

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - September 2nd 2015

Welcome back

We hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely Summer holiday. We are delighted to see them all; the children have returned to school smartly, ready for the new term and have settled back into school life very well.

A special welcome to all of the new Reception children to our school, as well as the three new children we have admitted this term to our school: Olivia (Y3), Krzysztof (Y5) and Lewis (Y5). We hope that the children will be very happy at our school.

We would also like to welcome Miss Daley to Year 6, and Mrs Davidson and Miss Bryant, who have started alongside Mrs Gibson and Mrs Udberg who will be both taking maternity leave this term. Although these teachers do not need to start at our school until the maternity leaves start, due to effective financial management by the school, we have started them both in September. This is a luxury indeed to have two teachers in each of these classes, but we have planned for consistency and a seamless transition between class teachers. Mrs Udberg will go on maternity leave at October half term and Mrs Gibson will go on maternity leave on September 25th.

We also welcome Mrs Vince, who has been appointed as a permanent Teaching Assistant and will be working mornings in school from Monday to Thursday. Mrs Vince previously worked on a temporary basis in Reception class.

Finally we would like to say a huge thank you to both Mrs Monaghan (temporary supply cover in Y3) and Mrs Titterton (Fridays in Y2) who left our school in July. Both members of staff were highly regarded and I know that parents and staff appreciate everything they did for our children. We wish them both well for the future.

Sad news

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Mrs Dunn, a much-loved Teaching Assistant, who retired from school last year due ill health, lost her battle with cancer over the summer holidays. She was incredibly proud and touched by all of the fundraising for Maggie's that our school did. She was a special person and we will all miss her very much.

Maggie's total

At the end of last year, our Maggie's total was £5700.99, and we are delighted that Mr Jamison, who did the Steelman Challenge on the first day of the holidays, raised a further £332. Mr Jamison finished the challenge in under 6 hours - a fantastic achievement! Our final total for Maggie's after an amazing year of fundraising is £6032.99. Thank you everybody for your support.

After school clubs

All after school clubs will start the week beginning September 14th and will run for 6 weeks. The after school club letter is being sent out today.

PE kits

We used to inform parents when each class have their two PE sessions per week, but prefer now that you send your child into school with their PE kit on a Monday. We then encourage the children to leave it on their peg all week and bring it home on a Friday. This enables us to have full kit in school, should there be any timetable changes for PE. Thanks for your support with this matter.

Year 4 will require their swimming kit each Tuesday, as they will be swimming from 11am.

Medical forms

At the end of Summer term, we sent out medical health care plan paperwork for parents to complete ready for the new term. These are in line with our new managing medicines policy, and request full updated details about children's' medical needs, so that we start the school year with everything up to date. If your child has a medical need and you have not returned a completed form, please contact the school office as soon as possible thank you.

Reminders for the start of term

- Tuck shop runs on Friday mornings after well done assembly. Children are to bring no more than 50p thank you.
- Please use the footpath around the car park when leaving the main entrance.
- Please park considerately for our local residents, as there is no access to the school site for parent parking or drop off, unless for accessibility reasons (please see the school office if you require this)
- Please send all forms and money into school with your child via their book bags, and encourage them to hand these to their class teacher at morning registration time.
- Please see our school website on www.prestongrange.primary.co.uk for all up to date news. There is a fortnightly newsletter on a Tuesday which is uploaded to the website to download. Should you require a paper copy, please inform the school office.
- Please encourage your child to cycle or scoot to school, there is 'parking' on site at the front of school. They should get off them once they enter the school site however, and push their bike or scooter.
- School is unable to authorise any term time holiday, other than in exceptional circumstances.
- Earrings must be removed for PE. If your child cannot remove their earrings, they will be given a parallel PE activity to do.

Thank you

If you remember, we needed to recruit some further DBS cleared parents for our list, so that we can continue to offer the wide range of activities we do in school, as the adult to pupil ratios are high especially in Key Stage 1.

We are grateful for those parents who have come forward and have already seen Mrs Boyd in the school office about getting DBS (old CRB) cleared. It is a simple process now,

and only takes approximately one week to come through. The reason that we have to have everybody DBS cleared specifically for our school is for safeguarding reasons; we safeguard our children by carrying out the DBS clearance on everybody who works with them. We really appreciate the parents who have volunteered so far, and if there are any of our new Reception parents who would like to offer either occasional support or regular support to our school (eg. hearing readers, offering to accompany trips) please see Mrs Boyd in the office, thank you.

Defibrillator in school

In Summer term, we invested in a defibrillator, and four staff were trained in its use. You will notice that there is new signage in school notifying people that we have one, and this is kept in the school office.

SATs 2016

We would ask that you do not take your Year 2 or Year 6 child out of school during the month of May, or in the time leading up to the assessment period thank you. Next year there will be statutory assessments for both classes during this time. Year 6 will be sitting 'new style' SATs during the full week of May 9th, and Year 2 will be sitting new formal tests around the same time (dates to be confirmed). More details about the statutory tests for both Year 2 and 6 will be sent out later this half term.

Also, Year 1 children have a phonics test generally around the week of June 20th. Again, we ask that you do not take your child out of school during this time, or in the time leading up to this thank you.

Teacher Training Day

Yesterday we had a Teacher Training Day where we had a visiting independent Maths Consultant, Liz Bailey, who delivered training in Maths to our whole staff. Maths is our key focus this academic year and we will be working with Liz over the coming months.

Reception parents meetings

On Thursday 10th September, Mrs Gibson will be holding a meeting 'how to help your child with Maths' for Reception parents, straight after school in Reception classroom starting at 3.40pm. Mrs Spowart will supervise the children in the ICT room whilst the meeting is taking place.

On Thursday 17th September, Mrs Gibson will be holding a meeting 'how to help your child with Reading' at 3.40pm. We would very much like to see as many parents as possible at the meetings. Please let Mrs Gibson know if you are unable to attend, as she will send some information home with your child.

Contact details

The school office will be sending out a parent/emergency contact form over the next week or so. We would be grateful if these could be returned **by Friday 19th September**. Please ensure that all contact details and phone numbers are up to date and correct before you send these into school so that we have completely up to date correct details for the new school year, in case we need to contact you. Thank you.

Admissions

Is your child due to start school or transfer to a new school in September 2016? From 11th September, you can apply for their place. Please apply online at www.northtyneside.gov.uk. Alternatively you can complete a paper application form.

You need to apply if your child is due to start school (Reception) for the first time in September 2016, or if your child is due to move to the next stage of education (eg. Primary to Secondary).

Application deadlines are: 30th October 2015 for High School applications and 15th January 2016 for Reception class places. If you have any questions or need further help with your application, please telephone 6438724 or 6438723.

Dates for your diary:

Mon 1st Sept - Teacher Training Day

Tues 8th Sept - deadline for after school clubs sign up

Thurs 10th Sept - Reception parents 'how to help your child with Maths'

Mon 14th Sept - Clubs start this week

Thurs 17th Sept - Reception parents 'how to help your child with Reading'

Fri 18th Sept - Jeans 4 Genes Day (non uniform day)

Fri 16th Oct - Harvest Festival (9.15am)

Tues 20th Oct - Year 5 & 6 Hoops 4 Health basketball training

Thurs 22nd Oct - Individual school photos (school photographer)

Fri 23rd Oct - Wear it Pink Day (non uniform day for Breast Cancer)

Fri 23rd Oct - Break up for half term

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, September 4th 2015

