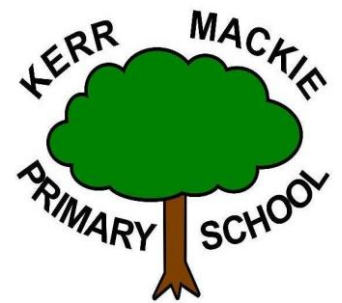


KERR MACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

16th July 2013



Dear Parent/Carer,

This is our final newsletter for the academic year 2012-13 and the end of my fourth year as headteacher, a position I am very proud to hold. Kerr Mackie seems such a different school now from when I first arrived and it was fantastic to have this recognized by Ofsted last October.

"Pupils enjoy learning, work hard and achieve well."

"Teaching is usually good and there are examples of outstanding practice."

These are just two examples of the high quality of learning and teaching Ofsted saw. This success is due to the hard work of all the staff and the enthusiastic children.

Other highlights this year include the end of project exhibitions that have been held throughout the year. Starting with our Egyptian, Greek, Fire of London, Viking and Toy Museums and WW2 Tea Dance and continuing with 'The Go-Kart Race', a 'Mini Beast' exhibition, 'Battle of the Bands' and a 'Keeping Healthy' video to name but a few. Your comments in our Visitors' Book demonstrate how impressed you were with the children's learning, enthusiasm and confidence.

"Another brilliant project and wonderfully executed by everyone."

"Amazing, what a fantastic way of showing all they've learnt."

The children have been a joy, representing the school in many ways from the fantastic turn out for the Fun Run, with Kerr Mackie achieving 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th places, to all the many sporting events held throughout the year. The children's outstanding behavior has often been commented on, and impressed two ladies who met the Year 5 children in Grassington so much, that they sent us an email!

Our children have achieved well this year, with more children making expected and above progress resulting in a higher percentage achieving level 5 in reading, writing and maths and some children went on to achieve level 6, which is equivalent to working at the level of Year 9 pupils in secondary!

Children, parents, governors and staff have a lot to be proud of and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and encouragement.

Mrs Ronicle,
Headteacher

INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

The attendance for the period 24th June to 5th July for the classes is as follows:

| | | | |
|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| Elm | 89.5% | Rowan | 96.2% |
| Willow | 96.5% | Cedar | 93.9% |
| Oak | 96.1% | Lime | 96.5% |
| Sycamore | 94.7% | Larch | 94.7% |
| Maple | 96.2% | Lilac | 95.7% |
| Spruce | 97.2% | Holly | 98.3% |
| Alder | 97.5% | Cherry | 95.5% |

TRIPS & PERMISSION SLIPS

Your child should have brought home a consent form for school trips recently. If you have mislaid the form it can be downloaded from our website. The form will cover the child's participation in any trips throughout their time at Kerr Mackie and it is therefore important that it is returned as soon as possible. If you have any queries regarding this please speak to a member of staff.

PHOTOGRAPHS and MAKEWAVES AND ONLINE HOMEWORK

You should have also received two letters within the last week or two regarding the above. Please return the reply slips as soon as possible. Copies of both letters can be found on the school website. Thank you.

EXERCISE BOOKS

If you wish your child to bring home their exercise books from this year please see the class teacher before the end of term. Please note their most recent maths and writing books will not be available as they will be passed on to their new class teacher.

DINNER ACCOUNTS

Can we ask that all dinner accounts are brought up to date by the end of the term. In particular, if your child is in Year 6 please ensure their account is clear before they leave.

NEWSLETTER

STAFF

We are sorry to say goodbye to the following teachers this term: Miss Marsden, Miss Mburu and Mr Monks. The following teaching assistants are also leaving us to either take up new jobs, return to University or travel the world - Mr Staley, Miss Marsland, Miss de Fenzi and Miss Boyne. Mrs Lucas, our School Business Manager, is also leaving to join another primary school. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and we wish them well in the future.

MEDICATION

If your child has medicine in school, i.e. inhalers etc please can you ensure that they are taken home on the last day of term and if necessary returned in September with the appropriate paperwork. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

Please note that any lost property not collected will be disposed of on Monday 22nd July.

CYCLE CHALLENGE – Audrey Burdon

I have decided to take part in a 400km cycling challenge across Cuba in October of this year. The money I raise will be split between three charities: Ovarian Cancer Action, Breast Cancer Care and Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust. As you may know I lost my sister to ovarian cancer 18 months ago at the age of 47 and I am doing this challenge in her memory. I have been busy training and have had lots of support from other parents in the school, some of whom have joined me in my rainy early morning cycles in Temple Newsam at 6am! I held a charity race night a few months ago, mainly attended by parents of Maple and Spruce children. Their support was phenomenal and we raised £564 on the night. I need to raise £2,900 before the 9th of August. Any support you can offer would be greatly appreciated. My donation page is www.justgiving.com/Audrey-Burdon. Many thanks.

Audrey Burdon

Mum of Madeleine Bright, Maple Class Yr 2

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Organised by The Reading agency and the UK public library network since 1999, the Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest annual reading promotion for four to eleven-year olds. The challenge injects creativity, drawing children into their local libraries and inspiring them to read for enjoyment. It combines free access to books with fun social activities and a creative online element.

