



# Kerr Mackie 'Magic News'

February 2018 Issue

Together Everyone Achieves More

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

## Headteacher Update

Welcome to the February issue of our 'Mackie Magic' newsletter.

What a busy half term it's been with a visit from both the DfE and Ofsted!

There have been many moments since I joined Kerr Mackie that have made me feel proud to be a part of our school and none more so than listening to the way our children communicate with confidence and passion about their school and their role in its development. The feedback from the DfE about the work we are doing to promote pupil voice was fantastic and the Ofsted Inspector endorsed this. Your children could talk clearly about their learning and progress and importantly what their next improvement steps are.

Thank you once again for your ongoing feedback about the work we are doing to improve the outcomes for every child. We continue to focus this year on how we can help you to help your child. I know that the parent meetings held in the Autumn Term were useful and this half term Early Years have continued to share helpful information around reading and maths. Year 6 and Year 2 meetings will follow after half term. Meetings for parents of children with SEND take place in the first week after half term and Parents Evenings are the first week back after Easter.

I can honestly say that every member of the staff team definitely deserves the rest that the half term holiday will bring. I feel privileged to have such a talented, hardworking team who put children at the heart of all they do.

Happy holiday to you all!

Jennifer Millington  
Headteacher

## Governor Update

We have had a busy few weeks with various visitors including Ofsted. We hope to share the outcomes of the inspection with you all very soon but I would like to thank all the parents, carers and pupils who shared their views via text messages and the survey. If you have not done so already please do visit <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> and complete the simple questionnaire- your views do really matter to us.

This term the Resources committee has been particularly focussed on assessing the school environment as well as Health and Safety. With this in mind there will be some work taking place to repair doors, improve the décor in the entrance as well as the construction of a "care suite" in Nursery for our students with additional needs. School finances are a challenge for every school and we are very much focussed on ensuring that we directly link our spending to the Schools Development Plan and ensure the positive impact of investment in training, toolkits and enrichment activities.

Our Teaching and Learning committee has been particularly focussed on reviewing the impact of the strategies and interventions that have been put in place to support pupils with their learning outcomes for all pupils, including our higher ability children. Our key aim this year is to improve the standards and achievement of all children to be at least in line with national standards.

Parents and carers are important partners in helping us achieve this aim and we want to identify more opportunities for you to support your child's learning.

Best wishes,

Veena Murray  
Chair of Governors

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Summer		Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
Autumn mid-term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Christmas	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018
Spring mid-term	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
Easter	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
May bank holiday	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
Summer mid-term	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Summer	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	

**Training Days for 2017-18 are:**

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018

<b>Events</b>	
<b>20.02.18- 23.02.18</b>	SEN Parents Evening
<b>21.02.18</b>	Tempest School Photo's
<b>05.03.18</b>	Living Eggs delivery for the Hatch It project in Nursery

## Staffing Update

We would like to give a warm welcome to all of our new staff this term.

Rob Behan is our new superintendent.

Miss Smithson has taken over from Mr Watson as our new Year 1 Oak class teacher.

Mrs Kendrick is our new TA in Year 6 Cherry class.

Miss Procter is our Senior Administrator covering Mrs Begum's maternity leave.

## Office Reminders

### Barrier Access

Please can we remind all parents that we are unable to allow parents through the barrier to pick up/drop off children unless the office staff have been made aware of any extenuating circumstances. This is for safeguarding reasons, our children's safety is important and we do not want to compromise that. The barrier now opens automatically between 5pm and 6pm as we are currently trying to fix the lighting issues up the path on an evening.

### Collecting children for appointments

If your child has to leave school early or arrive late due to any medical appointments, please can you make sure that you present any letters or appointment cards to the office staff.

### 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.

### After School Club deadlines

We would like to make all parents aware that once the deadline has passed for after school clubs, we will not be able to add anyone. If the club is not full we will extend the deadline so that you can put your child's name down. Once any extended deadlines have passed we will be unable to accept any more on the clubs.

