



Kerr Mackie 'Magic News'

Together Everyone Achieves More

December Issue 2

Kerr Mackie Learners...

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

Head Teacher Update

As the Christmas holidays are fast approaching, I wanted to say how wonderful it was to see so many of our families at the Christmas performances last week. I am sure that you will agree every child in our school played their part magnificently. I also thank you for your contributions towards the continuing cost of improving resources for children. We are hoping to start replacing ICT equipment that the children need for their learning in computing.

There have been some staff changes this half term that I have been communicating directly with certain classes, but I just wanted to inform you all about them.

Mrs Drew and Miss Smithson, our Year 1 teachers, are leaving at the end of this week and Miss Brown and Miss Hitchen will be taking over those classes. Miss Best will be the new teacher for Reception. In Year 5, Mr Monkman will be remaining with us but he will be joined in the Spring Term by Mr Gargett, as the part time job share teacher with Mr Widger. Mrs Furness, one of our long standing members of the team needed to leave her position at school, but it is hoped that she will be able to pop back in to see the children and parents who didn't get chance to say their goodbyes; I will keep you posted about that.

I am fully aware that changes of any kind is difficult to manage but I can assure you that the whole staff team continue to ensure that we minimise the impact of any change as much as we can. I am so glad that 'resilience' is one of our top ten learning behaviours!

On behalf of everyone, I am sure you will join me in wishing all our staff leavers every future success and happiness as they continue their life's journey and we thank them for all their hard work and dedication.

Recently, we celebrated the annual 'Takeover Day' (in two parts) and I just wanted to enhance my section in the newsletter by sharing the feedback from my 'mini Head Teachers':

"Hello our names are Rayyan and Maariyah. Today we learnt how to be the Head Teacher. We welcomed a family to our school who had a daughter called Summer. She may begin in this school in 2019, so it was important that we explained why Kerr Mackie is the best school for her! Rayyan enjoyed seeing the Year 6 models of how the lungs work as we toured around school. Maariyah enjoyed showcasing our Black History Month work and showing the families around the whole school. We've learnt that a Head Teacher is responsible for every child and adult, including safety in the school. The Head Teacher takes her duty very seriously at lunch time too, making sure children are safe and happy."

"On Monday 3rd December, Safia and Eessa learnt how to be a Head Teacher and now know what the Head Teacher does.

They learnt how to take care of the school and make sure the learning is fun. The Head Teacher makes sure that children are making good progress and respect each other."

I am extremely proud of these children, and of course all the children and staff, for their continued hard work and support. I am also grateful for the on-going partnership with Governors. On behalf of the staff team, I want to thank Veena Murray for leading the Governing Body out of being 'coasting' and through 2 Ofsted's last year. Thank you also to Margaret Hamlet and Philip Moore for their work too.

Wishing you all a happy, restful and peaceful time this Christmas and we look forward to starting the new year with 'healthy school' as our top focus for week one!

Mrs J Millington, Head Teacher

Governor Update

It's been another fast paced term with an enormous amount of activity including a variety of performances from the pupils as well as the winter fair. It has been especially great to see the school playing its part in the community with our school choir entertaining Oakwood residents at the "switch on" as well their visits to local care homes; an enormous thank you to all staff, pupils and parents who helped to make this happen.

I'd also like to welcome a number of new Governors who have joined the school, Robert Siddal, parent Governor and Tim Shaw and Luke Blackburn have been co-opted to further strengthen our skills mix. Sadly, some Governors are stepping down this term and I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Margaret Hamlet and Philip Moore for their time, energy and the positive impact they have made over the past 2 years.

After much thought, I too have decided to step down. Having served the school for 10+ years as a Governor, the last 3 as Chair, I feel it is time to move on. The school has a robust development plan in place as well as strong leadership to ensure that Kerr Mackie continues to be a school where every child can achieve their potential. A new Chair will be elected in the Spring Term.

I have hugely enjoyed working with staff and Governors at Kerr Mackie and will continue to support the school in my capacity as a parent.

Wishing you all happy holidays and a peaceful new year.

Veena Murray, Chair of Governors

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Christmas	Friday 21 st December 2018	Monday 7 th January 2019
Spring mid-term	Friday 15 th February 2019	Monday 25 th February 2019
Easter Break	Friday 29 th March 2019	Monday 15 th April 2019
Easter Weekend	Thursday 18 th April 2019	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019
May Bank holiday	Friday 3 rd May 2019	Tuesday 7 th May 2019
Summer mid-term	Friday 24 th May 2019	Monday 3 rd June 2019
Summer	Friday 19 th July 2019	Wednesday 4 th September 2019

Training Days for 2018-19:

Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th
September 2018

Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd
& Wednesday 24th July 2019

January 2019				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 "Health Week"	8	9	10	11
14 Recorder & guitar lessons resume	15	16 Brass lessons resume	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 NHS Dental Survey (Rec-Yr 1)
8	29	30	31	

