

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – February 2nd 2024



E Safety workshop

As part of Internet Safety Day (celebrated on February 6th) we are inviting families into school for an e-safety workshop. Mr Russell-Thompson will lead the session looking at the fundamentals of keeping children safe while using technology. The most popular time on our recent survey was 4:30pm, so we will be running the session on Tuesday 6th February at 4:30pm. Please note this is a session for adults only and there will be no childcare facilities.

Competition Time!



Look out for our 'Guess the Teacher' competition coming up soon. The competition will run in the weeks leading up to World Book Day. Entry will be via our Twitter/X page. The more teachers you guess correctly, the more entries go into the hat. There are 3 prizes up for grabs with winners announced on World Book Day.

Further details will follow shortly, keep checking our Twitter/X page (@pg_primary).

Parents evening

The next parent appointments will be on Tuesday 27th February, and the booking system will be going live on Monday 5th February, closing at 9am on Friday 16th February. A text will be sent out as a reminder to book to meet your child's class teacher/s. Appointments will be available from 2pm until 7.30pm.

Maths Apps

It has come to Mr Russell-Thompson's attention that a few families have been asking for recommendations of apps which would support children's mathematical understanding alongside the regular practice of times tables. Below are some options:

- 1 Minute Maths - A free app from White Rose which helps children build number confidence & fluency through engaging, 1-minute tasks.
- NumBots - An app which needs a subscription but helps children build number confidence & fluency by working through a series of tasks related to number sense.
- Times Table Rockstars (Y2 and above) - An app which needs a subscription but allows children to become faster at answering times table questions.

Of course, there are lots of non-screen based activities which also enhance mathematical learning.

- Board games e.g. snakes and ladders, shut the box - reading dice, counting on, adding dice together
- Card Games e.g. Snap, go fish! Crazy eights, Uno - number identification, mental addition and subtraction.

Mr Russell-Thompson's personal recommendation of a really simple game for young children is the counter game. Both players start off with 5 counters (any objects work inc. coins or toys). You each roll a dice. The person with the highest number takes one of the other player's objects. The game ends with one player having all ten counters. N.B. You can reduce or increase the number of objects to lengthen or shorten the game according to attention span or to make the game more difficult both players roll both dice and add them together.

Please contact school if you would like any further advice about recommendations to support your child at home with Maths.

Parent/Grandparent helpers

Thank you in advance to parents and grandparents who will be accompanying the upcoming Year 1 & 2 multi-skills competitions at John Spence.

Dance Festival

Our Year 2 children will be performing in the North Tyneside Dance Festival at The Parks on Monday 4th March. More information about tickets for families will be sent out in due course.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health week will take place on Monday 5th to Friday 9th February and the theme will be 'My Voice Matters.' Children across school will be taking part in a wide range of activities covering and including:

Different families / same love (Stonewall)
The importance of rest and sleep
Building your Mental Health Toolkit
The 5 ways to wellbeing (revisit)
Self-esteem potions
What makes me twinkle and Shine



Mrs Spowart will be delivering whole class Thrive sessions across the week, Mr Whitenstall and Mrs Ward will be delivering PSHE lessons to all classes. Lastly, our Connect Mental Health Team in school will also be delivering sessions in school.

On Friday 9th February, we ask that the children come into school in non-uniform; they can choose what they would like to wear as part of the theme of expressing yourself & being unique.

It should be an exciting week! Thank you to Miss Knowles for organising and planning such a fantastic range of activities with everyone. Please keep an eye on our school Twitter account to see what the children have been up to across the week (@pg_primary)

Early Years open morning

Have you ever wondered what your children get up to during the school day? Would you like to see our new outdoor provision for Early Years in use? On Friday 8th March, we would like to invite our parents of current Nursery and Reception children to a 'drop in' at school either **between 9.15am and 11.15am**, to be able to see the children and curriculum in action. Please note that the drop in will not start until **9.15am**, so that the staff can get the morning off to a start first but families are welcome to have a coffee in the hall first.

We look forward to seeing as many of our parents in school as possible on the 8th March.

Valentines Discos

We have a bunch of very proactive Year 5 children, who approached me to ask if they could plan Valentine discos for the rest of the children. We currently have no active Friends of Preston Grange or PTA, but we would still like to try to offer our children some additional seasonal activities across the year, so the planning of the Valentine discos has been handed over to the 'Incredible 8!'



They have worked extremely hard, planned posters, letters and stalls and will be writing to families next week to explain the detail. I am extremely proud of them because they have taken into account Early Years (morning 'disco') and also factored in that Year 1 are at a multi-skills event on the 14th. This has all been taken into account ☺ Please note, if you are available to help at the discos, they may require some additional support and I am sure they will mention this on their letter. We are really proud of the initiative & team work that they have shown!

Twitter

The staff work really hard at sharing the wide range of activities that go on across the school week on our Twitter account. We would like to understand the ongoing level of engagement from families on our Twitter page, so we would be grateful if you are engaging with our account, that you 'like' the posts so that we know if it is worth us continuing this news feed from school. Thank you for your support & engagement.

School term dates 2024/5

Please see on our school website, (www.pgpps.co.uk) the term dates for the upcoming academic year 2024/5.

Dates for your diary

Thurs 1st Feb – LGBTQ+ history month starts
Thurs 1st Feb – Y5/6 hockey after school JSCHS
Mon 5th – Fri 9th Feb – Children's mental health week 'My Voice Matters'
Wed 7th Feb – Nursery – special visitors (secret!)
Wed 7th Feb – Year 2 to Whitley Bay Playhouse (pm)
Fri 9th Feb – Dress to Express non uniform day for all children
Tues 13th Feb – Year 2 multi-skills competition at JSCHS
Wed 14th Feb – Year 1 multi-skills competition at JSCHS
Wed 14th Feb – Valentine's discos
Fri 16th Feb – last day of half term for children

(FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY)

Mon 26th Feb – children return to school
Tues 27th Feb – parent appointments
Mon 4th March – Year 2 at Dance Festival, The Parks (6pm)
Tues 5th March -Heights & weights Reception & Year 6
Thurs 7th March – World Book Day (more info to follow)
Thurs 7th March – Y5/6 Football team to JSCHS (3.45pm)
Fri 8th March - Open morning for Early Years 9.15am – 11.15am
Thurs 14th March – Bikeability catch up session (Y5)
Thurs 28th March – Break up for Easter

Tracey Taylor
Headteacher
February 2nd 2024