

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - September 22nd 2014



Maggie's Coffee morning - Friday 26th September

Thank you to all of those who have returned the slips from the Friends of Preston Grange newsletter, which asked for volunteers to help at the coffee morning this Friday and asked for donations of large and small cakes.

We would be very grateful for as many donations of cakes as possible from Thursday morning. For Year 5 and 6 children, there will be a cake competition. Children are asked to bake a large cake for judging, and all cakes will be sold afterwards. Please make sure that the cakes are labelled with the child's name. We are hoping for some more wonderful creations - last year's entries were amazing !

There will also be a cake stall for the children on that day, instead of our healthy tuck shop. Please also find attached with this newsletter, a competition for children to enter. They are asked to design a cupcake, 50p to enter, and the winning design will be made into a large cake, made by Nicola (Violet's Mam).

Raffle prizes

A huge thank you to Mr & Mrs Fawson (Daniel's parents) for the extremely generous donation of a Mordue brewery hamper for a raffle prize at our Maggie's coffee morning. We appreciate it greatly. Thanks also to Margaret Metcalfe (Matthew's Grandma) for the donation of prizes. We have also been given Odeon gift vouchers from First Class Supply Agency in Whitley Bay. Raffle tickets will be sold from Monday onwards on the yard at the start of the day.

Sponsor forms

As you know, 12 staff from school are walking across hot coals in aid of Maggie's Newcastle on November 12th. We have sponsor forms in the school office if there are any parents or families who would be willing to take one to try to collect sponsorship for us. We would be extremely grateful for any support.



Choir

Choir is up and running again this term with Mr Chappell. Mr Chappell already runs several choirs around the Coast and has run our school choir for over two years. Choir is for children from Years 3 to 6, and takes place on

Tuesday lunchtimes.

Harvest Festival

Our School Council has decided that this year, they would like to collect tins and food for the Bay food bank. [The BAY Foodbank](#) provides emergency food provision to individuals or families experiencing a financial crisis. This crisis happens when a family has no money because of low income, a bereavement, benefit delay, redundancy, an unexpected bill or illness. The School Council will write to parents shortly with more details about our Harvest Festival, explaining the arrangements for collecting donations of food. Thanks for your support.



Harvest family competition



Advanced notice of our annual Harvest family competition: this year it's..... not scarecrows,nor decorated fruit and vegetables....but we are inviting families to create a miniature garden. A flier with more details will be sent out at the beginning of next week. Fantastic prizes for the winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

Bike It

It is fantastic that there are so many children who choose to cycle and scoot to school. We encourage this and are delighted that the numbers of children coming to school in this way have increased over the last two years following our involvement with the Bike It project.

Last week we were delighted to be informed by Kian, our new Bike It Officer, that our school is to receive the silver Bike It award. This follows our bronze award that we received last Autumn. Our award will be presented in assembly this half term.

Scooter rack

Over the October half term holidays, we will be removing one of our several bike racks and replacing it with a double-sided scooter rack, so that the children can park their scooters easily. We are one of fourteen schools who have managed to secure a scooter rack through the Go Smarter project.

Advanced notice

Year 6 SATs week is now confirmed as May 11th 2015. We would be grateful for parents not withdrawing their child at any point in the lead up to, or during that week for holidays. Many thanks for your support with this matter.



Charity Days

This term we are getting involved in the following charity days:

26th September - Coffee morning (money raised for Maggie's Newcastle)

24th October - Wear it Pink for Breast Cancer (children come to school in pink, money raised for Maggie's Newcastle)

14th November - Children in Need (Be a Hero)

12th December - Christmas Jumper Day (children wear Christmas jumpers, a competition for the most imaginative ! In aid of Save the Children)

Where we are involved in charity days we would ask that you send in a suggested donation of £1 per child, all proceeds to the above charities.

Reception parents meeting

Before we do our usual termly parents evenings, we like to invite our new Reception parents into school to meet with Mrs Gibson and Mrs Blackett, English subject leader in school. The session will cover how we teach reading and handwriting, and Mrs Blackett will also talk parents through Read Write Inc, a whole school phonics approach that we use. This will take place this Thursday at 3.30pm. We welcome all parents of Reception children for this session.

