

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - April 29th 2014

Dyslexia friendly school award

As you will be aware, we have for some time been working towards achieving the Dyslexia Friendly School award. Our school was approached by the North Tyneside Dyslexia Team two years ago because of our good practice, and asked if we would go through the assessment process. We are delighted to inform parents that yesterday we were informed that we are proud to be the first Primary school in North Tyneside to be awarded the Dyslexia Friendly Status award !

This award is not just recognition of our work with dyslexic children, but indeed the recognition that we do the best for every child in our school, due to the very high standards in Literacy and Numeracy teaching across school. The assessment verification visit was rigorous and we would like to thank once again, Miss Wise Mrs Whittle and Mrs Ramsay for speaking to the assessors. Special thanks go to Miss Minto, our SENCO for her hard work and for leading on this award.

Our award will be given at a ceremony in the last week of July, when the Mayor will present us with the award. There is a full and detailed report, which I have been informed I am not able to upload to our school website because of copyright reasons. I therefore have lifted out some of the features of 'enhanced practice' which the report has recognised in our school:

- 'The school has a detailed assessment and monitoring system to measure the impact of intervention. This is identified through the school data tracking system and intervention programmes are adapted accordingly.
- There is evidence through observation that pupils have internalised and are using phonic based strategies introduced during Reception and Key Stage One Literacy teaching.
- Senior Management Team has a clear policy regarding staff training and the provision of tightly structured phonic based intervention.
- The school has a systematic approach to assessing and reviewing progress in Reading and Spelling, which then feeds into target setting and the adjustment of provision.
- The Senior Management Team have a clear vision and overview of the provision offered to pupils.
- The regular 'reading blitz' provides informal monitoring as well as promoting the value of reading to pupils and staff. It provides an overview of progression through phases in addition to developing knowledge of individual pupil progress.
- The marking policy is consistently applied throughout the school.
- Evidence of effective differentiation was seen in planning and practice in all phases.
- A wide range of types of recording is in evidence.
- With homework, there is an emphasis on creative cross-curricular tasks, and opportunities for a choice in recording methods.
- The 'Castles' system supports all pupils' emotional literacy development and celebrates achievement in all areas.

- There is support for identified pupils through the mentoring system and individualized support for pupils with additional needs.
- There is a wide range of visual prompts in school to support pupils.
- A variety of multi-sensory strategies and resources is used in all phases.
- The 'Castles' system contributes to the development of an inclusive ethos within school and raises awareness through discussions round experiences, feelings and attributes.
- Information about dyslexia was provided by the SENCO for Governors to raise awareness. Governors were also involved in a 'learning walk' to identify strategies and approaches. These aspects have involved Governors in the Dyslexia Friendly Schools process.'

As you will see, most of the features of enhanced practice are recognition of very good provision for all children, leading to an environment where all children achieve their best. We are really proud of the award, and are very lucky to have such wonderful children, supportive parents and a talented and committed staff team.

Wear a hat day

Just before Easter, we took part in Wear a Hat Day, where the children came into school wearing any hat they chose. I am pleased to inform parents that this charity day raised a further £105.40 towards the Brain Tumour Research charity, which Grace raised money for by selling her Easter chicks. This amount has been added to the funds that Grace will be submitting to the charity. Many thanks for your kind donations to the charity.

PE kit

Since last term, there have been some amendments to the class timetables and PE for some classes has been moved to different days. We would be grateful if parents would send children to school on Monday with their PE kit, and that this remained in school until the end of the week. Since it is Summer term, we take advantage in PE lessons of going outside if the weather is fine, and so we would be grateful if you could send your child with shoes for outdoor PE. Thank you.

Sainsburys vouchers

Our collection box is looking quite full of Sainsburys vouchers, but we would like parents to keep saving them and sending them into school for us, as they enable us to get further PE resources for our school.

Achievements out of school

We are proud that Millie Prescott in Year 5 has recently been awarded a 2nd, 3rd, two 4th, a 5th and 6th places at a National Ballroom Dancing competition. There were twenty couples competing in most dances, so this is an incredible achievement. Well done Millie! In the British team match, Millie was in the North East of England Team and they came 3rd out of 6 teams. Everyone at school is very proud of her, she did very well indeed after dancing all day every day for 5 whole days!



Nathan in Year 6 plays for the Whitley Arrows Ice Hockey team (junior Warriors) and played at a competition in Fife at the weekend. Here are some pictures of Nathan in action:



We are also pleased to hear that several of our children are participating in the Greggs Childrens Cancer Run. Leo in Year 2 is now up to 4.1 miles in his training ! Good luck to all of the children and families who are participating in the race.



Skipping Festival

Last week Miss Wright took our Year 3's to the skipping festival, where our children had to compete in the following categories: easy bounce, double bounce, speed bounce, side swing, cross over, snakey, butterfly, face 2 face, run jump out and keep the pot boiling. These are all skipping skills that the children have been taught in PE lessons by Miss Wright. On top of the skills, the children performed a skip dance, which involves a choreographed routine of skipping involving all of the children. The atmosphere at the festival between the schools was great, and the work that the children and Miss Wright had put in was amazing ! The skip dance was fantastic. Here are the overall results (total points): Whitehouse - 733 points, Spring Gardens Team 1 - 620 points, Spring Gardens Team 2 - 767 points, King Edwards Team 1 - 758 points, King Edwards Team 2 - 641.....and Preston Grange - 934 points ! Very well done to the children, and special thanks to Miss Wright for coaching the children so well.

