

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - January 10th 2017

Happy New Year

Happy New Year, and welcome back. We hope that everybody had a wonderful Christmas holiday. The children returned to school full of enthusiasm for their learning!

Reading tipi fund

We have raised £1267 so far towards the tipi for the children. This is made up of Bedtime story day, Christmas ticket and raffle money. Still to add to this total is the money raised by Friends of Preston Grange. Please see the hall window display for the amount as it increases. Many thanks for your support.

Swimming helpers



This term and next, Year 3 will go swimming on a Friday afternoon. This is part of their PE curriculum. Each week we need three parents so that we have the required ratio at the baths for supervision purposes. We are currently short of helpers, and would be grateful for any parents that could possibly help to come forward. Please note: you are not required to wear a swimming costume or go into the water) Please ring the school office if you would be able to help - even if it is just for the occasional Friday afternoon. The children need to be on the bus by 1.50pm, and they return by 3.10pm. Many thanks for your support.

Reading at home Year 3 & 4

We have been disappointed in speaking to our Year 3 and 4 children to find that many of them are not reading books at home. We used to have a system where we asked for an adult signature each time when the children had read, but chose to move away from this system as we wanted the children to read for pleasure and hoped that they would do this of their own accord, and take responsibility for reading themselves. We also introduced a new reward system to motivate the children. We would prefer not to have to return to the system of an adult signature each day, but we need your help to do this. We ask that at home, you support us in getting your child to pick up a book and read it for even 15 minutes a night. As well as having stories read to them, they should be independently reading every night, either aloud to parents or to themselves.



If your child reads from the reading scheme, they do still need to be reading every night, and if they are on free readers, then they should be enjoying reading their own choice of book. If they aren't, then they haven't chosen the right book. We ask that you work with us to help engage the children in reading, and we will review this with the children again in two weeks before deciding whether to return to the previous system or not. We will of course be

talking to the children about them enjoying books and taking responsibility for reading their books themselves, especially with our new reading reward scheme.

Scholastic books

Your child will have brought home the Scholastic book magazine tonight from school - if not please call into the school office. If you would like to order any books, please return the order form by Friday January 20th at the latest, thank you.

Parents evenings

Parents evenings for this term will be after the February half term holiday on Monday 6th March and Tuesday 7th March. Appointment letters will be sent out nearer the end of half term.

Friends of Preston Grange

Thanks to all involved with the Friends of Preston Grange for their hard work and creativity in making Christmas arts & crafts for the children to buy before Christmas! Their stall raised an amazing £353.30 in a very short space of time. Thank you to everybody for supporting the stall.

After school clubs

All after school clubs run for 6 weeks. On Mondays it is Curling club, on Thursdays it is 'Big board game bonanza' club and on Fridays, there is Amazing Artists club. All clubs run from 3.30-4.30pm, except Judo which runs until 4.35pm. Please note, all children who attend an after school club must be collected by an adult.

PE this term

Each half term we get specialist PE input from Mr Pilkington from John Spence, who teaches specific year groups ahead of competitions or events. The class teachers observe and work alongside Mr Pilkington during these lessons. This half term he is working in Year 1 and 2 teaching multi-skills, and teaching Year 6 hockey.

On March 6th, Year 2 will be performing in the North Tyneside Dance Festival at The Parks at 6pm. Information and tickets to follow.

Show Racism the Red Card

Later this month we have arranged for the charity Show Racism the Red Card to come into school to deliver workshops with our Year 5 and 6 children. Please see the dates below.

Career speed dating

On 7th February, we have arranged a 'career speed dating' event for our Year 5 and 6 children. This has been arranged through North Tyneside Learning Trust, who have organised ten different employers to come into school. The children will have devised a series of questions for each employer, and they will move around the hall, getting 5 minutes with each employer, with the aim of working out what their job is.

We think that the children will learn a great deal about the world of work - which too often is left until Secondary school for them to find out. In the meantime, Mr Burgess and Miss

Daley will talk to their classes about three jobs in our school and what the children think the jobs entail. We would be grateful if your child is in Year 5 or 6 that you please talk to your child about what your job is, what it entails and what skills you require to be able to do your job. Many thanks for your support!

ICT developments

When we opened the Nursery we used the room that was the ICT suite. We have no spare room to set up another ICT suite unfortunately, but we have since invested in 16 laptops and a charger trolley in addition to the ipads that we have in school, in order for the children to be able to access the Computing curriculum. Over the holidays, we have also invested in a new wi-fi network in school and have connected the mobile classroom and after school club to the wi-fi network, as well as installing interactive whiteboards in the small group intervention rooms we use. We are really pleased with these improvements to our ICT in school, as they will benefit the children and their learning.

Space themed lunch

On Thursday 19th January the kitchen staff will be putting on a fun day 'space' themed meal for school lunch. We would love it if as many children as possible could stay for school lunch- please encourage your child to stay for school lunch that day.

Dates for your diaries

Tues 17th Jan - Y5 Safety campaign workshop (pm)

Wed 18th Jan - Show Racism the Red Card workshops Y5 & 6

Thurs 19th Jan - Space themed school lunch

Thurs 2nd Feb - football team to JSCHS 3.30pm

Tues 7th Feb - Safer internet day

Tues 7th Feb - career speed dating Y5 & 6 (pm)

Thurs 9th Feb - Hoops 4 Health at Lakeside - Year 5

Wed 15th Feb - Year 2 multi-skills JSCHS

Fri 17th Feb - Break up for half term

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, January 10th 2017