

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - January 24th 2018

Nursery

We ask that all Nursery parents ensure that children are dropped off at 8.45am for the start of the session thank you. The Nursery team start activities with the children as soon as they enter Nursery, so we would appreciate the children from the beginning of the session otherwise they will be missing some of the morning routines and activities. Thanks for your support with this matter.

Robinwood

In Year 4, the children visit Robinwood Outdoor Centre in Alston each year. We have one space available should any parent wish their Year 4 child to attend this year. The dates that the children will be away are: Wed 13th to Fri 15th June, and the cost is £285. Please contact Mrs Royle in the office if your child is interested in attending thanks.

Valentines Discos

Thank you to the Friends of Preston Grange for organising Valentines discos for the children, which will take place on Thursday 8th February. Key Stage 1 disco will be from 2.30pm to 3.30pm, and Key Stage 2 disco will be from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Further details will follow from the Friends of Preston Grange.

The Friends will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7th February at 3.35pm in the school library. All are very welcome!

Author visit to school

The children had a fantastic day on Monday, when author Chris Callaghan came to visit school for the day. Chris worked with children from Year 1 to Year 6 in the hall, and then carried out workshops with Years 2,3 and 4 in classes. He told them all about being an author and his book 'The Chocoplot'. If you would like to buy one of his books at £6 each, we have a limited number still available from the school office.



Pantomime school lunch

Thank you so much for the effort that all of our families put into pantomime lunch day last week. The children really enjoyed the funday lunch and they all looked fantastic in their costumes.



Times tables Key Stage 2

As you know it is very important for the children to learn their times tables and related division facts. Knowing the times tables helps children in many areas of Maths and is a



key skill from an early age. We encourage parents to work with their children to learn their tables on a regular basis. We are going to try a new system of recording which tables the children know in the form of a book mark. Each child will get a book mark with relevant tables on it.

When they feel they know one of the times tables, the teacher will verbally ask some questions to check this understanding. If they know the table they will get a sticker for it. In order to get a sticker, the children must be able to recall the table quickly and without counting. It is expected that each child will try for a sticker every week. Once a child has completed the relevant tables bookmark, they will then get a division fact bookmark to work on. The expectations for times tables are as follows:

- Year 2 - 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables
- Year 3 - 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables
- Year 4 - All tables to 12 x 12
- Year 5 - All tables to 12 x 12
- Year 6 - All tables to 12 x 12

Please encourage your child to use the times table mat that we sent home in Autumn term to really learn their tables inside out. If you require a new times tables mat, please speak to your child's class teacher thanks.

SAT meeting Year 2 parents

On Monday this week Miss Knowles ran an informative after school session for Year 2 parents about the upcoming SATs and assessment of Year 2 children in Summer term. We hope that you found it useful. If you were unable to attend, please see Miss Knowles if you would like a copy of the power point or if you have any questions.

Inflatable planetarium

On Friday 9th February there will be an inflatable planetarium in school for the day. Each class from Nursery to Year 6 will have a session in the planetarium. Two of our classes have been learning about space in recent topics, although every class will visit the planetarium, which is a 360 degree projection dome, in which a presenter will

teach the children all about space & the planets and answer their questions. The children will absolutely love the experience!

Twitter

As you will be aware, we use our school Twitter account to share what the children in classes are doing across the week. We are not quite sure who and how many parents are accessing the Twitter account, so would be grateful if you could acknowledge the tweets wherever possible by liking them. This way it helps to let us know how many parents we are reaching with our daily news feed thanks.

If any parents/Grandparents currently don't use Twitter, Mr Russell our ICT subject leader will be holding a short drop in session for anyone who is interested in learning how to set up an account. This will be held on Wednesday 31st January in the Year 4 classroom at 3.35pm. All welcome.

Biographies - Year 6 Literacy

As part of their Literacy this half term, Year 6 will be visiting residents at Redesdale Court to interview residents and gather information in order to write their biographies for them. Miss Daley said that the children were absolutely amazing with the elderly residents and we are incredibly proud of all of the children! Thank you to Mrs Hatch who accompanied the class with Miss Daley & Mr Ostell.

Nutri Troops launch day

This Friday sees the launch day of the Nutri Troops work that we have been doing with Olympian Peter Bakare, who has been working with school across the year. The classes will officially join the 'Nutri Troops Academy' and spend a session in the hall completing a series of challenges which involve learning about healthy living and being active. Please see our Twitter account for photos from the day.

Dance Festival

Year 2 are currently working with dance teacher Laura Roberts and Miss Knowles to choreograph a dance which they will then perform in the North Tyneside Dance Festival in March. More details to follow for Year 2 families.

Basketball coaching

We'd like to thank Mr English from John Spence High School, for taking time out of his busy day to coach our Year 6 basketball team on Tuesdays after school, and thanks to Mr Pilkington at John Spence who arranged this for us. We're very grateful for the ongoing support that we receive from John Spence.

Dates for your diary

Fri 26th Jan - Nutri Troops launch day (Y2-6)

Tues 30th Jan - heights & weights Rec & Y6 (School nurse)

Wed 31st Jan - Twitter drop in session with Mr Russell

Mon 5th Feb - Year 1 multi-skills at JSCHS (am)
Wed 7th Feb - Friends of Preston Grange AGM (3.35pm)
Thurs 1st Feb - High 5 Netball competiton at Blue Flames (netball team)
Thurs 1st Feb - Y6 hockey after school
Tues 6th - Safer Internet Day
Tues 6th Feb - Year 2 multi-skills at JSCHS (am)
Wed 7th Feb - Y6 to Redesdale Court (biography writing)
Thurs 8th Feb - Chinese New Year morning in Early Years (N + Rec)
Thurs 8th Feb - Valentine discos (see above)
Fri 9th Feb - Inflatable planetarium in school all day
Fri 9th Feb - break up for half term

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, January 24th 2018