

# Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - November 25th 2015

## **Christmas tuck shop**

Thanks to Lorraine Harrison (Mum of Jacob) and Jackie O'Brien (Mum of Jack, ex pupil) for organising a Christmas tuck shop for the children. It will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December at morning break, and will be an opportunity for the children to buy small presents for family members. There will be sweets, chocolate, bath bombs, scented candles and much more for sale on the stall. Gifts will be priced from 25p up to approximately £1.50 for the children to buy.

## **Handwriting competition**

In school we value the importance of handwriting, and we are trying to encourage the children to work hard and improve their writing right across school. Mrs Wright has organised a handwriting competition with a Christmas theme, that we know the children will really enjoy doing. Each class will come home with a Christmas poem and lined paper or a writing frame with lines on over the next few days. For your information, Mrs Wright has added the alphabet that we teach in Key Stage 1, and then the cursive alphabet when the children enter Key Stage 2.

## **Tapestry - a new online learning journey**

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, going to move to an online learning journey, which parents can contribute to at home. We would like to invite all Reception parents into school to learn about Tapestry, the online learning journey, on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December straight after school in the Reception classroom.

## **Christmas art and craft afternoon**

On the same day as the meeting about Tapestry (16<sup>th</sup> December), Mrs Davidson would like to invite all Reception parents into school from 3pm to make some Christmas arts and crafts with your child. All welcome !

## **Breakfast club times**

Currently our breakfast club runs from 8am every morning. I have been asked by one or two parents if the session could begin at 7.45am, as it would give parents more time to get to work. I have discussed this with Governors and we have decided to trial opening breakfast club at 7.45am from the week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> November onwards. We will review how it is going at February half term.

The door will not be opened by Mr Conaty until 7.45am, as Mr Conaty has his main job as site manager to be doing before this time. We would stress that parents do not try to

drop their children off **any earlier** than 7.45am, as this could then affect whether we continue running breakfast club at this earlier time or not.

Also, if you are using breakfast club; please remember that an adult **MUST** sign a child into breakfast club - children are not to walk into school and breakfast club themselves. This is a Health and Safety requirement and is a condition of our breakfast club.

### **Pantomime arrangements**

On Thursday 3rd December, we will be taking the whole school to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal. If your child is not going to the pantomime, we would be grateful if you collect them from the school office *by 12.30pm at the latest*.

The children will get a snack and a drink of juice at the pantomime, so there is no need to send them with any money. We would really like the children to wear either a Christmas/Santa hat or headband on a Christmas theme, as this makes our children easily identifiable from other school parties that may also be at the Theatre Royal.

In order to avoid parking and access issues arising outside of our school gates, we will be arriving back at **John Spence Community High School** again, where there is a lit, large car park and good access into the car park for the buses. Please note that due to the building works at John Spence and the portacabins, there will be **no parking** for parents on the John Spence site, only the buses. There is alternative parking nearby, for example, Tynemouth swimming pool, Morrisons, or parents could come on foot.

We would ask that parents arrive by **5.15pm** for a 5.30pm estimated arrival of the buses. Apologies if we are delayed; there is little we can do if the buses get stuck in traffic. Please bear in mind too, that the coaches will not arrive back at the same time. The four coaches have to load up around the corner from the Theatre Royal, and dependent upon traffic out of Newcastle, they will arrive at slightly different times back to John Spence, so it may be earlier or later than we are anticipating.

Once the coaches arrive at John Spence, they will be parked in the bays marked for them (coned off), please note that there will be a sign put in the front window of each bus - A, B, C or D. We would be grateful if parents could approach the relevant bus, make a line at the door, and the children will be dismissed as you request your child from the class teacher at the bus door. ***Please note that if somebody else is collecting your child that night, you must inform the school office on or before the morning of December 3rd.*** Should you have children on different buses, staff will keep children seated on the buses until they are all requested and collected. Buses will be as follows:

Bus A = Year 1 and Year 5

Bus B = Year 4 and Year 6

Bus C = Year 2 and Year 3

Bus D = Reception

Since we are dismissing the children from John Spence car park, we anticipate that no children will need to return to school. Book bags can be left at school overnight for one night. If your child is staying for packed lunch on that day, we would be grateful if you could send them into school with their packed lunch in a disposable bag, so that lunch boxes will not have to be left at school overnight.

All children need to be collected by an adult from John Spence, and no children will be dismissed to walk home on their own in the dark. We are grateful to the Friends of Preston Grange for their hard work and generosity in funding a significant amount of the cost for this trip, and to the staff and adults accompanying the trip in their own time after school hours. Thank you for your support with this event; we are all really looking forward to our annual pantomime trip !

### **Following in her colleagues (hot) footsteps**

On 11th November, Miss Minto completed a Firewalk Challenge almost a year after many Preston Grange staff completed the same challenge. She was accompanied by Mrs Dunn's son, David. Two of our mums (Wayne's mum and Jay & Chloe's mum) also entered. They crossed the 16 ft fire pit five times in total. All involved raised money for the charity Maggie's, which helps those affected by cancer. Miss Minto and David raised approximately £450 for Maggie's. Well done to them all.



### **Y5 and Y6 enjoy basketball coaching**

Years 5 and 6 have just completed a series of four lessons of basketball coaching from expert coach Nicky. Across the weeks they played a series of fun games, practised their skills and good sportsmanship. The Newcastle Eagles have a forthcoming tournament for schools, and our pupils' potential is already being recognised.

### **Y1 and Y2 nasal flu immunisation**

Please see the website for information about the flu immunisation for Year 1 and 2 children.

### **Lost scooter**

We would be grateful if anybody with a 'Frozen' scooter could check that they don't accidentally have Jessica Brandon's from Reception class. Hers has gone missing but it has her name on the scooter. There is a Frozen scooter in the rack at school which has been there for a while, but this is not hers. Please contact the school office if you have the wrong scooter at home, thank you.

Please see the website calendar for details of all events up until the end of term.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, November 25th 2015

