

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - October 7th 2014



Craft afternoon in Reception class

Recently, we held our craft afternoon for Reception parents, which saw parents coming into the classroom to take part in craft activities with 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 families 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.

Industrial Action

You may have heard that the union Unison are taking industrial action on Thursday 14th October. This may affect support staff and kitchen staff. I will inform parents as soon as it is confirmed whether this will affect our school directly.

Harvest Festival

We will be holding our Harvest Festival short assemblies on Tuesday 21st October. We will be opening the doors to parents and families at 9am for an approximate 9.15am start, and at 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. 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. Please see the separate letter and request two tickets per family (for one performance) at the school office thank you.

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 Monday 10th November, for collection by the charity. Yesterday 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.



PE equipment

Please see the photo showing the huge range of PE equipment and resources that Mrs Udberg was able to order as a result of families collecting Sainsburys vouchers last school year. Many thanks for your support, it has meant that we have been able to order all of these because you helped us collect this many vouchers. Thanks to all families for your support.



We are collecting Morrisons vouchers currently. Please send any that you may have into school with your child, we have a special box for these vouchers.

Cake baking winners

Once again, a huge thank you for the fantastic support at our Maggie's coffee morning last Friday. The Year 5 baking winners were: 1st place Meg Pears, 2nd place Leona Ramsey, 3rd place Alexander Evans. Year 6 competition winners were 1st place Milly Longstaff, 2nd place Rebecca Harrison, 3rd place Joseph Allison. Thank you to the huge effort that went into baking with the children. It was lovely that all of the classes were able to view the Year 5 & 6 cakes on the day. Please see the website for photos of the event. You helped us to raise £875 for our Maggie's fund!

The 1st prize in the staff cake competition was awarded to the hotdog cake (Mrs Kewin), 2nd place was the Olaf cake (Mrs Taylor) and 3rd place was the Gruffalo cake (Miss Knowles). Thanks to the staff for their efforts and creativity too.

Parent Governor appointment

As you will be aware, we have recently had a vacancy for a parent Governor on our Governing Body. I am please to inform parents that we received three applications and the candidates have written a short paragraph about themselves. Soon parents will receive them along with a voting slip. Please follow the instructions carefully on the voting form before returning to school, Thank you.

Advanced notice of Christmas dates

Please find below the dates for Christmas activities/events in December for information:

- 2nd Dec - Whole school pantomime trip (Snow White, Theatre Royal) Please note, we will not be back at school until 5.30pm ish
- 12th Dec - KS1 Christmas production (9.15am)
- 12th Dec - KS2 Christmas Production (2.30pm)
- 12th Dec - Christmas jumper day
- 15th Dec - KS 2 Production (9.15am)
- 15th Dec - KS1 Production (2.30pm)
- 16th Dec - Reception, Year 1 & 2 Christmas party
- 17th Dec - Year 3 & 4 Christmas party
- 18th Dec - Year 5 & 6 Christmas party
- 19th Dec - school closes for Christmas, returning Tuesday January 8th

RE visit

Year 5 will be visiting the Mosque in Newcastle as part of their RE topic on Islam. It is a statutory requirement that children learn about different religions as part of the RE curriculum. Although our school has a predominantly Christian ethos, it is also important to learn about other religions as we do have children of different faiths in our school. This is a valuable opportunity for the children to learn about the aspects of Islam by visiting the place of worship for Muslims. Mrs Wright our HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) went on a course run by North Tyneside in the Summer term, where staff from various schools visited different places of worship, with a view to taking children on educational visits. The Local Authority actively supports the enrichment of children's understanding of different religions, by visiting places of worship.

We are delighted that on Monday 3rd November Year 5 will be visiting the Mosque. I would like to thank Year 5 parents for all of the many offers of parent help.

Recent appointments

Last week we appointed two extra full time Teaching Assistants to our staff: Miss Beavers and Mrs Spowart. Both new members of staff will start after October half term. These are additional to Mrs Brown (0.5) and Mrs Robinson (0.5), who started their posts in September.

School Improvement Partner Summer report

Each term we have a visit from our School Improvement Partner, allocated by the Local Authority and receive a report about our school. Please find below some comments, quoted from our latest report from July:

'2014 ATTAINMENT - Teacher Assessments end of Key Stage 1

There are some significant increases in higher-level attainment.

- Reading at Level 3 is 40%. The number of Level 3 readers is **10% higher** than 2013.
- Writing at Level 3 is 20%. The number of Level 3 Writers is **3% higher** than 2013.
- Maths at Level 3 is 23%. The number of Level 3's in Maths is **23% higher** than 2013.

2014 ATTAINMENT - Teacher Assessments end of Key Stage 2

There are some significant increases in higher-level attainment.

