

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - November 11th 2015



Children in Need

This Friday is Children in Need and the children in school have requested to come into school wearing their pyjamas or onesies. We have agreed to this, and would suggest a donation of £1 for the charity. Please don't feel that you need to buy a new onesie or pyjamas for your child but rather send them in ones that they already have. Thank you for your support.



The pitter patter of tiny feet

Congratulations to Mrs Blackett, who has announced that she is expecting a baby in April. We are delighted with her news. It is likely that Mrs Blackett will take her maternity leave from Easter onwards.

PE kit

We would be grateful if parents could return the spare PE kit which we allow the children to use, if they forget their own. We have a small stock of kit in drawers in each Key Stage, and there is none in the Key Stage 2 drawer currently. We would be grateful for it to be returned to the school office thank you.

Pantomime trip

Thank you for the many offers of help that we have received for the Pantomime trip. We have more Teaching Assistants and staff than we have previously had in other years, and also have another 6 more children in school compared to last year at this time. Therefore the number of parent adult helpers we need to take, is less than we usually require. We have already approached governors, regular helpers in school and then will only contact additional parents if we need any other help. Thank you for the offers however.

Ofsted report

Thank you for the comments about our recent Ofsted report. I would like to clarify something that I was asked this week by a parent, regarding the report. The difference in this new Ofsted framework under which we were inspected, is that Achievement is a limiting judgement. This means that if Ofsted grades Achievement a 2 (Good), then all of the other categories can be no higher than a 2. This is a restriction of the new framework.

Our school satisfied a significant number of the 'Outstanding' criteria in each of the categories, but whilst the achievement of Reading and Writing is '*outstanding*', achievement in Maths is '*good*' (and is our key focus this year, as I explained to parents in

September) so we were not able to be given a 1 (outstanding) for achievement overall. This in turn meant that every other category had to be a 2 - even when we satisfy a great deal of the outstanding criteria for Behaviour and Safety, Early Years, Teaching and Learning and Leadership and Management. Under a previous framework our school would have been said to be 'good with outstanding features' as other schools have been told. But this cannot be the case now under the new framework.

Although we are happy with the positives in the report, there are some frustrations particularly with the fact that our children, whose behaviour we know is outstanding, couldn't even be awarded outstanding due to the limitations of this framework. I have written to Michael Wilshaw at Ofsted, but have had no response as yet.

We are proud of our children, we are always working hard to further improve our school, on our journey towards becoming an outstanding school. We would like to say thank you very much to the Governors, staff, parents and children for all of the support and hard work along the way.

Christmas productions

This year will be the same as last year in that there will be two different Christmas productions; Key Stage 1 (Reception, Y1 and 2) and then Key Stage 2 (Years 3,4, 5 and 6.) The productions will be on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December:

Thurs 10th 9.30 am - KS1

Thurs 10th 2.15pm - KS2

Fri 11th 9.30am - KS2

Fri 11th 2.15pm - KS1

More information about tickets for the productions will follow.

Christmas parties

Christmas parties this year are on the following days. Each teacher will send out a note regarding food to send into school for the party, nearer the time:

Mon 14th Dec - Reception party (pm)

Tues 15th Dec - Year 1 & 2 party (pm)

Wed 16th - Year 3 & 4 party (pm)

Thurs 17th - Year 5 & 6 party (pm)

Christmas lunch

Christmas lunch this year will be on Thursday 10th December. If your child is in Key Stage 2 and would like to stay for Christmas lunch, it will cost £2.08 and this may be paid by paying online after you have registered for Joinos at the following website:

www.joinos.com

Scholastic books

Please can you send into school any orders for Scholastic books by Monday 16th November at the latest thank you. Please note, we are unable to accept debit/credit cards and cheques should be made payable to Preston Grange Primary School.

Good luck Miss Minto

Tonight Miss Minto is doing a firewalk in aid of Maggie's, like the one the staff did last year. We wish her lots of luck !

Dates for your diary

Tues 17th Nov - Year 5 & 6 Hoops 4 Health training

Thurs 19th Nov - High 5 Netball (King Edwards)

Thurs 26th Nov - football team to JSCHS

Thurs 3rd Dec - Whole school trip to pantomime 1pm - 5.30pm

Tues 8th Dec - Christingle service at Christchurch North Shields, 6.30pm

Thurs 10th Dec - Christmas lunch

Thurs 10th Dec - Christmas productions am & pm (see above for times)

Fri 11th Dec - Christmas productions am & pm (see above for times)

Mon 14th Dec - Reception party

Tues 15th Dec - Year 1 & 2 party

Wed 16th Dec - Year 3 & 4 party

Thurs 17th Dec - Year 5 & 6 party

Fri 18th - Christmas jumper day (Save the Children)

Fri 18th Dec - break up for Christmas

NB. Children return to school on Tuesday January 5th.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, November 11th 2015