Throughout the challenge, library staff and teenage volunteers support the children, helping them to discover new authors and explore a wide range of different types of books. Children sign up at their local library and receive a Creepy House poster to get them started. Children read six library books of their choice during the summer, collecting incentives along the way – all FREE! At www.creepy-house.org.uk children can follow their progress online, recommend books and gain exclusive access to authors. Children who complete the challenge get a certificate and/or medal. There will be an assembly on Wednesday 17th July to promote the challenge. We hope your child will take part.

CURRICULUM

YEAR 1

After our den building days in Sycamore and Oak classes the children made the following comments:

"I enjoyed making the den and working in my team. I enjoyed going in my den." By Lois Middleton.

"I enjoyed working as a team and I liked playing in the dens." By Zahra Jameel.

"I enjoyed everything like the zip ties and the den. I also liked playing and working together with my team." By Jack Wilson.

OUR SCHOOL GARDEN

"Over the year we have looked after the garden in all seasons. In the autumn we harvested redcurrants, potatoes and some raspberries and we have had all these fruits. In the winter we looked after the birds when it was snowy. In the spring we started sowing seeds – the first things we planted were broad beans and radishes. In the summer we went wildlife hunting. There was a lot of different various bugs such as frogs, worms, beetles and spit bugs. We also planted pumpkins in our garden. In summer we also made 2 scarecrows named Mrs Penelope Pink and Mr Penelope Pink. They were funny but amazing scarecrows."

Each year group has a vegetable plot.

Year 1 are growing: lettuce, peas, sunflowers, courgette, nasturtium and radishes.

Year 2 are growing: strawberries, lettuce, radishes, sunflowers and mint.

Year 3 are growing: herbs, thyme, rosemary, peas, courgette and onion.

Year 4 are growing: mint, coriander, potatoes, gooseberries, nasturtium, radishes and chives.

Year 5 are growing: carrots, raspberries, French beans, nasturtium and borage.

Year 6 are growing: rhubarb, broad beans, peas, pumpkin and Swiss chard.

SPORT

YEAR 6 FOOTBALL

On Thursday 4th July the Year Six football team played their final game before leaving for high school. The match against Meanwood resulted in a 5-3 defeat but it was a very competitive, back and forth game. A huge well done to all of the boys who have trained hard and tried their best in every match this season.

SPORTS DAY

On Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th of July, Kerr Mackie held their annual KS1 and KS2 sports days. Throughout both days all children were involved in individual races as well as team athletic events. The total scores are currently being calculated and the final results will be in soon! I would like to say a massive thank you to all parents who attended on either day in order to show their support for the children, it really did make it a special occasion.

THANK YOU!

PSA

On behalf of everyone at the school and all the parents I would like to thank the members of our new PSA who have contributed so much of their time and made such a difference for the children at Kerr Mackie. They have raised a fantastic amount of money in the last year and have also provided some great events for all to enjoy. We look forward to the next year with great anticipation!!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We would just like to say a big thank you to all the parents and carers who have helped this year in any way. The staff and children really appreciate all the time that you give up to help school whether it be by gardening, listening to reading, school trips etc.

PSA

SUMMER FAIR

Thank you to everyone who attended our Summer Fair on 29th June. It was a fantastic occasion and we were even blessed with sunshine! We have received some lovely feedback about the day and wish to thank everyone who helped to support the event in any way - whether by volunteering on a stall, donating toys and books, cooking some fabulous Asian food, baking cakes and biscuits or simply spending money - it all contributed to the fair's success. **Total profit from the day exceeded £2,220!!**

We hope everyone enjoyed the variety of stalls and additional outside interests on offer at this year's fair. The falconry and emergency services proved to be very popular attractions, as did the barbecue, tug of war and, of course, soak the teacher!! We also had some amazing support for our first Kerr Mackie Bake-Off, which produced some delicious, show stopping cakes for our cake stall! Well done to all who took part and also to all the children who participated in the fancy dress parade and various musical performances throughout the day.

The PSA is always interested to hear what you think and would therefore welcome your views on what worked well at the Summer Fair and what you think could be improved upon for next time. Please speak to a member of the PSA in the playground or leave a message at the office. Thank you.

EASY FUNDRAISING – REMINDER

Every time you shop online you can raise money for our school! Please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk, click on "support a good cause" and search for Kerr Mackie Primary PSA. Then just follow the simple steps to sign up and start shopping using the links to over 2,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, Argos, Next and many more. Every time you shop this way you will be earning a donation to the school at no additional cost to yourself.

This is an easy way to raise extra funds for the school to support projects such as refurbishment of the Parents' Room and the installation of a new cooking area for the children to use. Therefore, the PSA would like to encourage as many people as possible to sign up! There really is no downside so please check out the website and register today!! Don't forget to log into the Easy Fundraising website every time you shop and watch the £££'s accumulate!

Thank you for your support this year. Best wishes for a happy and relaxing summer, from the PSA.

**We would like to wish you all a very happy and safe summer holiday.
School re-opens to pupils on Tuesday 3rd September.**

**And finally, good luck to all our Year 6 pupils who are leaving Kerr Mackie.
You have been great and we wish you all the best for the future!!!**