

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - February 10th 2016



Congratulations to Year 5



Last week our Year 5 class entered 4 teams into the Hoops for Health basketball tournament, run by Newcastle Eagles. The children played extremely well, and all four teams finished at least third place in their groups.

One of our teams won their group, and as a result will now go through to the next stage of the competition. This means that they have won a place in the North Tyneside Hoops 4 Health tournament finals, to be held at Northumbria University sport Central. The semi-final will take place prior to an Eagles game with the final at half-time in front of the Eagles home crowd.



The details are:

Date: Friday 11th March

Venue: Northumbria University Sport Central

Arrival: 5.30pm

Semi-finals: 6pm

Eagles tip off time: 7.30pm

Finals: 8.15pm

Finish time: 9.15pm



Here is a picture of the team who will be playing on March 11th, and we would love to see as many families as possible at the event, in order to support our team in the semi-final and possibly final. It is a fantastic evening watching a Newcastle Eagles game if you haven't been before too.

We will be receiving complimentary ticket leaflets and these will be sent home with the children. We will also be sending some of these out to the rest of school. Well done to all of Year 5, we think that this deserves a new school basketball strip for the night !

Wraparound and Playgroup

As our school community is aware, in September this year we are opening our own school Nursery. Additional to this, in September, our external provider Preston Grange Pre-School will be offering Playgroup places for 2 1/2 years plus.

They are also offering Wraparound, which is available for Nursery children who require childcare in the afternoon after morning Nursery. This is also available for parents who

require a place for their child, until a place in our school Nursery becomes available. If you require any information, please ring Catherine on 07960 933450 for an information pack.

Greek visitor in Year 4

Last week, Year 4 had a visit from a Greek visitor. Tanya Bentham is an educational storyteller and comes into school in role, and taught the children all about life in Ancient Greece. The children really enjoyed her visit. Here is a picture from the afternoon.



Reminder

On Monday 22nd February at 3.35pm, we will be holding information SAT meetings for parents, for both Year 2 and Year 6. All welcome. Please note that these meetings will be held in the respective classrooms. If you have your children with you, they may be looked after in the ICT suite by one of our Teaching Assistants.

Multiskills

Year 1 and 2 children have recently attended a multi-skills event at John Spence High School. The children all had a fantastic afternoon. Thank you to the parents who accompanied the events.

Year 6 end of term

There have been a few enquiries about end of year events for Year 6, despite this being a long way off. As was explained to parents last year, we have had trouble signing enough children up to attend residential in the last few years, probably due to the fact that unlike many other schools, we hold two residential visits in Key Stage 2.

London last year had to be a shared Year 5 and 6 trip because we could not get sufficient children to attend from Year 6 alone, and in an effort not to make the trip cost prohibitive, we had to share the trip between two classes. Therefore, Year 6 has already had the opportunity to go to Robinwood and also to London in Key Stage 2. Year 6 this year therefore do not have a planned residential, and any planned end of year activities will be shared with parents and children in the Summer term.



Collaborative Orchestra Day

As part of our work and liaison with other schools in the North Shields area, we attended a collaborative orchestra day at King Edwards Primary. Well done to those children who attended and played their instrument in the collaborative orchestra with other children from local Primary schools. Thanks also to Mr Young who attended the event with the children.

End of an era

I am sad to inform parents that at Easter, Mrs Boyd in the school office will be retiring after 26 years at our school. I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Boyd for over five years now, and it was quite a shock when she told me that she was going to retire. It will be the end of an era. There are many parents who remember Mrs Boyd being at Preston Grange when they were young, and she will be a HUGE miss at our school. She will be a hard act to follow. Mrs Boyd is sad to be leaving and will miss everyone at school, but is looking forward to being a Grandma again and being able to spend more time with her

daughter and Grandchildren. Governors will be appointing a new Office Manager after half term.

Guitar Tuition

Thanks to Miss Wright, our Music subject leader, for recently organising guitar tuition at school. Each Thursday afternoon, a peripatetic music teacher called Joel, will teach a group of children the guitar. Thank you to Miss Wright for securing some guitars for school via the music service, so that children may use these in their music lessons.

Thank you Mr Conaty !

You may remember that I mentioned we were starting to make some alterations for our new school Nursery which opens in September. As part of the works, Mr Conaty has cleared the two large planters, which took up a great deal of the space in the internal quad, which can be seen from the hall. He has filled 5 skips with 36 tonnes of bricks and soil, and has spent over 80 hours of his own time in the last two weeks. As ever, we are really grateful to Mr Conaty for his hard work and blood, sweat and tears. The newly cleared area will make way for a fantastic new outdoor space for our children. Thank you also to Mr Young, who has also helped Mr Conaty clear the quad.

Spelling logs

Thank you for supporting your children with their spelling logs which they have been bringing home since before the end of last term. As Mrs Blackett explained in her letter to parents at the time, the words which the children have written in their spelling logs at the end of the week, are words that they have found tricky or that they have spelled incorrectly during our 20 minute spelling lesson each day.

Although the children are not tested on these words, parents are asked to go through the words with their children - perhaps by the look, hide, write strategy: firstly by asking them to look at the spellings, then to try hiding them, then trying to write them correctly. It is not possible to test the children with their spelling, as they all write down the words that individually they have found difficult. However we ask that you support your child with these words, since it is with this extra support that the children will make better progress with their spelling. Thank you for your help with the spelling logs.

Chinese and Vietnamese New Year

Yesterday the children were celebrating Chinese New Year in school and also have learnt



about Vietnamese New Year in assembly from Olivia in Year 3.

Preston Grange Pre-School children made a wonderful Chinese dragon, and did a dragon dance accompanied by musicians. In Reception, the children made money envelopes and tasted Chinese food. Year 3 made some dragons and learnt all about the Chinese Year of the Monkey. Thank you to Olivia for all of the interesting things she brought in to explain the traditions of Vietnamese New

Year, which is also celebrated at the same time as Chinese New Year. The children really enjoyed learning all about it.

Year 2 Dance Festival

Year 2 has been practising for the North Tyneside Dance Festival at The Parks on March 1st. The theme of the festival is 'A Tale to



Tell' and our Year 2's have choreographed a dance entitled 'Jack Frost' with Miss Knowles and Mrs Roberts, a visiting dance teacher. More details to follow about tickets for the event.

Well done

Jess in Year 5 has won another two medals in kick boxing. At the weekend, she won a bronze and silver medal at an event. Well done Jess, we are very proud of you.



Safer Internet Day

Every half term, each class does a Digital Literacy unit, as part of our ongoing work on E-Safety, and then we have a whole school assembly to share what the children have learnt. As it is Safer Internet Day today, teachers will be covering further activities to teach the children about staying safe online. Please find sent home with children tonight, a sheet with QR codes, linking to helpful guides for parents, including: Parents Guide to Instagram, Facebook and SnapChat, also further tips on talking to children about safe internet use. We hope that you find them useful. Please note, you will need to download a QR code reader (app) to be able to link to these guides. If you would prefer a paper copy of one of the guides, please leave your name at the school office, and the guide/s you require and these can be printed out for you.

Thank you

We are thrilled to have received some books for our school library, donated by Jack Kilvington and Emily Leadbitter. Thank you very much for your generosity! The rest of the children will absolutely love the new books.

Tracey Taylor
Headteacher
February 10th 2016

