

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - February 11th 2014

Thank you

Thanks to Lorraine Harrison, Mum of Jacob and Rebecca for the kind donation of large dinosaurs, which Mrs Gibson was extremely pleased to receive for Reception class. The children will absolutely love them.

Parking and congestion

I would be grateful if parents could be alert when collecting children from after school clubs. I have received one or two comments and concerns about parents walking children across the car park, whilst other parents are reversing and beginning to move their vehicles. Obviously our prime concern is for the safety of all of our children. We would be grateful if parents on foot would please use the path and not cut across the car park. Drivers, we would be grateful if you could take extra care when collecting and moving your car. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

Ex pupil

Some of you may have heard on the news, that an ex Preston Grange pupil, Matthew Parr was representing the UK in the ice dancing in the Winter Olympics. It was lovely to hear that an ex pupil has done so well in their sport, and we are proud that he is an ex-pupil of our school.

Thank you

Thank you to all families for the support with homework over the recent few months! We have seen some amazing homework projects submitted by children in different classes. Thanks to all families for the time and effort that you put in with your children. There have been some absolutely tremendous creative and research based homework projects across different classes. Here are Sam and Jack with their fantastic Year 3 homework projects on The Romans.



Easter chicks

Further to the news article on our website this week, Grace in Year 6 and her family are making and selling cr me egg chicks to raise further funds for the worthwhile charity Brain Tumour Research. If you would like to place an order, please send  1.50 per chick into school, Grace will be taking orders and the chicks will be sent into school hot off the knitting needles from Grace's family and friends. We are very happy to support this worthwhile charity once again. Well done Grace for the enthusiasm

and commitment to raise money for the charity and thanks to the family and friends who are knitting the chicks.

School values

We are extremely proud of our children, their behaviour and the values they show. This is something that is often commented upon by visitors into school. We have 12 school values that we focus on, in assemblies, in Castles and throughout the school year:



This week, it is kindness week, to which links with our school values of thoughtfulness. Yesterday in assembly we discussed how the children might show kindness or thoughtfulness. This week, medals will be awarded in Well Done assembly for outstanding examples of thoughtfulness seen in school this week.



Ipads in school

This term we have bought further iPads and three charging trolleys, so that there is a separate set for each phase in school: Key Stage 1: Years 1 & 2, Lower Key Stage 2: Years 3 & 4 and Upper Key Stage 2: Years 5 & 6. Reception class also has their own iPads and chunky cases. iPads are used to support teaching and learning across school, and the engagement from the children as well as their confidence in using them, never ceases to amaze us.



Safer Internet Day

February 11th is Safer Internet Day, and Mr Burgess has discussed with the children how to use the internet, social media and mobile telephones safely and responsibly in a special assembly. For further information, please visit: <http://www.saferinternet.org/safer-internet-day>

In addition, I also copy information for staff and parents from Jonathan Chicken, ICT Adviser in North Tyneside. This will likely not apply to children in our school, although it does not harm for parents to be familiar with the following craze in 'dares' online for young people:

'Over recent days, I have noted a rise in the number of incidents about a particular unsafe behaviour being communicated via social media.

I am writing to raise your awareness of the terminology and the craze. Please cascade this information to staff and where you consider it appropriate to pupils/students and families.

'Neknominate' is a social media craze that sees participants filming themselves drinking or 'necking' a large volume of liquid, often alcoholic. More recently, primary age in North Tyneside children been filmed drinking larger volumes of soft drinks and most worryingly have made reference to drinking other substances such as paint or bleach.

The participant films themselves consuming the drink, then challenge a number of their friends to do the same, sharing the evidence on social media sites. This behaviour is obviously extremely dangerous and a number of young people have been seriously injured (including at least one fatality) elsewhere in this country and abroad.

Please encourage staff, adults, pupils and families to:

- know about the terminology to enable them to effectively challenge unsafe behaviours;*
- understand the (obvious) dangers of neknomination;*
- set a positive, appropriate example, including their own behaviours online;*
- use the 'report' feature to highlight pages that celebrate unsafe behaviours to social network site managers;'*

In school, we are aware of an isolated number of our children talking about certain 'dares' that they have seen on sites such as You Tube (I stress **not** involving alcohol). Mr Burgess today has spoken to the children about the obvious dangers of not reacting to 'dares', saying 'no' and about the importance of always telling an adult if there is something that they feel uncomfortable about. The other key messages that have been reinforced with the children, involve never giving their personal details online, and about using the internet, social media and mobile telephones responsibly and appropriately.

I know that along with advice and guidance provided by Jonathan Chicken, we also at school regularly teach children about E-Safety. If you have any specific questions about internet safety, please speak to Mr Burgess or see the E Safety links for parents on our school website.

Skipping workshop

Last week, Year 4 spent a lesson being coached in skipping by Elizabeth and Jodi, visiting skipping coaches. This is ahead of Year 4 participating in the North Tyneside Skipping Festival which is now taking place in June. Here are some pictures from the afternoon skipping workshop. We are pleased that Jodi was really impressed at the basic skipping skills of our children. At playtimes and lunchtimes, it is lovely to watch so many of our children practicing their skipping outside. If you would like to buy a skipping rope for your child, please ask at the school office where there are still a few available for £4 (KS1 and KS2 ropes).



New blinds

Over the half term holiday we are having smart new red blinds fitted in the school hall, to replace the current ones.

Preston Grange has got talent

As we did last year, we are holding Preston Grange has got talent after the half term holiday. Children have completed application forms if they are interested in entering the competition for Key Stage 2 children. The 'heats' will be held on a Thursday assembly time, with the School Council judging. The final will involve parents being invited into school to

watch. We are looking forward to seeing all of the talent in this year's show. Please note, children don't have to attend Mr Young's 'Preston Grange has got talent' after school club in order to enter the competition.

Valentine discos

This Thursday sees the two Valentine discos: Key Stage 1 starting at 2.15pm until 3.30pm, and Key Stage 2 at 3.40pm until 5pm. Children may bring their disco clothes into school and change ahead of the disco, with help from staff and in-school helpers. Thank you to The Friends of Preston Grange for organising and running the discos.

Valentine roses

Unfortunately there has been a delay in the delivery of the Valentine roses. The Friends are not able to source any alternative roses. Anyone who has paid their money for a Valentine rose will be reimbursed. Thank you for your ongoing support.

SATs 2015

For information for our current Year 5 parents, the date for statutory Key Stage 2 SATs in 2015 are: the week beginning 11th May 2015.

Parent evening appointment slips

We would be grateful if parents could return their appointment slips by the end of this week, to allow appointments to be confirmed ahead of parent appointments on either Tuesday 25th or Wednesday 26th February. Parents evenings will run the same as the last two parents evenings, in the school hall, with all childrens' books available for parents.

Please note that if you and your child are participating in the Newcastle United family football club after school, that week (Wed 25th) the session will be outside. Since the session finishes at 4.30pm, there will still be time available to speak to your child's class teacher - or as an alternative, please make an appointment for the Monday evening.

Half term

On Friday this week, we break up for half term. We hope that everyone enjoys a lovely holiday and we look forward to seeing the children back to school on Monday 24th February.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher

11th February 2014