February 2019				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6 Parents evening	7 Parents evening	8
11	12	13	14 PSA Valentine's disco	15 School closes for half-term

March 2019				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25 School opens	26	27	28	1
4	5	6	7 World book day	8
11	12	13	14 Year 5 cycling day	15 Year 5 cycling day Red Nose day
18	19	20	21 Spring Term concert	22
25 Year 1 & 6 exhibitions	26 Year 2 & 3 exhibitions	27 Year 4 & 5 exhibitions	28 Year 5 cycling day	29 Year 5 cycling day School closes for Easter break

Health Week

During the first week back after the holidays, (week beginning 7th January) the children and staff will be taking part in a "Health Week". The children will get the opportunity to try lots of different sports, learn the effect of a poor diet and how to make good choices when it comes to health and well – being. The children will need to wear PE kit every day.

The climbing wall will be here from 9am – 3pm. Please ensure your child has handed in their slip to be able to access the climbing wall for health and safety reasons.

Healthy Snacks

Thank you to all the parents who are supporting us in encouraging healthy choices for playtime snacks. It's a slow process but more families are now following our new guidelines.

Please only send fruit and vegetables for your child to eat during morning playtime.

Year 2 Victorian Day

To mark the end of our topic, Year 2 took part in a Victorian Day. Staff and children got dressed up and the classrooms were transformed. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day (after a few wobbles) and they produced some amazing writing about the experience.

Year 6 Sports Leaders

In Year 6, we have been taking part in a Sports Leadership course, delivered by Dan Hardy, who works for Leeds Rhinos. Ten children from Year 6 (Holly and Cherry) have been especially chosen to help organise events and lead PE awards. Last Thursday was our first meeting with Dan, who talked about what we will be doing in the future and some rules that apply to us.

This course provides a starting point for young people to develop sports leadership skills. Successful candidates will receive a certificate, which will be included in their National Record of Personal Achievement. We encourage younger children to develop their talents and skills to prepare the future sports leaders and ensure children have a healthy lifestyle and enjoy exercise. We are proud to take part in the course and to be supported by Leeds School Sport and School Games, also Active Schools Leeds.

Gracie and Vanest (Holly)

Rights Respecting School – Trip to the University

In Kerr Mackie Primary School, we have UNICEF Champions in every year group. But what are UNICEF Champions?

UNICEF has a programme called RRSA - which stands for Rights Respecting School Awards and we have already achieved the silver award. Now, we are determined to receive GOLD!

On our journey for gold, we chose to go to Leeds Trinity University, where students who were training to be teachers wanted to know more about children's rights. We decided to create a presentation about rights, which helped them understand the idea of a rights respecting school. During this presentation, we tried to make it as fun as possible. So, instead of just writing a script, we thought of the idea of sticking articles under chairs, throwing articles stuck to bean bags at them and much more.

Although we were nervous, all went well and everyone was extremely impressed and some people said they were even inspired, which put the biggest smile on our faces!

Mariam (Holly)

Proud doesn't come close! Watching our Kerr Mackie RRSA UNICEF Champions presenting to almost 70 students (over 2 sessions) was a stand out moment in my career. A whole cohort of undergrad students at Leeds Trinity have been taught about RRSA by 10 children. These 10 children truly inspired everyone in the room and the feedback we received was incredible:

'We can't believe how confidently you all spoke to us. I couldn't have done that – well done!'

'I love what I have heard about RRSA. I will definitely take up RRSA when I am a teacher.'

'Thank you for talking to us all. It is clear from how you presented that children's rights are in everything you do at school.'

'I can see how passionate you are about children's rights – you have really inspired me. Thank you!'



Mrs Crowther, RRSA Leader & Deputy Headteacher 3

RRSA Competition Winner

It was a pleasure to welcome Kirsten from Oakwood library to judge our RRSA Art and Poetry competition. Kirsten came back to school in an assembly to present the beautiful prizes. First prize was a hardback, signed copy of a Miranda Hart book. Below is the beautiful poem that was our overall winner.

A Light from Heaven by Ruqayyah Y6

Everyone wants a world without war,
Looking for hope in the darkest corners,
Their nights and dreams shatter into pieces.
Unfixable.
The world should be happy
Not drowning in tears.
Peace is the angle – war is the devil.
Our rights are a symbol of unity,
Don't let them fade away.
Without them, we are nothing.

Dodgeball Tournament

On Thursday 29th November our year 5 and 6 girls represented Kerr Mackie in a dodgeball tournament held at Gledhow Primary with 6 other schools.

We had 15 girls representing us, which was a fantastic turn out and the most represented school within the tournament.

They did a fantastic job and after a lot of action packed games, they won the 3rd place playoff. Each team were awarded a star player medal, which for us, was presented to Ruqayyah (Year 6).

Fantastic effort all round from the girls at Kerr Mackie. Well done! 😊

Mr Whincup

The below has been written by some girls that took part in the tournament:

On 29th November, the Kerr Mackie girls dodge ball team competed with six other schools at a tournament which was held by Gledhow Primary School.

