

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter -October 1st 2013



Dyslexia parent workshop

Preston Grange recently played host to a dyslexia workshop for parents and interested adults. The event was well attended and parents learnt about useful strategies to support their children. The session was beneficial for any parent interested in supporting and developing their children's learning. The school would like to thank the Dyslexia Referral Team for their input. Hard at work are parents Mrs Whittle and Mrs Dunn (pictured.)



Entrances into school

A reminder for parents new to our school, safeguarding arrangements for our school are as follows: there are no parents allowed to enter school via the school corridors. Only staff and children are allowed to enter into the Key Stage 1 entrance (Reception, Year 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to 6) entrance. Signs are visible at both entrances to remind parents of this. All parents and visitors must report to the school office in the main entrance either to sign in or make an appointment. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Macmillan coffee morning

On Friday 27th September we The Friends of Preston Grange



held a coffee morning for in aid of Macmillan. The numbers of parents, Grandparents and friends of the school who supported the coffee morning was absolutely tremendous, and we are extremely grateful for everybody's support. We would like to inform parents that the money is still being counted, as there were donations which came in after the event, but we raised approximately £750 for Macmillan, which is a staggering amount of money for the charity! This is due to the fantastic support from our whole school community! We thank everybody for attending, baking and donating to the event, or for baking with your children for the 'bake off' competition in Year 5



and 6. Thanks also to Karen and Lillian from our school kitchen, for their judging. Finally thank you so much to The Friends of Preston Grange for organising such a successful event.

Winners of the Year 5 Bake Off competition were: Matthew Betham (1st), Georgina Herron (2nd) and Tammy Penton (3rd). Winners of Year 6 Bake Off competition were: Jasmine Snell (1st), Grace Garfoot (2nd) and Alice Hayes (3rd). The highest scoring children who guessed which teacher baked which cake, were: Aimee Bell (Reception), Jacob Harrison (Year 1), Alfie Edmundson (Year 2), James Allison (year 3), Holly Hamilton (Year 4), Joseph Hamilton (Year 5), Grace Garfoot (Year 6). The winning parent who guessed which teacher baked which cake was Mrs Edmundson, Mum of Alfie. Well done to all !

Craft afternoon in Reception class

Last week, we held our craft afternoon for Reception parents, which saw parents coming into the classroom to take part in craft activities along with their children. The event was a huge success, we appreciate the participation and hope that Reception parents enjoyed the opportunity as much as the children did. We had a fantastic turn out of parents, and hope that the next one will be just as successful. Thank you to the parents/grandparents who were able to attend.

I would also like to thank the Reception parents who attended the Reading meeting immediately after the craft afternoon, to learn about how we teach your child to read at our school. Thanks to Mrs Blackett and Mrs Gibson for delivering the session. We have sent home information to parents who were unable to attend the meeting. Please contact the school office if for any reason you did not receive this information.

Industrial Action

As mentioned on the previous newsletter, the two main Teacher Unions: NUT and NASUWT are taking industrial action on Thursday 17th October. Therefore I would like to confirm that our school will not be open to children on that day.

Speed Mark Challenge

This Friday, we are holding the Speed Mark Challenge where children will be taking part in shooting footballs at a goal, as outlined in the information we sent home a couple of weeks ago. We would like to ask that all children come into school on this day, in either football or PE clothes instead of uniform. If your child has collected sponsorship for this activity, we would be grateful for sponsorship money and forms to be returned for **Friday 4th October** (Speed Mark Challenge Day). Thank you for your support with this matter.

On this day, we are taking this opportunity to have a football themed day and teachers have planned fun football themed activities for this enrichment day.

Harvest Festival

We will be having two performances of our short whole school Harvest Festival assembly on Tuesday 22nd October in the morning at 9.30 am (parents entry at 9.15am), and 2.30pm start for the second performance (parents entry at 2.15pm). As last year, we are only able to hold 150 adults in our school hall at any one time, therefore we will be ticketing the event. More details to follow.

Mnemonics

Following a successful parent workshop with the Dyslexia Team, it was requested that it would be helpful if we shared with parents, the mnemonics that we teach across school in order to help the children to spell a certain word. I am pleased to attach a list of mnemonics we use across school. There are photos to explain how we help children with 'b' and 'd' reversals, and prompts for how we teach children to remember certain key spellings. Thank you to staff for compiling the list in a format to share with parents, and we hope that you find it useful.

Operation Christmas Child

Each year we participate in Operation Christmas Child, which is a charity that appeals for people to donate shoeboxes filled with gifts, for a child in another part of the world. Please find attached an information leaflet about the Shoebox Appeal. It includes information about age categories and what you may put in your shoebox. If you would like to donate a shoebox, we would need them to be returned to school during the first week back after October half term: by Friday 8th November, for collection by the charity. Today the children learnt about the appeal in assembly, and were pleased to learn that your shoebox is trackable, meaning that the children are now able to find out which country their shoe box has been sent to. I am sure they will tell you all about the appeal themselves. Many thanks for your continued support.

Calendar

This term we are planning on creating a school calendar, which would be sold with a view to raising some money for our school fund before Christmas. The calendar will have a photograph of all children in school who have a birthday in each month, and the children will be holding 'props' to represent the calendar month (eg. Sunglasses and sunhats in July, pumpkins and Autumn leaves in October) A separate letter will be sent out, outlining what 'props' we will require for the calendar photos, and we would be grateful for the items to be sent into school on the date that we will be taking the photos. We intend to sell the school calendars at £5 each. In order to give us an indication of numbers that we need to order from the printers, at this stage we would be grateful for an indication of how many calendars you might require, please see the attached return slip at the bottom of the newsletter. Thank you.

John Spence Open Evening

On Thursday 3rd October, our local feeder High School, John Spence Community High School are holding an open evening from 6pm until 8pm. Please feel free to attend the open evening, which is not a formal presentation, but rather a 'drop in' evening. Parents and children are able to visit classrooms around school, where there will be fun and exciting activities to participate in. All are welcome, not only children in current Year 6. It would be a good opportunity to visit the school informally and see the outstanding work that they do.

Pokemon cards

Please could all parents remind their child/children that there are to be no toys or Pokemon cards in school, thank you.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, October 1st 2013

School calendars - initial interest reply slip

I would be interested in buying a school calendar before Christmas at a cost of £5 per calendar yes/no

Please indicate the number, should you would require more than one calendar ____

Many thanks