Gymnastics

Last week Mrs Udberg took a team of gymnasts to the North Tyneside Key Step Gymnastics competition at The Parks. The children had attended an after school gymnastic club run by Mrs Udberg, and she had also put the routines together for the children to learn. We were very impressed with how fantastic the children were, they had worked so incredibly hard in practising their routines. Thanks go to the parents who accompanied the children, but a very special thanks to Mrs Udberg for her hard work and boundless energy and enthusiasm in preparing the children for the event ! The results were that our children came 3rd place out of 16 teams in the floor routine and Chloe (Y4) came 1st in the individual girls Year 3 and 4 section, and Jack (Year 4) came 3rd in the individual Year 3 and 4 boys section. Well done to all of our gymnasts

NUFC football journals

At the family football club delivered by Newcastle United Foundation last term, the children were given football journals. If the children return these to the school office by Thursday this week, there will be a prize for them !

Scholastic book orders

If you would like to order any books from the current Scholastic book catalogue, please can the orders be returned to the school office by 16th May, thank you.

Initial trip letter

Just to update parents as to the procedures for educational visits: when we plan an educational visit, we cost the visit (venue cost and transport cost), then we place a

provisional booking with the venue that the children will be visiting. The school office then sends out an initial letter to parents from the class teacher, on which we request an indication whether you will make a voluntary contribution towards the visit (it states 'please send no money at this point'). Once we have collected the initial expression of interest letters from parents and confirm that we have sufficient voluntary contributions to make the visit viable, a second letter is sent to parents, confirming the trip is going ahead and requesting permission and the voluntary contributions to be sent to the school office. As with all visits out of school, it is important that we receive parental permission slips before the day of the visit. Otherwise, we cannot take the children without written permission, out of school.

The two residential visits for the Summer term for Year 4 to Robinwood (June 23rd to 25th) and Year 5/6 to High Borrans (July 7th to 11th) all require paperwork and detailed parental permission slips to be returned to school, as both residential centres require these to be forwarded to them well ahead of the visit, for risk assessment purposes. The school office will be sending out permission forms and other paperwork for each residential, and we would be grateful if they are returned promptly to the school office. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Please note that the final balance for each residential must be sent to the school office tomorrow (Wednesday 30th) at the latest, thank you.

Family Bike Ride

Lucy, our Bike It Officer has informed us that there will be a family bike ride to Seaton Delaval Hall on Saturday 10th May 2014, 10 am - 3pm. It will be an 8 mile ride following the coast and Waggonways. The majority of the route will be on designated cycle paths, suitable for families, but not stabilisers. A picnic will be needed for lunch stop at Seaton Delaval Hall or money for the cafe. As a special one-off, the National Trust are offering free entry to the site enabling families to use their facilities. Own bikes and equipment are needed, and the meeting point is: Waves Leisure Centre, The Links, Whitley Bay, NE26 1TQ. Booking is essential: please contact Jemma Robinson at jemma.robinson@sustrans.org.uk or 07500 857 010 if you would like to take part in the family bike ride.

No Messing!

A new campaign 'No Messing' has been developed to help reduce dog fouling and promote responsible dog ownership in North Tyneside. The Council have invited all schools in North Tyneside to take part in a poster design competition, to illustrate the importance of anti dog fouling and why owners should pick their dog mess up. The posters must be:

- A4 portrait
- Include the message: 'No Messing!'
- Colour: Bold, very eye catching

Posters do not have to be drawn and can be created on a computer or include a photo image. An overall winner will be selected from the entries received along with five runners up. The winning artwork will be professionally produced and used on posters and stickers that will be displayed on lampposts and bins across the borough. The overall winner of the competition will not only get their artwork displayed around the borough they will receive a family ticket to the Whitley Bay Playhouse to see a show of their choice. If you are happy that your child enters the poster competition, please send in poster entries to school, by the end of the day on Friday 9th May 2014. Many thanks.

Dates for your diary

Thurs 1st May - Year 1 visit to Tesco

Fri 2nd May - 1.10pm Preston Grange has got talent final

Mon 5th May - Bank Holiday

Tues 6th May - Reception class assembly 9.10am

Mon 12th May - Key Stage 2 SATs start

Thurs 15th May - 3pm Reception parents - looking at Learning Journeys

Fri 16th May - Reception themed day 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' (fancy dress)

Mon 19th May - Walk to school week

Mon 19th May pm - Tennis festival Year 4 (8 children)

Tues 20th May - Tennis festival Year 3 (8 children)

Wed 21st May - Basketball at JSCHS (Years 5/6)

Thurs 22nd May - Extreme Mountain Biking show (am)

Thurs 22nd May - Year 5 & 6 Athletics (JSCHS, pm)

Thurs 22nd May - Year 5&6 dodgeball (JSCHS 3.45pm - 5.30pm)

Friday 23rd May - break up for half term

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, April 29th 2014