

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - November 26th 2014



Bikeability Year 3

Last Thursday, Year 3 took part in Bikeability Level 1. Unfortunately due to the dreadful weather on Friday, Year 4 had to be postponed. The children in Year 4 will do their Bikeability in Spring term, a new date will be sent to parents in the new term. The children in Year 3 spent half a day with Paul Adams, Bikeability Officer in North Tyneside. Please see the website for some pictures.

Superheroes

On Friday 14th November, the children came into school in Superhero t-shirts or outfits; here are some pictures from the day. Many thanks for the generous donations for Children in Need, we raised £166. Thank you for your support.



Choir



This term we have seen new children join the school choir, and they have really been enjoying working on Tuesday lunchtime with Mr Chappell, our visiting Choir teacher. The choir are currently working towards performing at North Shields Victorian Christmas Market on Saturday 13th December (time tbc), as well as our annual carol singing at Rake Lane Hospital.

Praise Party for Year 1 & 2



Last week, Claire Earl and members of Cullercoats Methodist Church came into school once again to put on a Praise Party for our Year 1 and 2 children. The children had a lovely afternoon in the hall. They listened to a Christian story about belief and having strength in your own beliefs, which was then brought to life with drama and art. We would like to extend our thanks to the members of the church who came into school.

Reception arts & crafts afternoon for parents

Thank you to all of the families who attended our recent arts and crafts afternoon in Reception class. The next arts and craft session will be on **Wednesday 3rd December at 3pm.**

Panto

It is fast approaching that time of year ! We are going to the Theatre Royal to see the pantomime as a whole school trip on Tuesday 2nd December in the afternoon. Thank you for all of the kind offers of help, however for the annual pantomime trip, we take the whole staff, regular helpers and governors. A letter with full details about the trip to the pantomime has been sent out. If you have not received this letter, please see Mrs Boyd in the school office, or download it from the school website.

Netball Team

We would like to wish our Year 5 & 6 Netball Team good luck in their forthcoming games. They have had two weeks coaching and now face two weeks of competition. Good luck everyone !

Mobile phones

We have noticed recently that there are a few children in Year 4 who have mobile phones on them at school. Please note that we allow only our Year 5 & 6 children their mobile phones to school thank you.

Be Safe, Be Seen

Kian our Bike It Officer worked with Year 5 last week, teaching the children how to be safe and be seen on their bikes at this time of year. This involved teaching them the importance of wearing clothing with reflective strips and using lights on their bike, so that drivers can see them whilst they are on their bikes. Year 6 will be doing the same session with Kian later this week.

Year 5 Athletics

We are proud of our Year 5 children for their participation in a recent North Tyneside track and field athletics competition between other local schools. Overall, our girls teams came 5th and 6th, and our boys team came 4th. The whole class did extremely well; there were also many children who were successful individually in events. Individual 1st place winners of events were:

Ethan Ramsay - javelin

Jack Cook - vertical jump, balance test

Well done to everyone in Year 5 ! We are incredibly proud of them.

Parent survey

A huge thank you to all of our parents for completing the recent parent surveys. We were really pleased that such a significant number of our families participated in the survey. For your information, we are sending home to parents the findings from the survey and a copy of the parent comments. The results were overwhelmingly positive, and we thank you very much for your honest and valuable feedback. The company who analyse the survey for our school, commented that our parent comments are the best that they have read to date in the six years they have been working on school self-evaluation !

I would like to thank the staff and Governors for their constant hard work, commitment and dedication to our school, and the school community and parents for the fantastic support that we receive. We are also grateful for any feedback that you give as it helps us continue to improve, and should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to ask.

In analysing the survey, we found that the following question, the majority of parents answered as 'neither agree nor disagree' : 'the school gives my child information on how to deal with such things as alcohol and drugs. This made us realise that perhaps we had not explained how this particular matter (drugs and alcohol education) is taught across school. As a result of this, we have tried to explain some examples of how this is taught, below. For information, our curriculum may be found on our website www.prestongrangeprimary.co.uk under the 'about' section. Should you have any specific questions about any aspect of the curriculum or how something is taught in school, please ask your child's class teacher.

- **Drugs and Alcohol Education**

At Preston Grange we deliver the curriculum content for drugs and alcohol education in different ways. Our main aim is to deliver curriculum content at age appropriate levels either through our class based topic work or through our 'castles' time.

For example, in Year 2 science, children identify drugs in the context of medicines, and how they can help to keep us healthy. The children learn about how medicines should be stored, how to stay safe around them and how they can be dangerous.

Within the Year 6 science curriculum, children are taught to recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function. Alcohol and drugs awareness is built into this science topic.

We would also like to explain one of the valid points raised under the parent comment section:

- **The time that the school bell rings**

In the morning at our school, the bell rings at 9am. We don't ring it at 8.55am for a 9am start, because the start time of the school day depends on the timings of the rest of the school day. For example, our home time bell goes at 3.30pm, which is later than most primary schools. At some schools, their bell goes before 9am but their home time may be 3.20pm. It is also dependent on whether there are playtimes in the morning and afternoon, how long these are, and how long lunchtime is. That is the reason that our school day starts at 9am.

We did however find that our bell (which is a digital/electronic bell) was set two minutes late. This has now been corrected and we hope that this has tightened up our timings. Finally, once the bell rings at 9am and the staff are on the yard, please feel free to leave your child/children at that point. Please don't feel that you need to wait until your child's line has gone into school.

Well done

This week, Amelie in Year 2 performed with her dance and drama group, at The Sage in Newcastle. We are really proud of her being so young and performing in front of so many people at The Sage. Well done Amelie !

Maggies total

We are delighted that our fundraising for Maggies is currently £3,173.70 ! This is a fantastic achievement, and we are well on our way to hit our target of £5000 by the end of the school year. Thank you so much to all of our school community for their amazing support.

Dates for your diary

Thurs 27th Nov - Year 5 Astronaut visit to Centre for Life, Newcastle

Fri 28th Nov - Year 6 Be Safe, Be Seen session (with Kian, Bike It Officer)

Fri 28th Nov - Open afternoon for prospective parents for September 2015 Reception class

Tues 2nd Dec - Whole school trip to the panto (Snow White, Theatre Royal)

Thurs 4th Dec - Year 5 & 6 Netball @ King Edwards (3.45-4.45pm)

Tues 9th Dec - Christingle service, Christchurch 6-8pm

Thurs 11th Dec - Christmas lunch

Thurs 11th Dec - Year 5 & 6 Netball @ King Edwards (3.45-4.45pm)

Fri 12th Dec - Christmas jumper day (Save the Children) non uniform

Fri 12th Dec - KS1 Christmas production, doors open 9.10am

Fri 12th Dec - KS2 Christmas production, doors open 2.20pm

Mon 15th Dec - KS2 Christmas production, doors open 9.10am

Mon 15th Dec - KS1 Christmas production, doors open 2.20pm

Tues 16th Dec - Reception, Year 1 & 2 Christmas party (pm)

Wed 17th Dec - Year 3 & 4 Christmas party (pm)

Wed 17th Dec - Christmas tuck shop run by Friends of Preston Grange

Thurs 18th Dec - Year 5 & 6 Christmas party (pm)

Fri 19th Dec - Break up for Christmas

Please note, children return to school on **Tuesday 6th January 2015** (Mon 5th is a Teacher Training Day)

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, November 26th 2014