### PSA Bake Sale

PSA bake sale is after school today from 3:30pm. Any tubs for collection will be left in the parents' room.

## School Dinners

If you wish to swap your child's dinner from packed lunch to school dinners, please inform the office. Two weeks' notice is required and payment must be made in advance.

## 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%, the national average, allowing them to achieve their potential.

Unfortunately, this half term we have had a lot of flu and sickness going around. This means our attendance has slipped below 93%. Since the start of September until now, we remain below the national average at only 95.3%.

Can we take this opportunity to remind you of our attendance management strategies? If your child has an ailment such as a cold or they will still attend school as long as they have been given any remedies/paracetamol before school and are reminded of good hygiene practices – using a tissue for coughs and sneezes and washing hands regularly. If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea please ensure they are kept off school for 48 hours after the last episode, to prevent spreading around school.

Please continue to report your child's absence to school before 9am so that attendance registers can be updated accordingly.

As always, high attendance achievers will be rewarded in our school assemblies.

## Last Day of Term

School closes at 3.25pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and reopens on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 8.45am.

## World Book Day

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 1st March 2018, and we would like to invite you to join us in helping your child to make the most of this special occasion.

We would love for your child to dress up as their favourite book character on the day. We ask for a voluntary donation of £1 to go towards a new school library.

You can join us in building your child's enthusiasm for books well beyond World Book Day by reading together regularly and joining your local library if you are not yet members.

For more information about World Book Day and ideas on sharing books at home, visit <http://www.worldbookday.com/>

Children are never too young to start their journey with books, and the benefits of reading are enormous so we hope, like us, you will use World Book Day to celebrate it with your child.

Kind Regards  
Ms Pascoe

## Year 4 Yorkshire Water Trip

Year 4 recently went on a visit to Yorkshire Water in Headingley, to learn about how they get the water from reservoirs and rivers into our taps.

We wore hard hats as we walked around the treatment plant and saw all of the different stages and processes they use to clean the water. It starts off very dirty but is ready for our taps in less than 2 hours!

It was a really exciting and informative day; we will never look at our tap water the same way!



## A note from Mrs Hunt

Sycamore class are thoroughly enjoying their work with the West Yorkshire Playhouse in collaboration with the Globe Theatre in London. We have been learning the Shakespeare tale 'The Tempest' and next half term we will be moving to work on 'The Winter's Tale'. The children's drama skills and vocabulary are growing each session which we hope they will include in their own writing. To be amazed ask your child to retell the story of The Tempest!

### 30:30 Challenge

Well done to all those children who are challenging themselves with the 30 minutes' exercise at home and School over the last few weeks. The challenge comes to an end on February 21st. The successful children will need to bring in their signed record sheet which will entitle them to a bronze wristband. They will then be encouraged to go for SILVER! For those children who would like another go they can pick up another form from the office. They have 38 days to complete each challenge.

### Healthy school Dinners

Thank you to everyone who completed the Packed Lunch Survey. A massive 96% of you agreed that a healthy lunch is very important in order for your child to succeed. We will be holding a meeting on **Tuesday 20th February at 9am** in the school hall to discuss where we go next and offer guidance of providing children with a healthy packed lunch. Please come along and share your ideas.

## Reception Stay and Play

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February Reception had a fantastic afternoon with parents who attended our stay and play. We all sat down and watched the video 'The Tin Forest' then together built our very own version. The video focuses on using what you have to achieve your dreams, it tells the story of a man who was surrounded by garbage but dreamt of living in a forest, so he decided to use the material he had around him to build his own forest. We discussed the different materials that we could use such as tins, tinfoil, wire and mesh. We squeezed, twisted, bent and shaped the materials to make trees, animals and other parts of our forest. The children are so proud of their creation, as are we, please feel free to come and see it! Thank you to all the parents who came and helped, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We will be holding another stay and play next half term, please check the sharing our learning letters next half term for the date. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday!

The Reception team.

