

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - January 9th 2019



New phone numbers

If you have updated your phone number or emergency contact details over the holidays, please see the school office so that we have everyone's up to date contact numbers. Thanks for your support.



Swimming helpers

From this week, Year 3 will be going swimming every Friday at 1.45pm. If you are able to help accompany the children to the pool, we would be really grateful as we are short of parent helpers currently.



Thank you!!

You may have noticed that we now have a lovely stepping stone path to the tipi. Mr Conaty worked hard in the school holidays to lay the path that the children requested. This means that we can use the tipi all year-round!

Raffle prizes

There are still two unclaimed raffle prizes from the Christmas raffle: Yellow 284 and Green ticket 951. No one has come forwards to claim the prizes yet. If you have the tickets, please contact the school office by this Friday. If they are not claimed, we will be giving each child in school a raffle ticket (free) and drawing two tickets and allocating the prizes that way.



Welcome to new Nursery starters

We would like to welcome the children who are joining our Nursery this week. It is so lovely to see younger brothers and sisters in school! Doesn't time just fly.



New members of staff

Mrs Blackett will be taking her maternity leave starting on Friday 18th January. While she is on maternity leave, Mrs Chambers will be covering the 4 afternoons in Year 2. Mrs Chambers is shadowing Mrs Blackett for the two weeks before Mrs Blackett leaves so that she gets to know the children.

Miss Clark is a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, appointed to be our wellbeing, support and guidance member of staff. Miss Clark may be working with your child in future or with some of our families. We are delighted to have her as a permanent member of staff working in school with us.



Scooter training

On Tuesday 29th January, Reception & Year 1 children will receive scooter training from a visitor from the Local Authority. More details to follow.

Dance Festival

Each year we enter our Year 2 class into the North Tyneside Dance Festival at The Parks at the start of March. As well as Year 2, this year we will also be sending a group of Year 5 & 6 children, who will be doing a street dance routine. More information to follow.

Measurement data

In Autumn every year, we receive a data pack from the Local Authority which shows our school results for SATs, attendance and also data from the Reception and Year 6 children being measured. We are surprised to learn this year, that based on pooled data measured over the last 3 years, children in Reception class, 22% of children were in the 'excess weight' bracket.

At the upper end of school, Year 6 pupils are also weighed and measured each year, and based on pooled data over the last 3 years, 44% of Year 6 children fell into the 'excess weight' bracket. This is very high, and indeed higher than a large number of schools.

As a very active, sporty school this came as quite a shock to us. We have discussed this as a staff, and Mrs Udberg as PE lead is planning some strategies which may help the children become more active. We are well aware that a great deal of our children swim, play in clubs etc, and at school we take part in a significant number of competitions. So it is even more of a surprise that we fall into this bracket.

As well as the Sport Premium funding we receive each year, due to us falling into this bracket with our data, we are also to receive £5000 extra to try to encourage the children to become more active and to have an impact on reducing the number of children falling into the 'excess weight' band. Hence free after school clubs this half term.

As well as this £5000, we are to receive cookery equipment so that the children can be taught to cook healthy food and learn about nutrition. We know that as well as being active, they also need to have a healthy diet. So from February half term, we will be doing cookery in school and after school, to teach the children about healthy foods.

Do you have any ideas? We would love to hear from parents about how we can encourage the children to be more active than they already are. We know that technology does play a part in some children not wishing to be as active as we probably were at their age, but there are so many fun ways of keeping children active. We would love to hear from anyone with additional suggestions. Please see below three suggestions to get your child involved in.

Children's Cancer Run

We would love you and your family to join our school team at the 37th Children's Cancer Run held at Newcastle Racecourse, Gosforth Park on Sunday May 19th.



The Children's Cancer Run is a cross-country family fun run with one, three and five mile routes to choose from. The event is organised by the North of England Children's Cancer Research charity and is supported by Greggs. We are very excited to be supporting this event and would like to invite you to join us for what promises to be a fun filled family day out. All participants receive a 37th Anniversary medal and Gregg's picnic on the day, and all children receive a limited edition t-shirt. Metro Radio will also be there to entertain everyone with music and competitions.

Please complete an on-line entry form to join our team:

1. Log on to www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk
2. Select 'Sign me up'
3. Complete your entry form, selecting our school name from the drop down list
4. Click proceed to payment to complete the registration for you and your family

Please note that the three and five mile courses are suitable for children over 7. All children must be supervised by an adult (parents can accompany their children on the Mini Mile without registering but please register if you would like to receive a medal and picnic).

