**Sending money with your child**

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – October 22nd 2015

You will appreciate that school is a very busy place with 209 children. This week is particularly busy, with two Halloween discos, poppy sales every day, Wear it Pink charity Day (voluntary contribution), and coffee morning and tuck shop on Friday.

We would like to point out to parents that children at no time should be sent into school with loose change, and with no instructions for what the money is intended for. School cannot be responsible for trying to determine how much money is for the disco for example, and how much is for poppy items. It is parents’ responsibility to ensure that money is labelled for each event in separate envelopes.

For Key Stage 1, please make sure that you firstly discuss with your child what they have money for that day in school. Then please ensure that the money is labelled for each event in separate envelopes- **clearly labelled with the child’s name, class, and what the money is for**. This should also be the case for swimming money and tuck shop money each week.

As you will appreciate, your child may tell us the change is for something other than you intended, unless this is clear. The envelopes should then be sent into school in your child’s book bag. Small money envelopes can be bought at Wilko, at £1 for 50. These are ideal for this purpose.

This will eliminate any misunderstandings in future, and stop the children from being confused about what they are allowed to spend their money on. Thank you for your support with this matter.

**Reading in school**

We are grateful for the positive feedback we had on parent’s evenings, but I would like to clarify one question that came up. The parent believed that the only experience their child had in reading, was the individual book that the children bring home in their book bag. This is not the case. At the meeting in Reception each year, we explain the wide range of opportunities provided in school for reading, how regularly their reading is assessed and indeed how parents can help their child at home. If parents are not able to attend this meeting, we always send the information home.

In Key Stage 1, each class takes part in a Read Write Inc session (1 hour long) each day. This is a combination of reading, spelling and phonic (sounds) work. Each half term we assess the children’s reading, and Read Write Inc groups are re-arranged according to ability. On top of this, each class does guided reading in their class each afternoon, in which they take turns to read in groups with the teacher. In addition to this, each class reads every day in Literacy lessons, and also learn ‘high frequency’ sight vocabulary: a word bank of words such as ‘there’ and ‘said’. Finally, there is the home reading system where your child will usually read with volunteers along with the teacher at some point across the week, to read a book that they then bring home in their book bag.

With the individual reading scheme, there is no set pattern through which the children read. Our individual reading book system is made up of a wide range of reading book schemes. We have them colour coded in book bands (please ignore stage or set numbers; they are irrelevant), and each child may read through them in a slightly different order depending on how they are managing. Some children may not even read every set of books within the band. It is down to the discretion of the teacher and dependant on the childrens’ reading ability.

So, individual reading is just one very small part of the wide range of reading that we do in school. Please if is there are any further questions about reading, contact Mrs Blackett through the school office.



**Thank you**

Thank you so much for the fantastic Harvest decorated vegetables. We are delighted to have such family involvement. They were amazing again this year. Please see the school website, with photos of the vegetable entries and also the winners. Harvest Festival is not done in some schools, and indeed some of the schools in our pyramid of schools. We still like to celebrate Harvest Festival however, and share it with parents. Thank you very much for the food donations. We sent them to the Whitley Bay foodbank, and have received a letter thanking our parents and stating that we sent them 266 food items.

**Halloween discos**

A huge thank you to Lorraine Harrison and Jackie O’Brien for arranging the two discos this week, they were absolutely fantastic. The children looked amazing in their costumes and enjoyed the afternoon very much. Thank you to the parents who gave up their time to help on the day, we are really grateful. The disco raised £310 for school funds, which will pay for the refreshments that we give to the children on the whole school trip to the pantomime.

**Coffee morning**

Please remember that this Friday we will be having a coffee morning from 9am until 10.30am in the school hall. We would love to see as many of you as possible. Please send any cake donations into the hall by 9am at the latest thank you. Year 5 and 6 children are able to enter a cake baking competition, and these should be clearly labelled with their name and class thank you. Thank you to the Friends of Preston Grange for organising the coffee morning.

**Good luck**

This Friday Mrs Udberg is leaving us to have her baby. We wish her luck with her new baby girl and hope that she enjoys every minute of her maternity leave. Miss Bryant will teach Year 4 until Mrs Udberg returns.

**School Photos**

Your child will bring home their individual school photo today. If you would like to order the photo, please have your order to the school office by **Thursday 5th November by 9am** thank you.

We hope that everybody enjoys half-term, and we look forward to seeing the children again on Monday 2nd November.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, October 22nd 2015