

Preston Primary School - Community Newsletter

Autumn/Winter Edition 2009



Christmas is coming...



Welcome to this Autumn / Winter edition of our community newsletter and with Christmas fast approaching we hope you enjoy reading about our achievements so far this term and the various events we have planned in the lead up to the festive season.

If we don't see you before Christmas, on behalf of everyone associated with Preston Primary School we would like to thank you for your support and generosity again this year and we hope you have an enjoyable Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Say hello, wave goodbye...

We are sure that you will be aware of the tremendous contribution Kerry Stockley has made to the school over the last few years, both as a parent and a School Governor. Kerry first joined the Board of Governors in 1999 and was Chair for several years before taking the role as Vice Chair.

Kerry has now decided the time is right to hand over the Vice Chair role and we would like to thank Kerry for her outstanding commitment to the Board of Governors and Preston Primary School over the last 10 years.

Fiona Oliver has kindly volunteered to become Vice Chair of Governors and, due to the commitment this involves, Fiona has stepped down as Chair of the PTA. Andrew Quince has taken the role of PTA Chair, with Jane Blyth taking on the PTA Deputy role. We fully appreciate the support we receive from our Governors and PTA and would like to thank all involved for their ongoing support.

More evening classes planned for the Community...

We will shortly be holding a demonstration and enrolment evening for regular and one-off community evening classes, such as Table Tennis and Latin Dancing, so please watch this space !

What a difference a year makes...

You will recall that Preston Primary took charge of an allotment at Preston Park a year ago. It was very difficult back then to imagine (when we were knee deep in freezing mud and water) just how wonderful the allotment would become.

Thanks to the tremendous contribution from a whole range of volunteers we have been able to turn the allotment into one of the finest on the site, with a brand new fence, a large shed, raised beds, paved paths and a grass seating area.

This year we have already grown a range of organic produce including lettuce, radishes, courgettes, runner beans, sprouts and leeks. The produce has been eaten by our pupils in the school canteen as part of our commitment to healthy living.

Preston Primary launches a School 'Eco-council'...

The School has set up an 'Eco-council' which is a new forum where a nominated group of pupils from Years 3 to 6 discuss important issues such as the school environment, waste management and more efficient energy usage.

The pupils initiatives are being overseen by our new Year1 teacher, Miss Faye Blair, and supported by Phil Hewitt, Parent Governor. The pupil representatives have already come up with some great ideas that are helping the School work towards an 'Eco-Schools' award.

School raises £335 for Orphanage...

We are very proud that at our Harvest Festival in October pupils and parents of Preston Primary raised £335 for the Hands of Love Orphanage in Uganda. This is another tremendous effort and, added to the donations we have made to the orphanage in previous years, re-emphasises the generous nature of our pupils and parents.

... and there's more !



News from our award-winning PTA...

The PTA has organised and funded a wide range of after-school activities again this term including chess, table tennis, football, arts and crafts, guitar and gymnastics. These 'taster' sessions offer our pupils a chance to try out new sports and activities and some of the clubs are now run on a permanent basis.

The PTA will be once again be organising a number of social fund-raising events throughout the school year. There has already been a very well-attended school disco and preparations are well underway for this year's Christmas fair (see opposite).

In the 2008/9 school year the PTA raised over £10,000 through various fund-raising and after-school activities. This is a tremendous achievement and we would like to thank all involved for your tremendous support.

The main focus of PTA fund-raising this year is to equip the outdoor classroom and play area for the new Foundation and KS1 building.

School Nursery to open on afternoons in 2010...

Governors and Staff have been monitoring our Nursery intake over the last academic year. For the second year running we find ourselves in the position where we have not been able to offer every three year old a place in Nursery from the date of their third birthday. Once again our 26 place morning Nursery has been full from early in the Autumn Term.

We have been considering the options available to us to accommodate the additional families seeking a Nursery place and we are delighted to inform you that the option of opening a 13 place afternoon Nursery, run by a qualified Nursery Teacher, from 1st January 2010 until 21st July 2010, has now been approved by the Governors.

If your child will be three between the aforementioned dates and you would like to accept a place, please contact the School Office. **We are also hosting an 'Open Evening' for the parents / carers of new Nursery pupils on Tuesday 17th November at 6.30 p.m. in the School Hall and would love to see you there.**

Dates for the diary...



Our ever-popular PTA Christmas Fair takes place in the School Hall on Friday 27th November from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and, as always, is open to members of the public.

The fair will contain the usual attractions including craft, cake and toy stalls, tombolas and a prize raffle. Hot and cold refreshments will be available, so please come along, join in the festive spirit and you might even snap up some Christmas bargains ! Entry costs just 50p per adult with a free cup of mulled wine, tea or coffee.

The School Christingle Service takes place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 15th December at All Saints Church, Eaglescliffe. It is always an uplifting feeling hearing the children sing and experiencing the wonderful Christingle decorations.

New Foundation and Key Stage 1 Building...

Preliminary work is now underway on our new Foundation and Key Stage 1 building. During the half term break installation of the gas, electric and water supplies commenced. We will endeavour to keep any disruption caused by the building works to a minimum and apologise for any inconvenience.

Our contact details...



We love hearing from you, so for further information or if you want to let us know your views on any matters, please contact:

- Shirley Winters, Head Teacher – (01642) 784735
- Fran Matthews, School Administrator – (01642) 784735
- Angus Watson, Chair of Governors – (01642) 656766
- Andrew Quince, Chair of PTA – (01642) 357171
- Andrea Broughton, Preston Childrens Centre – (01642) 785291

or visit www.prestonprimary.co.uk or email enquiries@prestonprimary.co.uk