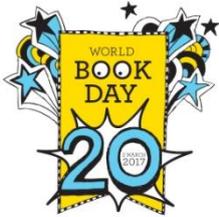


Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - March 1st 2017



World Book Day

Tomorrow is World Book Day. As you know, we are having a Roald Dahl themed day in school and are asking the children to come into school wearing a costume of a Roald Dahl character this year. The children are really excited, and have been telling us some of their excellent costume ideas. We are looking forward to seeing them all tomorrow! Thank to all families for their support with this.

Spare free tickets for Newcastle Eagles

School has a limited number of spare **free** tickets for families who have not already got some, to watch and support our Year 5 basketball team when play in the semi finals of Hoops 4 Health tournament. You will also get to see a Newcastle Eagles basketball game. The date is Friday March 10th, and the tip off is at 7.30pm, but all families must be in Sport Central, Newcastle University, before 6pm. Please contact the school office if you would like any tickets.



Reading Challenge

As mentioned in previous letters, we are having a sponsored reading/listening event this week. The children are asked to read, or listen to someone reading to them every day, and log the minutes they read. We ask that they also try to collect sponsorship money. The reading challenge is being done in conjunction with Usborne books, and they will donate books to school depending on how much we raise. We have bought some new library book shelves, and also created a new reading area outside the office, and we are hoping that we will be able to fill these new shelves with new books from our reading challenge! We'd be grateful if completed forms and sponsorship money could be returned to school by Monday 6th March, thank you.

Charity stall

We agreed that the children could run a charity stall over this year, and so far, a group of Year 3 children raised a huge £146 for Macmillan last half term! This half term, Maya and Ismah from Year 1 are going to continue running the stall with some older children helping. After Easter, Nina from Year 4 will be running a stall selling fimo modelling clay items. She would like the money she raises to go towards our reading tipi fund.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



In the last half of Summer term, a group of Year 3 children are going to continue the stall, and they would like to fundraise for Sarah's Hope foundation, another worthy cause. Thanks to all of the children for their willing to fundraise and run the stall. We would be grateful if you have any donations of any bric-a-brac, books, teddies or toiletries. Thank you for your support.

New staff



This half term we are delighted to have two new members of staff, who will work in school until the end of the Summer term. We would like to introduce Mrs Gail Davis, who will work in the busy office alongside Mrs Clarke in the afternoons.

We would also like to welcome George Dixon, who has recently completed his apprenticeship in business administration at the Quadrant. George will be a support and resource assistant for the staff. A photo of George will be on the next newsletter, as he has just started at school today, after the newsletter was completed. We are delighted to have them both on the staff team!

New communication and payment system

After Easter, we will be moving over to a new communication system in school. We will be installing a system that allows parents to pay for trips, after school clubs etc online. This is to reduce the amount of cash handling in school, as well as to make it more convenient for parents. There will also be an app for sending messages from school, alongside an email and texting service. Finally, attendance and registers will be managed through this system, which takes away the need for paper registers and saves valuable teaching time. Towards Easter we will be sending a letter to all parents to request all of your up to date email addresses, mobile numbers etc. We know that a great deal of schools also manage payments and communication to parents in this way, and we have been keen to implement this type of system for some time.

Dance Festival

On Monday next week, our Year 2 class will perform in the North Tyneside dance festival at The Parks. We are grateful for Mr Pilkington, specialist PE teacher from John Spence Community High School, who has choreographed the dance, and thanks also to Miss Knowles for rehearsing the children and creating costumes along with Mrs Wright. We are proud of the children, and know that they will do a brilliant job on Monday!

Image Musical Theatre

Next Tuesday afternoon, we have a visiting theatre production performing in school. They will be performing The Jungle Book, and we know that the children will enjoy

the production very much. Please ask your children to tell you all about the production afterwards.

Dates for your diary

Fri 3rd March - High 5 Netball team tournament (Blue Flames)
Mon 6th March - Year 2 at Dance Festival 6pm-8pm, The Parks
Tues 7th March - Year 5 visit to the mosque
Tues 7th March - The Jungle Book, theatre production (pm)
Wed 8th March - parents evening
Fri 10th March - Year 5 basketball team in NT semi-finals at Sport Central (5.45pm)
Mon 13th March - Science week starts (more detail to follow)
Tues 14th March - parents evening
Thurs 16th March - football team to JSCHS 3.30-4.30pm
Mon 20th March - The Big Pedal starts (more details to follow)
Thurs 23rd March - Romeo & Juliet theatre production in school (pm)
Fri 24th March - Red Nose Day (non uniform)
Fri 31st March - Superhero day to celebrate end of The Big Pedal
Tues 4th Apr - Year 4 badminton tournament at JSCHS
Thurs 6th Apr - final of Preston Grange Has Talent (more details to follow)
Fri 7th Apr - Break up for Easter holidays

(Please note, this does not include the dates for the Easter activities we have planned as yet)

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, March 1st 2017