Once we arrived there, we noticed all the schools had a sense of pride and determination, but were also slightly nervous. The whistle went and we set off and tried our hardest.

It was wonderful seeing all of the team work collaboratively. At the end of the match, we were all really

tired, but we were also very excited to hear the results; we settled down and amazingly, we came in 3rd! We were really pleased with the result and cannot wait to compete again.

This was a great experience and we enjoyed it massively!!! The team thanks everyone for the support.

Alice and Aaminah (Holly)

Christmas Productions

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards buying a programme for the Key Stage One productions last week. We made **£393**, which will go towards library books and school equipment for our children.

Lost Property

Our lost property box is overflowing! If your child has lost something, please pop in and have a look. All lost property will be collected by St Gemma's this Friday.

Access Through School

Please can we remind parents to use the top pedestrian gate during school hours and don't forget to request for a pin on our way out!

Please remember to let the office staff know why you need to come into school at the gate and then come to straight to the office where the staff can help you with anything you need.

A reminder about the school barrier that it is only for staff and authorised visitors with a fob that can access the barrier due to safeguarding reasons.

Parents/carers collecting children from Child Seasons can use the barrier between 5pm – 6pm as the barrier will be open for you. Any children being collecting from after school club activities will need to use the top gate and come through the main office doors.

Appointments

If you are collecting your child for an appointment during lesson time, please remember that we can only collect your child from class once you are at the office to avoid them missing out on learning.

Please can you also ensure you bring proof of appointments to the office – whether this is a letter, card or a text message.

Late Drop-Off and Collection

All children who arrive to school after the doors are closed need to be signed in at the main school office. They will need to choose their dinner option for that day to. Dinner options are shown in the office window by the signing in screen.

If you are unable to collect your child on time for a genuine reason, please let the school office know as soon as possible. If you have not informed the office, and your child is collected after 3:45pm, **you will incur a charge of £9**. Also, if your child is collected late from after school clubs, the same charges will apply. This charge is to cover the cost of childcare during this time. The increase in the number of children being picked up late is most concerning.

Upcoming Deadlines

Deadline for the Year 6 Herd Farm Residential must be paid by Monday December 31st 2018 to secure a place for your child.

The deadline for handing slips in for after school club has now passed, payment can be made for the clubs from tomorrow. Please ensure this is paid by Thursday 10th January 2019 to risk losing a spot for your child at the club.

If your child has been selected to take part in the dental survey, you would have received the forms last week. Please return these forms by Friday 18th January 2019.

PSA Winter Fair Update

Thanks to everyone who got involved in this year's Winter Fair, it was great to see so many children, parents, carers and staff coming together. We raised **£1,388** and we couldn't have done it without you!

Keep your eyes open for the KMPSA Valentine's Disco on Thursday 14th of February.

Until then, season's greetings and a happy new year!

Sarah Hollins & Brendan McPartlan
Joint Chair KM PSA

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%, allowing them to achieve their potential.

We had a fantastic start to the new school year and our attendance was rising each week. Unfortunately, the sickness bug and cold virus has meant that over the past

95.9%. Hopefully, after the Christmas break, we can get back on track and with everyone's help raise the attendance to above 96% again!

THANK YOU SO MUCH to those families who have been working hard to ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high. THANK YOU for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a difference in their futures

We will continue to reward our excellent attenders in our weekly assemblies and later in the year there will be prizes for our high attenders and also for those children that have significantly improved their attendance.

Year 5

In Year 5, we have been exploring the Ancient Greeks throughout the Autumn Term. In the second half of term, we have been learning all about ancient Greek warfare and how they fought. We worked with instructions to make pitta breads that even Paul Hollywood would have been proud of and painted Ancient Greek temples in watercolours. We look forward to see the amazing creativity that our students will bring to our next topic!

Year 5 Book Swap

At Kerr Mackie, we love our children to read a broad range of texts. From January, we will be running book swap stations around school. Children can bring unwanted or finished books from home and donate them to the book swap, so other children can take them home to enjoy with their families. We would love to have a range of fiction, poetry and non-fiction books. Please, only donate books you would be willing to be taken home by children. Thank you!

Clubs

As you are aware, our current breakfast club charge is £2.50 per session and after school club charge was £2.80. Due to an increase in costs of provisions and resources, the Governors have decided that we will be increasing the fee to £3.00 per session for all clubs after Christmas.

Thank you to all the children that have signed up for after school clubs. Payment items will be available from tomorrow for you to pay for over the holidays. Don't forget, the payment deadline is Thursday 10th January!

If you would like your child to attend breakfast club, please collect a form from the office.

Scholastic Book Fair

A special thank you to all the parents and children who visited the book fair last week. We sold a great £327.94 worth of books and stationary! This will help us bring more books into the library in the near future as the school will receive 25% of this. Hopefully, we will be having another book fair in the Summer Term.