- Reading at Level 5 is 61%. The number of Level 5 readers is **28% higher** than 2013.
- Writing at Level 5 is 42%, Writing at Level 6 is 3%. The number of Level 5+ Writers is **9% higher** than 2013.
- Maths at Level 5 is 35%. Maths at Level 6 is 3%.
- SPaG (Spelling and Grammar) at Level 5 is 52%, SPaG at Level 6 is 3%. The number of Level 5+ SPaG is **28% higher** than 2013.
- At the end of Reception 2014, 62.1% of children achieved a Good Level of Development (Local Authority = 47 % in 2013).
- In Reading at the end of Reception, 79.3% of children achieved Expected / Exceeding level of development.
- In Writing at the end of Reception, 69% of children achieved Expected / Exceeding level of development.
- In Maths at the end of Reception, 69% of children achieved Expected / Exceeding level of development.
- Overall in prime areas, in Reading, Writing and Maths (number) the school is

significantly above the Local Authority average for expected and exceeding levels of development in Summer 2014.

- Relationships are very positive and behaviour around school and within lessons is very good. There is a positive climate for learning.
 - Isolated incidents are effectively managed by consistent application of the school behaviour policy.
 - Behaviour of children outside of school and at events, is exemplary and is often commented on by visitors or parents.
 - Lunchtime staff manage incidents consistently having received positive behaviour management training. Lunchtime staff are proactive and have the ability to deal with incidents effectively & confidently. Lunchtimes are reviewed regularly and effective procedures are embedded.
 - Parents and visitors comment on the pupils' good manners, children are familiar with the school values and demonstrate them throughout school.
 - School has a good ethos and children are very considerate, respectful and courteous to staff and each other.
 - Pupils are engaged in a wide variety of school activities to support this (pupil voice): young leaders, buddies, school values, Castle time, learning mentor, school council, Year 6 monitors.
 - Pupils make positive contributions through a range of extra-curricular opportunities.
 - Attendance is very good, higher than the school target at 96.5%.
 - Behaviour in lessons and attitudes towards learning is excellent.
 - There are no incidents of bullying in school, and no fixed term exclusions this year.
 - A systematic and consistent approach to managing behaviour whole school. Lunchtime supervisor positive behaviour management training is embedded.
 - Children feel happy and safe at school and have a good awareness of how to keep themselves safe and who to turn to if they have a problem (Healthy Schools Award moderation 'Emotional Health and Well Being section), Elaine Robson, May 2014)
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- There has been a consistent approach to improving the overall effectiveness of the school, which is moving from Good to Outstanding in several areas.
 - Evaluation of the data in the Autumn term will give a clear indication of improvement and the grade will be reviewed.
 - This is due to the focused approach by the Headteacher and leadership team to ensure rapid and sustained improvement in all areas.
 - There is a strong sense of purpose and analysis of all aspects of the work of the school, and this informs practice and future development.'



PE success !

The Sainsbury's School Games Mark is a Government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. Schools in England are able to assess themselves across bronze, silver and gold levels of the Mark.

We are thrilled to announce that following a successful application, we have been awarded Gold School Games Mark.

The award measures all aspects of Sport and PE within school, including our provision of extra-curricular activities through after school clubs, the opportunities we provide for

students to develop leadership skills, the way we promote sport and competition to parents and the local community and the opportunities we provide our students to compete at inter-school competitions.

I would especially like to express a huge thank you to Mrs Udberg as our PE subject leader, for her dedication, enthusiasm and constant passion to develop all aspects of PE, sport and after-school clubs within our school.

A reminder

Staff have noticed that there are one or two children coming onto the school site much earlier than they should be. It is usually older children who are cycling to school. Today a child was on site at 8.25am. The site in fact is not open to children at this time, nor is it supervised at this time in the morning. Children are not supposed to be on the yard until **8.45/8.50am**. We would be grateful if your child is cycling to school, that they do not arrive until this time. Whilst the school site is currently open before 8.45am, it is for staff and breakfast club children to come into school. We may have to consider not opening the site until this time, should children continue to be dropped off or arrive too early on the school site.

Cake tins/plates

We have realised that when the large cakes were sold on the day of the coffee morning, that there will be some plates/tins to return to school as well as there being some in school still to collect by parents. We would be grateful for all tins and plates to be returned to school as soon as possible, so that we can return them to their rightful owners, thank you. If you have a box/container to collect, please see the school office.

Dr Bike - Wednesday 8th October

On Wednesday 8th October, Dr Bike will be visiting our school (Kian, our Bike It Officer). He will service all bikes that are in school that day and check that they are in good working order. Please remember to send your child on their bike if you would like this free bike service.

Water bottle lids

If your child has lost or chewed the top of their water bottle, we have some spare lids in the school office, available for 50p. Please see Mrs Royle if you would like one.

Parents evenings

As you will be aware, parents evenings are Monday 13th October and Tuesday 14th October. If you haven't signed up for an appointment already, we would ask that you do so before Friday 10th October. On both days, appointments will be available from 2.45pm until 6pm. Unfortunately once all of the appointments are allocated, there will be no others available.

Clubs cancelled

Due to parents evenings next week, please note that Netball club on Monday and Newcastle Eagles Basketball Academy on Tuesday will have to be cancelled for that week.

School photos

The school photographer will be visiting school on Thursday 23rd October, and individual photos of the children will be taken.

Photos of the latest school activities

Thank you to the Reception parents who came into school to have lunch with their child last week. Please see the website for photos of the lunch. Please also find some photos of Year 2 making healthy smoothies at www.prestongrangeprimary.co.uk

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, October 7th 2014