

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - October 15th 2013



Year 5 are bee-ing good

Year 5 have been learning about life cycles, particularly those of plants. They have discovered that insects have a vital role in pollination. Mr Pearce, a local bee-keeper, visited to talk about the importance of looking after our bees and how they are vital to the survival of the planet. His message was simple; no bees, less pollination, fewer crops. Shown in the pictures is some of the bee-keeper's honey, still on the comb and two Y5s helping with an investigation into bee handling.



Eden Camp

Despite a delayed bus and a long journey, Years 5 and 6 eventually made it to Eden Camp. They spent the day exploring the huts which were full of WW2 artefacts. They walked through The Blitz and experienced an underwater submarine. After lunch the classes were entertained by a traditional musical hall style puppet show and all joined in with Vera Lynn's "We'll meet again". Pictured are some Year 5 girls taking cover in a bomb shelter!



Year 4 Dove Marine Trip

On Tuesday last week, Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Dove Marine Laboratory in Cullercoats Bay. We learned about marine pollution and what we can do to protect our seas and the animals in them. The sun shone as we hunted in rock pools and collected shore crabs, hermit crabs, ribbon worms, anemones and starfish. Back in the lab we sorted our organisms by species and were introduced to some colossal creatures from the deep.



School office

Our school office is an extremely busy place, and Mrs Boyd and Mrs Royle have been dealing with multiple slips and school trips recently. In order to reduce the queue at the school office on some mornings, we ask that you put any reply slips or money in envelopes in your child's book bags, clearly labelled with your child's class, full name and labelled with



'panto money' for example. The class teachers as part of morning registration routines, always ask the children to empty their book bag for any letters or envelopes from home. This also encourages independence in the children, something which we are always trying to develop. We would also ask that where possible, when money is sent into school in envelopes with the children, that you please also send the correct change if at all possible. Finally, there have been a couple of occasions recently, involving after school clubs which are delivered by external providers, and have unfortunately had to be cancelled. In the event of this, a text will be sent out to all parents of children involved. Please check your phone, if your number is the main contact on a day when your child is due to attend a club, in case the club has been cancelled. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

Thank you

I would like to thank all families for the support with the Speedmark challenge recently. Please can any remaining sponsor money be returned to the school office by Friday 18th October at the latest. I will then inform parents how much money the challenge has raised for school. Thank you again for your support.

School calendar

We are planning to take photos for the school calendar between now and the end of the half term. Please see below what sort of themes we intend for each month of the year. We would be grateful if you would identify the month of your child/childrens' birthday, and if possible could your child please bring into school the items appropriate to that theme, as soon as possible. These items would be needed in school until all photos have been taken, and we ask that the items are marked clearly with the child's name to avoid any confusion. As we are a bit short on props such as artificial flowers, Christmas items etc, these would be very useful and much appreciated. Please feel free to use your imagination in line with the themes suggested below. Thank you very much for your help with this:

January	Winter - winter coats, hats, gloves
February	Valentine's Day - hearts, flowers
March	Spring - artificial flowers, daffodils, lambs
April	April showers - umbrellas, wellies, raincoats
May	May pole - bright coloured t-shirt
June	Sport - tennis rackets, cricket bats, PE kits
July	Holidays - holiday wear, sunglasses, sun hats, shorts, t-shirts
August	Holidays - holiday wear, sunglasses, sun hats, shorts, t-shirts
September	New school year - normal uniform, book bags
October	Autumn - harvest festival, pumpkin, Halloween costume
November	Bonfire night - hats, scarves, poppies
December	Christmas - Santa hats, Christmas cuddly toys, reindeer, tinsel etc

Should you wish your child not to be included in the school calendar, please complete the slip below and return to the school office **by Friday 18th October** at the latest thank you.

Harvest Festival

A reminder that Harvest Festival tickets are available at the school office, two per family

for either the morning or afternoon performance. These will be available until Monday 21st October, at which point if there are spare tickets, they will be released for people who require extra tickets.

Gasworks safety

Next Monday 21st October, the whole school will be having a Playsafe presentation for 20 minutes from Northern Gasworks. This is due to there being planned gas insertion works which are going to take place on Benbrake Avenue this month. The presentation teaches the children about the gas works and the dangers of playing next to the barriers etc. Northern Gasworks bring barriers and men at works signs into school, and provide an interactive safety talk so that our children are aware of the dangers of playing out when there are gasworks in the local environment.

Operation Christmas Child

If you would like to put together a Christmas shoe box for the charity Operation Christmas Child, we would be grateful if they are sent into school for the first week back after the holidays, week commencing Monday 4th November.

Friends of Preston Grange

The Friends of Preston Grange AGM will be held at the Foxhunters on Thursday at 6.30pm. All welcome.

Key dates before half term

Thursday 17th October - school will be closed to all children (Industrial action)

Monday 21st October - Decorated vegetable family competition entries into school

Tuesday 22nd October - Harvest Festival: two performances (9.15 for 9.30am start and 2.15 for 2.30pm start)

Wednesday 23rd October - Halloween disco (Key Stage 1 2.30- 3.30pm) (Key Stage 2 disco 3.30pm - 4.45pm) Please note, children will be given time in school to get into their Halloween costumes.

Thursday 24th October - Individual childrens' school photos (Tempest)

Friday 25th October - Wear it Pink for Breast Cancer, charity day. All children to come into school wearing pink (be as creative as you like !) and bring a suggested donation of £1 for Breast Cancer research.

Friday 25th October - last day of school before half term holiday. Please note, children return to school on Monday 4th November.

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 4th November - Christmas shoe boxes to be sent into school this week

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, 15th October 2013

Preston Grange Primary School Calendar 2013

I do NOT wish my child/childrens' photo to be included in the school calendar.

Name of child/children.....

Class/es.....

Signed.....

Please return to the school office by **Friday 18th October** at the latest thank you.

