

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - February 6th 2018

Parents evenings

This half term is extremely short, and so is next half term. Therefore we have tried to fit parents appointments in so that they are midway through the term. The dates are: *Wednesday 21st February* and *Monday 26th February* and appointments will run from 3.40pm - 6.20pm.

Mrs Royle will be setting up the appointment booking system for Wednesday this week, so that parents may start to book a 10 minute appointment slot. A text will be sent when the booking system is live. For Nursery parents, a 5 minute slot is offered with Nursery staff on the same evenings starting at 3.40pm.



Inflatable planetarium

This Friday we will be having an inflatable dome in school, which will be set up all day in the hall for each class to visit in turn. The children will have a presenter led session that covers some of each year group's Science curriculum, and then they will also be shown a 360 degree film. It should be a fantastic experience for the children! Please see our Twitter account for photos and film of the day.

Questionnaires

I would like to thank parents for returning the questionnaires which are being done as we launch the Nutri Troops programme in school this term. Students from the University are assessing how much knowledge the children have at the start of the project, in the areas of healthy living and nutrition. They are also keen to get views and opinions of parents. If you haven't returned your questionnaire yet, please could you send it back to the school office by Friday this week at the latest, thank you very much.

Parking

You may have noticed that at the main entrance, there have been builders vans as the house at the entrance to school is having building works carried out. Due to the vans being parked on the yellow zig zag lines right across the school day, we alerted the Local Authority parking and roadways team. Those yellow lines are there for the safety of our children.

As a result of logging our concerns, there will be several visits from the camera car over the next few weeks at both entrances to school and particularly around the main entrance. We ask that everybody parks with the safety of our children in mind at all times, thank you.

A note from the Friends of Preston Grange

If any of our families are able to support at the Valentine discos this week please contact either Lisa Short (Mum of Lucy in Y3) or the school office. Key Stage 1 disco runs from 2.30-3.30pm, but we will need help from anytime after 1.30 in setting up the hall. If you're able to help at the Key Stage 2 disco, your help will be needed from 3.30-5pm (there is some help needed in tidying up after the disco) Many thanks for the offers of support and a HUGE thanks to the Friends of Preston Grange for their time and support to school, we really appreciate it!!

Welcome to Miss Mills

Our school is part of the Whitley Bay High School Teaching Alliance along with Spring Gardens Primary, King Edward Primary and South Wellfield First School. We host and train School Direct students as a school based route into teaching. Mr Russell was a School Direct student with us last year and we then appointed him as a class teacher at the end of his training.



Miss Henderson is our host student this year; she worked in Year 3 in Autumn term but is now carrying out a placement at another school, and we in turn offer a placement to the host student from King Edwards Primary, Miss Mills.

Miss Mills will be carrying out her placement for the 4 weeks after half term and is currently in school working alongside the Year 1 team in preparation for her placement. Parents will be able to meet Miss Mills at the start and end of the day as of this week. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Miss Wright.

Competition for world changing ideas

Last week we had an assembly that helped launch a regional competition that will see primary age children come up with ideas which could change the world for the better. Sam Galilee from North Tyneside Learning Trust gave an inspirational presentation on how the children could use their imaginations and creativity to make a difference.

#TyneTogether2018 is being run by North Tyneside Learning Trust, the schools group which our school is a part of, and *7billionideas*. It is open to Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils across the region from North Tyneside Learning Trust schools and this is the second year that the competition has run. The children will work in small groups to

come up with 'world-changing' ideas to make a positive difference in their local and global communities, in the hope of being shortlisted for the competition final in March. The winning idea will be turned into a children's book that will go live onto Amazon.

After half term, we will run an after school club run by Mr Young on Fridays, at which the children will complete their projects for the competition. Please watch out for information about the club if your child is interested in participating in this project.

Spare clothes

We would be grateful if anyone has any of our school spare clothes at home if they could be returned to school thanks, as our supplies are running low. If anyone has any tights, socks, pants in good condition that your child may have grown out of, we would be happy to take them off your hands to top up our spare clothes box. Thank you!

Basketball game



Advanced notice that on Friday March 2nd, there will be a group trip to a Newcastle Eagles basketball game from school, following The Eagles offering our school discounted tickets. A coach will be provided from school, leaving at 6pm and returning approximately 9.45pm. Adult tickets have been offered at a discounted rate of £7 each. A separate letter will follow, with a form to complete for tickets.

The Eagles have also offered us a mascot space (1 person to run on court with a player during the team intro) and a photo with the Eagles team at the end of the game. Each child that comes along to the game will be entered into a draw, and the winner will be a mascot on the night!

Nina's t-shirts

This week Nina in Year 5 will start to take orders for t-shirts in order to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. She will print the t-shirts with any design and a child's name; see below for a couple of examples she has printed. They look fantastic!



T-shirts are white, and come in sizes 4-5, 5-6, 6-7, 7-8, 8-9, 9-10, 10-11 and 11-12 years old. The cost is either £5 for a design printed on the front only, or £8 for a design on the back and front.

We are really very keen to support Nina in her aim to raise money for this charity as it's close to her heart. If you would like to place an order for a t-shirt, please contact Nina's Dad for orders at the following email address: jfield1968@gmail.com
Thank you for your support.

Grant funding

We are delighted to let you know that an application made by our Early Years staff team to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme, has been successful and our project is being put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores during March and April 2018.

The Early Years team project involves developing the old allotment garden at the back of school for the use of children and the school community, but particularly for use with Early Years children.

Our project along with the other two successful projects is going forward to a vote in Tesco stores, where customers will decide the outcome by voting for their favourite project each time they shop. Voting will take place from Thursday 1st March to Monday 30th April 2018 and we will be notified at the end of May 2018 the amount of funding we will receive.

The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £4,000 the second placed project £2,000 and the third placed project £1,000. If we are first in the vote, we will receive the amount that we requested ie. £4000.

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on our project. Feel free to share this list of stores amongst your friends, family and within our community. We need lots of votes!

- Battle Hill Wallsend Tesco Express
- Billy Mill Tesco Express
- Claremont Whitley Lodge Tesco Express
- North Shields Tesco Extra
- Cobalt Tesco Express

Hockey

Well done to the Year 6 students who represented Preston Grange last Thursday evening at the hockey tournament at Queen Alexandra College. Yellow team were placed second and Blue team came fourth. A fantastic effort, especially having two teams from one class in the top four! Both teams performed well and showed great sportsmanship. We are very proud!



Thank you!

A huge thank you to Mr Blythe for sending a very large range of children's DVDs into school. They will be extremely useful as we had a very small selection of DVDs in school before we received these. Thanks again!

Half term holiday

The children break up for half term this Friday. It hardly seems like two minutes since we returned from the Christmas holidays! There is no teacher training day after half term, and we look forward to the children returning to school on Monday 19th February. We hope that everyone has a lovely half term.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, February 6th 2018