

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - September 2013



Welcome back !

We would like to welcome everybody back to school and hope that the children have had a great Summer holiday. The children all returned to school yesterday looking very smart and they were settled straightaway into their new classes.

As well as our new Reception children, we have welcomed some new children and families into our school this week, namely: Robbie Sowden (Year 5), Zayan Azman (Year 3.) Next week another two children are joining our school: Chloe Carmichael (Year 4) and Jay Carmichael (Year 1.) I would like to extend a warm welcome to all those families joining our school, and hope that your children enjoy their journey through our school.

Mrs Gibson is our new Reception teacher, having joined us from Shiremoor Primary School where she was Foundation Stage Manager. We are delighted to welcome her onto our staff team.

Advanced notice...Year 6 SATs

It seems a long way off, but next year's Key Stage 2 SAT week begins May 12th 2014. We ask that parents do not consider taking children out of school in this very important assessment week. Thank you for your support for this matter.

Holiday requests

You may have heard in the news, that the regulations for Attendance have changed as of September 2013, in relation to parents being able to request term time holiday for children. You may also remember that it was only recently that the Governors and I amended our holiday request form, which stated that parents taking Year 2 or 6 children out of school between Easter and Whit, would not be authorised. This will now change again, in light of the new regulations which Headteachers are expected to enforce. Our term time holiday/leave of absence will be reviewed again in line with other North Tyneside and National schools, where Headteachers are expected to authorise leave of absence for term time holiday only in exceptional circumstances. A separate letter will follow with more detail, as soon as I have the paperwork from North Tyneside. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Dyslexia parent workshop

In the Summer term we asked parents if they would be interested in attending a Dyslexia workshop, which would be delivered by the North Tyneside Dyslexia Team. Miss Minto has arranged the session after school to be on September 18th. We have 5 parents who

expressed an initial interest, I but would like to ask all interested parents to sign up for this very useful session. The session will cover useful strategies for Reading and Spelling, even if your child doesn't have specific difficulties in Reading. Please use the form below to request your place at the session.

Spelling

As part of our ongoing review of our curriculum, we have reviewed the teaching of Spelling and Grammar in Key Stage 2 (from Year 3 to Year 6) following the first year of the Spelling and Grammar test in Key Stage 2 SATs. We have now built a greater proportion of Literacy teaching time into the teaching of Spelling alongside the teaching we already do in Grammar. Therefore we will no longer be sending out weekly spellings for children to learn from Year 3 to Year 6. The teaching and assessment of Spelling will be done within the teaching week. Year 6 from January onwards however, will receive spelling homework as part of the preparation for SATs.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, September 2013

Dyslexia Workshop for parents - September 18th 3.30pm

I would like to attend the session on September 18th at 3.30pm yes/no

Name.....

Child's name

Child's Class.....

Please note, this session is just for parents/Grandparents.