

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter -December 1st 2021



Can you help?

At the start of Advent, I'd like to inform families that at school we will be collecting and giving to two charities and causes, namely: the homeless (through Whitley Bay Young Peoples Centre) and also the local Women's Refuge.

For donations to the local refuge, we'd be grateful for any parents to donate items such as: toiletries, Christmas food items, new toys or games for children, or items for babies.

For donations to support the homeless, we are looking to collect the following items: sleeping bags, thermals, hats, gloves and toiletries.

If you'd like to donate, please send any items into school in a bag clearly marked for 'Refuge' or 'Homeless'

In order to further support this cause, we will also be having a non-uniform day on Monday December 6th and ask that on that day, children bring any items into school that you would like to donate. Thank you so much for your support in advance!

Christmas carols with Redesdale

On Monday 13th December, we have arranged to sing Christmas carols over the fence for the residents of Redesdale. For this, please can we ask that the children are well wrapped up and wear a festive hat, thank you.

In order to help with this, we ask that you remind your child to practice the songs at home. The words may be found on Google Classroom. Thank you!

Basketball

As Storm Arwen raged across the North East, children from Preston Grange Primary School stormed the court at the Vertu Motors Arena. Children from Year 4, 5 and 6 had the unique opportunity to take part in an intra-school basketball competition on the same court that was about to host a battle between the Newcastle Eagles and Sheffield Sharks, their bitter rivals in the struggle to win the British Basketball League.

The teams were treated to a pre-game motivational speech from Kieron Achara, a former Olympic and BBL basketball star. Once on the court, all teams showed fierce determination to win and all 16 games were noted for their closeness and display of basketball skill. It was clear that all involved wanted a chance to play at half-time in front of a stadium of fans.

The successful teams rose magnificently to the challenge of playing to such a huge, basketball-loving crowd but an early basket from Ruban Badhwal ensured there was a clear winning team.

As well as the opportunity to play, children and their families experienced a top-flight basketball game in a sold-out arena and soaked up the atmosphere of a game played by athletes in their prime. It was a fantastic experience for children, families and staff alike and one we look forward to repeating in the Newcastle Eagles' annual Hoops 4 Health competition where Preston Grange will be able to test their mettle against other schools.



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 10th December, we ask the children to come into school wearing a Christmas jumper, as we are taking part in our annual charity non-uniform day for Save the Children. Donations of £1 towards the charity as welcomed.

Christmas Lunch

The children will be having their Christmas lunch at school on Thursday 9th December.

School buys crackers for all of the children (packed lunch or school dinner) and we play Christmas music in the hall to make the lunchtime really festive.

School meals

Please see below, some information from Catering Services regarding school meals:

All children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 are eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals. Unless you are eligible for benefit-based free school meals you will need to pay for school lunches from the start of Year 3.

School meals are great value at only £2.25 a day. School meals should be paid for:

- online using ParentPay website
- before they are taken
- preferable a week in advance

Paying online means that you can do this at a time that's convenient for you. Pay for school meals online at www.parentpay.com To set up a ParentPay account you require an activation username and password, which can be sent to you by email or letter.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PARENTPAY is managed by North Tyneside Council Catering Services, not your child's school. Please ignore any advice on the ParentPay website, where it asks you to contact your school. Please email your query to parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk Please ensure you include your child's name and school in your email.

Christmas Bauble Competition

Year 6 have been busy designing and printing their own items using Tinkercad and a 3D printer we have on loan. So while we have this resource in school we thought it would spread a little festive cheer to have a Christmas bauble design competition. All children right across school can enter all we need is a simple drawing on a Christmas theme. Our printer can only produce one colour at a time so keep your design all the same colour. The winners will have their bauble design printed to keep. Please see below the images below for some ideas. To enter please ensure your child hands their entry on a piece of white A4 paper to their class teacher by the 10th of December. Remember to clearly label the paper with your child's name and year group.



Retirement

We are sad to inform families that Mr Conaty, our much loved Caretaker, has recently had to retire through ill health reasons. Mr Conaty has been off work for many months and decided to retire due to his deteriorating health. This brings us all great sadness.

