

# Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - January 6th 2016

## **Happy New Year**

We wish all of our families a Happy New Year and welcome the children back to school. We hope that everybody has had a lovely Christmas and New Year holiday.

## **After School Clubs**

Thank you to Miss Knowles for arranging some really exciting clubs in Mrs Udberg's absence. Please note that all clubs start this week.

## **Absence**

At the start of the Christmas holidays, I had an unplanned operation and spent ten days in hospital. I am recovering well from a kidney transplant, but will be absent from school for the first couple of weeks this term. From the week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January I will be working in school on a part-time basis, and will be full time at the earliest opportunity. Should you wish to make an appointment in the meantime and the matter cannot wait until I return in the next two weeks, please contact Mrs Boyd in the school office and Mr Burgess will be able to meet with you either 9am or after 3.30pm. Many thanks.

## **Tapestry - our new online Learning Journey for Reception children**

We currently keep a paper based learning journey of each child's development in Reception class, and parents are invited into school to view these at intervals across the year. We are however, moving to an online learning journey, which parents can contribute to at home. We invited all Reception parents into school to learn about Tapestry, before Christmas. If you were unable to attend the meeting, Mrs Davidson is planning to host a drop in session for those parents this Wednesday and Thursday after school in the Reception classroom straight after school. Please also call into these 'drop in' sessions even if you attended the meeting, but are having trouble setting up your account. A reminder that we also require all permission slips from all parents before we can start using Tapestry. We would be grateful if there are any still to come in from before Christmas, thanks.

## **Announcement of Adoption Service Review**

North Tyneside Fostering & Adoption Service have commissioned Adoption UK, the leading charity providing support, awareness and understanding for those parenting or supporting children who cannot live with their birth parents, to find out the needs of both people who have adopted through North Tyneside and adopters from other agencies who currently live in North Tyneside in January and February 2016.

Adoption UK will be conducting an online survey, holding 2 focus groups (1 weekend, 1 evening) and interviewing up to 10 local adopters and will produce a report and make

recommendations based on the findings. All feedback from adopters will be strictly confidential. If you are interested in taking part and would like more information you can contact the Fostering & Adoption Service directly by emailing [FosteringAndAdoption@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:FosteringAndAdoption@northtyneside.gov.uk) or contact Helen King (Adoption UK Regional Manager) by emailing [helenking@adoptionuk.org.uk](mailto:helenking@adoptionuk.org.uk)

### **Illness**

Before Christmas we were badly hit by a sickness bug, which swept through school. If your child has an illness such as a sickness bug, there is a recommended length of time that they must remain away from school. If your child is sick for example, they must be kept away from school for a full 48 hours. These recommended times are given to school by the School Public Health Nurse Team, and they are put in place in order to help stop a sickness bug spreading just as it did before Christmas. Please check with Mrs Boyd in the school office if you are unsure how long to keep your child off school, we have a chart to refer to, and please always keep your child off school if they are unwell. Thank you for your support with this matter.

### **Parents Evenings**

This half term, we will be having Spring Term parents evenings on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. A further letter with the appointment booking slip will be sent out nearer the end of January.

### **SATs Meetings - advanced notice**

This term we are planning to hold two meetings for parents of children in SAT year groups: Year 2 and Year 6. The format of the tests this year has changed; children in Year 2 will now sit tests formally, including a new Spelling and Grammar test. We intend to go through all of this with parents, as well as explaining how we are preparing the children for the tests. Dates of the meetings will be on the next newsletter.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, January 6th 2016