We would encourage you to do what you can in order to raise sponsorship as all of the funds raised will be used to fund the research team at Newcastle who are working to find better treatments and cures for childhood cancer. Every penny raised will make a difference, helping more children beat cancer. Please raise funds using either the paper sponsor forms that will be provided in your run pack, or the on-line fundraising page created when you register on-line.

You will receive your 'On the Day guide', run numbers and start time through the post and your children's t-shirts will be sent home with your child the week before the run. If you have any questions in the meantime please get in touch with our school lead for the event or email childrenscancerrun@neccr.org.uk.

Thanks to Olivia's Mum Angela, for letting us know about this event!

Whitley Bay Park Run

Another great local event that takes place every weekend for the children to participate in, is the Whitley Bay Park Run. The Junior Park Run on Whitley Bay seafront on a Sunday morning is a great way for the children to keep fit. Please see their website at www.parkrun.org.uk/WhitleyBay-juniors

Clubbercise family event

If you haven't been along to our family Clubbercise events arranged by the Friends of Preston Grange before, why not give it a try? The next one is on Monday 21st January from 6-7pm. Come along in bright colourful clothes, you can even paint your face with glow in the dark paint! Dance along to music with glow sticks. It is great fun! Tickets available from the school office.



Anti-Bullying

Bullying can happen in any school. At our school, it is extremely rare. We have principles and roles in place to ensure that bullying is quickly stopped.

There is no legal definition of bullying. However the government state it is usually defined as behaviour that is:

- Repeated
- Intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- Often aimed at certain groups, eg. Because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

It takes many forms and can include:

- Physical assault
- Teasing

- Making threats
- Name calling
- Cyberbullying

All types of bullying are treated extremely seriously at Preston Grange Primary School.

Our school is a safe and secure environment where everyone can learn without anxiety. Bullying is wrong and damages children's social and / or emotional health. We therefore do all we can to prevent it by sustaining a positive, happy and healthy whole school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

In school we do a great deal of work talking with the children in understanding what bullying is, and what it is not. All pupils should know that hurting someone (physically or emotionally) is wrong and that bullying is wrong. Pupils should tell any adult (school staff or parent/carer) if they are being bullied, or if they think they might be. If bullying persists, they must keep on letting people know.

Pupils tell us their honest views about school in regular feedback and surveys we do with the children across the year. These views can be specifically about bullying but may also be about how safe they feel at school. These surveys are very positive.

All staff take all forms of bullying seriously; they aim to ensure bullying is not acceptable at our school. We ensure a whole school consistent approach when tackling bullying. Teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime staff communicate to children the message that hurting someone (physically or emotionally) is wrong and that bullying is wrong and unacceptable.

If staff witness an act of bullying, they investigate it themselves (and ensure a member of the Senior Leadership Team is informed) or refer it to the Headteacher directly.

Adults fully support the child being bullied. Learning Mentor support is given to the child for a period of time. Time is spent with the child to restore the child's confidence, happiness and other aspects of health - adults within school will monitor and restore the child's well-being through checks, smiles and other 'signs' that they are being looked after and are safe. The child's parents / carers will be consulted.

We also aim to stop the problem: for the child who has bullied, the school behaviour policy is followed and the parents are informed. Some time is spent with the pupil who has bullied to explore reasons for his/her actions and demonstrating why his/her actions are unacceptable - again, the Learning Mentor becomes involved in some cases.

Within our PSCHÉ or Castles sessions, we cover anti-bullying activities on a regular basis (see Castles curriculum overview) in the form of a 'Castles' lesson with

activities on a weekly basis; planned sessions centre around bullying and how people can stop bullying, and if there are any signs of someone being bullied in school. School also follows the national anti-bullying campaign each year in November. If any incidental issues arise during the school year, we would cover any associated issues in Castles, assemblies and class.

All staff follow the principles set out in our Anti-Bullying policy in order to continue our school climate of mutual support and praise, so making bullying less likely: when children feel they are important and belong to a friendly, happy and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to exist.

If you would like to read our full anti-bullying policy, please see our website follow the link under Info for Parents - Key Policies. Or if you would like to view some of the types of materials we use, please visit www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk. And if you have any questions, please feel free to contact school.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, January 9th 2019