Parents evenings

Parents evenings will be held this half term on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th October after school. Please note that all parents are asked to make an appointment by the date provided on the parents evening letter, which will be sent out at the end of next week. Staff attend several meetings a week and are unfortunately not able to offer parents appointments outside of these two allocated nights unless there are exceptional circumstances. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Building work

Over the Summer holidays, Mr Conaty has been extremely busy creating a new room and much needed space in our school. This is at the end of the Key Stage 2 corridor and will be used for intervention groups of children whilst working with Teaching Assistants. On behalf of the staff and Governors at school, I would like to thank Mr Conaty for his hard work and commitment to our school. The room is a huge improvement to school and we are grateful for the time Mr Conaty spent in creating the room from what were originally two cupboards.

Scholastic book orders



If you would like any Scholastic books, please return your order with either cash or cheque made payable to Preston Grange Primary School, by Friday 3rd October. Please note we are unable to process debit/credit card transactions.

School website

Please remember to check our website (www.prestongrangeprimary.co.uk) for photo galleries of school activities and events. The newsletter only allows a small number of photos due to the size of the digital images, therefore the website is where galleries of photos are stored. This is also where news items in between newsletters are uploaded.

Newcastle Eagles Girls Basketball

Last week our Newcastle Eagles Girls Basketball Academy got off to a fantastic start, with almost 20 girls from Years 5 & 6 signing up! We are delighted that so many of the girls are taking part in the academy, as we are one of only two schools in the North East to have been offered this opportunity, with coaching specifically aimed at girls. Well done to all girls who have signed up!



Safety of children on our site

I would ask all parents to warn their children about the danger of walking down the road behind parked cars whilst on our school site. Safety of our children is paramount, and we were concerned to learn last week there was another near miss with two girls walking into

school, as they walked directly behind a parked car that was trying to reverse. The driver was shocked, given that they would not be expecting to see a child walk out behind their car on a road. There is no reason that any child or adult should be walking down the road in the school car park; a path is provided for the safety of our children & families and we would ask that parents help us ensure that children are not taking short cuts on the way in or out of school. Thank you for your support.

Peer Massage parents information meeting

A reminder that Lynn Munro, trainer of the Peer Massage project in school this week will be running a half an hour session in order to inform parents of the work she will be doing in school with the children. The session will run on Tuesday 23rd from 3.30 until 4pm in the ICT suite, all welcome.

Peripatetic music lessons

If you would like your child to have keyboard or violin lessons from visiting music teacher, please contact the school office.

Reception photograph

Following the photographer visiting school recently, I am pleased to inform parents that on the 4th October, our current Reception class will be in the Evening Chronicle, along with other new starters to schools across the North East.

Dates for your diary

- 23rd Sept - parents information meeting re: Peer Massage project in school (ICT suite)
- 24th Sept - Friends of Preston Grange AGM, Foxhunters 6.30pm
- 25th Sept - Reception parents Reading meeting
- 25th & 26th Sept - Peer massage project introduced in classes across school
- 25th Sept - Parents information session on Child 2 Child peer massage project, 3.30-4.00pm
- 26th Sept - Maggie's coffee morning (9 - 10.30am)
- 1st Oct - Year 6 open evening, time to be confirmed
- 8th Oct - Dr Bike in school (bike repairs for childrens' bikes)
- 9th Oct - Year 4 to Empire Cinema (Ten Pieces, classical music)
- 13th Oct - parents evening (details to follow)
- 14th Oct - parents evening
- 21st Oct - Harvest Festival
- 23rd Oct - individual photos (Tempest photographers)
- 23rd Oct - Halloween disco (KS1 2.30-3.30) (KS2 3.30 - 4.45)
- 23rd Oct - Football team at JSCHS
- 24th Oct - Wear it Pink Day (non uniform)
- 24th Oct - break up for half term holiday, school re-starts Monday 3rd November

Tracey Taylor

23rd September 2014