

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - April 5th 2017

Apologies

I would like to apologise for the gap in recent newsletters. Although they are released fortnightly on Tuesdays, there was a run of three, where they were released each week. Then there has been a gap of three weeks due to me being out of school for some time last week. Yesterday, the newsletter was just about finished and Word completely crashed and lost the whole newsletter! So, finally here it is.

Newsletters will revert to being fortnightly after the Easter break. In the meantime, please visit our Twitter feed (see at the bottom of this newsletter) for daily up to date information and news.

Menu

The kitchen staff have asked us to remind parents that there will be a new three week menu for school lunches, starting after the holidays. Please find a copy of the menu at <http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/240/menus#menu>.

Freeze pop Fridays

Back by popular request! After the Easter break, we will be resuming ice pops being sold at the end of the school day from the yard. The ice pops will cost 20p.

The Big Pedal

Thank you to all of our children who scooted or cycled to school during the Big Pedal fortnight. Thank you so much for supporting this. Here is a breakdown of each year group's journeys:

Nursery -122 journeys

Reception- 110 journeys

Year 1- 152 journeys

Year 2- 143 journeys

Year 3- 163 journeys

Year 4- 93 journeys

Year 5- 126 journeys

Year 6- 34 journeys

Preston Grange Has Talent

This Thursday morning at 9.10am, will be the final of Preston Grange has Talent. All families and parents of the children in the final are welcome to come and watch. Good luck to all of our acts, we are incredibly proud of them all for their recent performances.

Mothers Day Stall

A huge thank you to the Friends of Preston Grange for raising £170 towards school fund from the recent Mothers Day stall. We are really grateful for the support. Thanks to all who were involved in making the stall such a success.

Castle points

We recently started a new system for collecting castle points; the children will likely have mentioned them to you. Previously, the children added castle points onto a class chart using a tally system. We have replaced this with castle point tokens. The children post these to their castle jars in their classroom: Red = 1 castle point, silver = 5 castle points and gold = 10 castle points. The children are enjoying seeing them visibly mount up over the week. Thank you to Mr Conaty for cutting the slots into 42 jars!



Class assemblies

In Summer term, each class does a class assembly for parents and families. Please find the dates of class assemblies below:

Wed 17th May - Year 3

Wed 24th May - Year 5

Wed 7th June - Year 6

Wed 14th June - Year 4

Wed 21st June - Year 1

Wed 28th June - Year 2

Wed 5th July - Reception

Please note that on these days, each class assembly will start at 9.10am.

School budget

No doubt you will have heard about or read in the media about how school budgets are to be funded in the future, due to changes in the funding formula made by the government. Our budget for 2017-18 has already been affected even ahead of the new funding formula that will be introduced next year. Although this does not mean having to make any cuts to permanent staffing at school, there are some changes that you may however start to notice over the year. In the past, in order to keep the cost of school trips to a minimum for the affordability of parents, the school budget may often have covered the cost of the bus, or indeed subsidised a visit; these are

the types of changes you may start to notice, as we will no longer be able to continue subsidising activities such as this, so you may notice a small rise in cost to school trips. Obviously we will do our best to minimise any impact on the curriculum or range of activities that we offer our children, and the full impact of the future funding of schools is unclear as yet.

Breakfast club

We are extremely grateful to all of the DBS cleared parents and grandparents who have covered breakfast club over the last three weeks. Seriously, we could not have continued to offer breakfast club without the offers of help that we received. With Mrs Conaty and Mrs Hogarth both being off at the same time, and for over 8 weeks, it was incredibly difficult to cover internally with staff. A huge thank you to: Donna Gibson, Lisa Short, Lisa Bell, Jim Nicholson and Karen Grieve, as well as our teaching assistants who had previously covered in the mornings. We are so grateful for all of your support.

A reminder also, that following the Easter break, the cost of breakfast session per day will go up to £3.

Easter eggs

You have not disappointed us again with this year's family egg competition! The family eggs have been out of this world, and you have been eggstremely imaginative! Thank you so much for entering the competition.

Thank you also for sending hard-boiled eggs into school with your child. Each class decorated their eggs and have displayed them on a table in the hall. There are 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for each class as there is for the family egg competition. The children have enjoyed looking at the eggs with their class, but please feel free to come into school after home time and look at the eggs displayed in school. We ask that all eggs are collected and taken home by Thursday morning at the latest, otherwise there is a strong eggy smell in school - we know from experience! Please find photos of each class's winners and family winning eggs on our twitter feed.

Mobile phone numbers

After Easter, we will be proceeding with online payments for all trips, swimming etc. We would ask all parents to check that the office has your current mobile phone number so that when we send out payment requests for trips or clubs, it will reach everybody. Thanks for your support with this matter.

Good luck

Mrs Dyke, who teaches Nursery, has made the decision to leave at Easter, and in fact today will be the last morning that she teaches the Nursery children. We would like to thank her for creating a nurturing and supportive environment for the Nursery children. We wish her all the best for her future.

As from tomorrow, Mrs Lawrence will take over as Nursery class teacher, and she will cover Nursery until the end of Summer term. Mrs Lawrence is a very experienced Nursery teacher, having recently worked at Sir James Knott Nursery for some years. We are happy that she can start with the children before the Easter break in order to aid transition for the children, and we are confident that the children will settle extremely quickly with her.

Nutritroops



Miss Knowles, Mr Burgess and Mrs Udberg have been involved in working with Olympic volleyball athlete Peter Bakare, since the start of September last year. Peter approached school about a new exciting whole school programme he was



developing called Nutritroops. We took this exciting opportunity to be involved in developing the curriculum activities with Peter for this healthy living programme for children, which seeks to develop healthy minds, healthy bodies and healthy heroes. Children take the role of Healthy Heroes in a nutrition themed story through comics, animation and cross-curricular activities. Peter has worked with Year 2 trialling some of the activities, which the children absolutely loved. Year 2 parents may have heard all about it!

SAT meeting for Year 2 parents

We would like to invite all of our Year 2 parents into school at 3.45pm on Monday 8th May at 3.40pm for a short meeting. Miss Knowles will explain the arrangements for the Key Stage 1 SATS this year.

Teacher training days for 2017-18

Here are the dates for next academic year for teacher training days:

Mon 4th September

Fri 22nd December

Mon 8th January

Dates for your diary

Thurs 6th Apr - final of Preston Grange Has Talent - 9.10am prompt start

Fri 7th Apr - Break up for Easter holidays

Mon 24th Apr - Children return to school

Tues 25th Apr- library bus in school

Wed 26th Apr - Eagles last workshop for Year 2

Fri 28th Apr - Safetyworks visit for Year 2

Mon 1st May - Early May Bank Holiday

Tues 2nd May - Safetyworks visit for Year 5

Mon 8th May - Key Stage 2 SATs for Year 6

Tues 9th May - Key Stage 2 SATs for Year 6
Wed 10th May - Key Stage 2 SATs for Year 6
Thurs 11th May - Key Stage 2 SATs for Year 6
Mon 15th May - Year 6 at the courthouse (magistrates)
Tues 16th May - Dental survey (Reception class)
Thurs 18th May - Eagles basketball coaching KS2
Mon 22nd May - Year 6 at the courthouse (magistrates)
Mon 22nd May - Eagles basketball coaching KS2
Tues 23rd May - Eagles basketball coaching KS2
Wed 24th May - Year 4 tennis competition at JSCHS
Thurs 25th May - Year 3 tennis competition at JSCHS
Thurs 25th May - Year 4 to Segedunum
Fri 26th May - Break up for half term

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, March 7th 2017