £481.33 for Sports Relief. Well done and thank you for your donations to such a worthy cause.

## **CHILDREN'S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE UPDATE**

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service have been in touch with school to say they will be writing to approximately 600 parents across Leeds asking them to opt in for an appointment during the weeks of 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Parents will be asked to contact the SLT admin office to make an appointment within two weeks of receiving the opt-in letter. If parents do not respond to the opt-in letter it will be assumed that they do not want a further appointment for their child and the episode of care will be ended.

If you do not receive a letter, it may be because your child has had recent input or ongoing support in school, so a further appointment won't be necessary.

Can we please encourage all parents who do receive a letter to respond, thank you.

## **Year 4 Football Team Datacable Cup**

Kerr Mackie 1 – 3 Newlaithes Primary

Year 4 boys yet again put in a strong performance in their latest cup game but unfortunately were on the wrong side of a 3-1 result. They came up against a very good team, who has history of doing well in the cup. The boys displayed excellent

teamwork and communication throughout and I know that all the staff were proud of the way they battled through. A big thank you to the parents and Mr Stout, who came to watch and for their support on the sidelines.

### **NEW SCOUT LEADER WANTED**

The scout Group at St Edmund's church is trying to find a new Group Leader from the local area. The position is voluntary, but there are lots of benefits to be had from the role. This is an opportunity to make a difference in the local community whilst learning new skills.

For more information about this voluntary role, or if you would like an informal chat about the role, please contact:

David Mitchell by e-mail to  
[mitchell.family99@ntlworld.com](mailto:mitchell.family99@ntlworld.com)

### **BOOK FAIR**

Thank you to everyone that attended the book fair this year. I will be purchasing a selection of books for free readers to enjoy.

Thanks Mrs Shillito

### **SAFEGUARDING**

When signing a child in/out of school, please ensure you fill in all the correct details. You must include the child's full name, class, lunch and the reason for why you are signing them in/out of school.

### **PUPIL ABSENCE**

If your child is absent from school please can you ensure you contact the school office on 0113 3368499 **BEFORE 9am** and leave a message on the attendance line. The message must include your child's name, class and reason for absence. Failure to provide a valid reason for your child's absence on the first day may result in us having to escalate the matter.

### **PAYING BY CHEQUE**

Please can we remind parents that cheques for school trips should be made payable to Kerr Mackie Primary School. Everything else, i.e. milk, dinners, after school clubs should be payable to Leeds City Council.