

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - March 5th 2018

Inflatable planetarium



We had booked to have an inflatable dome in school, which was to be set up all day in the hall for each class to visit in turn. Unfortunately the company had to postpone due to a member of their staff being admitted to hospital.

We are pleased to have rearranged the dome for March 23rd, when the children will have a presenter led session that covers some of each year group's Science curriculum, and then they will also be shown a 360 degree film. It should be a fantastic experience for the children! Please see our Twitter account for photos and film of the day.

Charity stall

Nina from Year 5 is raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust, and has made some beautiful jewellery and handmade bags, which she is selling for £1.50 and £3 each for Mother's Day. Nina's stall will be on every day until the end of this week. We are really proud that she works so hard at raising money for the charity; it certainly is admirable. Thanks for your support for her stall in advance!



World Book Day

Due to having to close school at the end of last week, we have arranged for World Book Day to take place this Friday (9th) Children are asked to come into school wearing onesies or pyjamas and dressing gowns ready for a bedtime story day. We appreciate that we do several non-uniform days across the school year and decided to have a pyjama themed day again, so that parents aren't expected to buy costumes for another charity day.



Sporting successes!

Congratulations to our Year 5 basketball team, who progress through to the semi-final (and hopefully final!) of the Hoops 4 Health tournament run by Newcastle Eagles. Year 5 will play at the half time of the Newcastle Eagles game at Sport Central, Newcastle this coming Friday. If you would like to come along and support our team, tickets are available from school at £7 each before the end of the day Tuesday, and a coach from school will transport families if there is sufficient need for this.

In addition to this, two of our Year 4 teams were successful at a recent quicksticks hockey event, and now go through to the finals at Marden Bridge on March 13th!



Congratulations to both classes for their sporting achievements!

Scholastic books

We would be grateful if any parents have any orders from the Scholastic books magazine, if you could send orders into school by Friday this week. Thank you!

Finally!!

We are delighted that we can finally buy the tipi for the school field that the children really wanted so that there is somewhere undercover to be able to read books at playtimes. A HUGE thank you to all of our families who have fundraised for over a year now!! We are also pleased to have received the final £1000 from Carriers for Causes, a grant available through One Stop shops. Thank you also to Jane (ex parent & Governor) for letting us know about this grant funding.

Upcoming tests for Year 1,2 and 6

The Year 6 children will be following the national timetable for their end of Key Stage 2 SATs in the week commencing Monday 14th May 2018. These times are set by the Department for Education and are not to be deviated from. The outcomes from these tests will be used to ascertain whether your child is working at age expectations in Reading, Grammar and Maths. Writing evidence will be collected throughout the Spring and Summer terms to provide evidence of whether your child is working at age expectations in writing.

Monday 14th May 2018 - KS2 English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling tests

Paper 1: questions

Paper 2: spelling

Tuesday 15th May 2018 - KS2 English Reading test

Wednesday 16th May 2018 - KS2 Mathematics tests

Paper 1: arithmetic

Paper 2: reasoning

Thursday 17th May 2018 - KS2 Mathematics test

Paper 3: reasoning

Our Year 2 children will be tested over a period of two weeks from Monday 14th May 2018 in as informal a manner as we can so as to mirror normal classroom practice. These assessments will be used to support teacher assessment judgements for Reading and Maths. Writing evidence will be gathered on an ongoing basis to support teacher assessment judgements.

Year 1 children will complete the National Phonics Screening Check in school by Miss Wright, during the week commencing Monday 11th June 2018.

Visiting theatre production

On Tuesday this week, we are having a visit from Image Musical Theatre once again. They will perform *The Wind in the Willows*; this involves some children participating in the production, and there are songs and words for the rest of the children to learn during the production. We know that the children get a great deal out of their productions in school. Please see our school Twitter feed for photos of the afternoon.

After school clubs

Unfortunately, Forest School, Board Games and 7 Billion Ideas after school clubs were cancelled last week, due to the heavy snow. These missed sessions will take place on the first week back after the Easter holiday; before our new set of clubs begin.

The catch up dates are as follows:

- Wednesday 18th April - Forest School
- Thursday 19th April - Board games
- Friday 20th April - 7 billion ideas



From the week commencing Monday 5th March, the text messages you receive from school will appear differently on your phone. Our service provider, Teachers2Parents, will be introducing an additional new security verification measure to allow parents/guardians to check that the messages you receive are from school.

Much like telephone banking, you will continue to receive messages from a secure number with the school message ID now in the body of the message, accompanied with a link at the beginning of the message to click through to a Teachers2Parents verification page; confirming that the sender of the message is genuine.

This added security measure is another step forward to help reassure parents/guardians of the safety and wellbeing of your child at school.

A typical message will look like this:
When you click to verify the message, you will be taken to the following screen:

The changes to the text messaging service will not affect use of the Teachers2Parents App, as this continues to offer built in user verification and end to end encryption of all messages, plus you will still have secure access to term calendar and school noticeboard updates.



To take advantage of the Teachers2Parents app, please search and download 'Teachers2Parents' for **free** on iOS App store and Android smartphone devices. We hope you agree, that this added security measure bolsters reassurance that any important communication about your child is safe and you can always be sure that it has been sent by our school. For more information about Teachers2Parents, please visit. <https://eduspot.co.uk/product/teachers2parents/>

Fantastic news!

Today I received a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, congratulating everyone in school and acknowledging the hard work and very high standards! Our school is in the top 1% of primary schools in the country based on the Key Stage 2 SAT results 2017.

I am delighted that this has been acknowledged, and would like to thank the whole staff team and Governors for their support in our school delivering such strong teaching and achieving such high standards in learning. Well done to the whole team and to our families for their fantastic support with the children's learning!

Please see the attached letter with this newsletter.

Dates for your diary

Tues 6th March - Image Musical Theatre production (pm)

Thurs 8th March - Nursery Mums & Grandmas Mother's Day morning

Fri 9th March - Reception Mums & Grandmas Mother's Day morning
Fri 9th March - World Book Day (rearranged) non-uniform
Fri 9th March - Year 5 basketball team in North Tyneside H4H final (6pm)
Tues 13th March - Quicksticks hockey finals (Marden Bridge, pm)
Mon 19th March - Year 6 mock SATs week
Wed 21st March - Year 5 Trail & Challenge event (Rising Sun Country Park, all day)
Wed 21st March - Ceilidh at Whitehouse Primary
Thurs 22nd March - football team to PGPS (3.30pm)
Mon 26th & Tues 27th March - Reception rearranged parents evenings
Tues 27th March - Year 3 skipping festival at JSCHS (pm)
Wed 28th March - last group for Bikeability (Year 5)
Wed 28th March - Year 4 at badminton festival (pm)
Thurs 29th March - Break up for Easter holiday

Please note: children return to school on Monday April 16th

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, March 5th 2018