As a celebration of Mr Conaty's time at our school, the children are making class cards for him, and writing their memories of him...there are many! We hope to share these with him before Christmas in an assembly celebrating our memories and his dedication to our school.

Every morning Mr Conaty would cycle to school in all weathers, starting hours before his due start time. He would spend hours making sure the site was cleared of ice and snow in Winter, and was everybody's Dad at work. He loved his time as a lunchtime supervisor and has really missed the children since he has been off work. At Christmas he spent hours putting out the decorations, trees and lights, like a big kid waiting to see the children's faces.

It was a joke that Mr County externally would like to be known as grumpy, but he was the most supportive, dedicated member of the staff team, soft as clergy toffee inside. Although he has been absent through shielding and illness, now that his retirement is final, we will miss him SO much and would like to thank him for his commitment to our school and for being there for all of us for many, many years.

Stonewall SCHOOL CHAMPION

Stonewall Award

We are currently taking part in the Stonewall School Champion Award process. This sits well with our ethos of inclusion and equality and alongside our ongoing work with UNICEF and the Rights Respecting School programme.

The Stonewall School Champion Award allows us to feel confident that Preston Grange is celebrating diversity and supporting all our pupils and families to fulfil their potential. This work also supports our fulfilment of our duties as part of the Equality Act (2010). A study of schools in the UK found that schools which share consistent inclusive messages for their whole community have significantly better mental health and wellbeing outcomes for all not just those from the LGBT+ community but all pupils. We were praised by Ofsted for our work in preparing our children for life in modern Britain and believe this work will further strengthen our position in this area.



Thank you!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Manjit Badhwal, Mum of Joshun & Ruban, who donated money to school in memory of her late husband Kam.

We are thrilled to reveal the new football kit that she was really happy to fund.

Curriculum

We have been revising our curriculum in school over the last two years and we have been updating our website with the revised Curriculum information. Please see the following link to view the curriculum overviews:

http://www.pgps.co.uk/website/curriculum_1/407306

Christmas parties

In the last week of term, we will be having Christmas parties for the children. For families new to school, class teachers will send out information about party food nearer the time.

Friends of Preston Grange

I would like to thank the Friends for their recent organisation and donation of snacks and drinks for the children for our annual panto trip. The Friends put a great deal of time and effort into sourcing snacks and drinks, taking into account food intolerances, special diets and allergies. We can't thank you enough ladies!!

In the last week of term, the Friends have also arranged for the children to have a festive morning on Thursday 16th December.

On this morning, the children will watch a Christmas film, have drinks and snacks and make a Christmas craft. For this, the Friends ask that parents send £2 into school in a clearly marked ('Friends of PGPS') envelope, before Thursday 16th December. Thank you once again ladies, we know that the children will have a fantastic, festive time. Thank you for your time and support!

Netball

On the 4th and 18th of November, PGPS Netball Team went to John Spence outside courts for training. They won a few games and drew a few games. They faced lots of different school teams. The next netball game will be the start of the tournament at the indoor courts. We are very proud of the team and wish them all luck.

Written by Martha, Max & India

Dates for your diary

Thurs 2nd Dec - Netball after school KS2

Mon 6th Dec - Non uniform day (see above)

Mon 6th Dec - Year 2 trip to the Discovery Museum

Thurs 9th Dec - Christmas lunch

Fri 10th Dec - Christmas bauble competition entries deadline (Y6)

Fri 10th Dec - Non-uniform day, Christmas jumper day

Mon 13th Dec - Singing to the residents at Redesdale

Tues 14th Dec - Nursery & Reception Xmas party Am

Tues 14th Dec - Year 1 & 2 Xmas party PM

Wed 15th Dec - Year 3 & 4 Xmas party PM

Thurs 16th Dec - Year 5 & 6 Xmas party

Thurs 16th Dec - Friends of PG festive film morning AM

Fri 17th Dec - Break up for Christmas

Tues 4th Jan - **TEACHER TRAINING DAY**

Wed 5th Jan - Children return to school

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, 2nd December 2021