

Mount Pleasant Primary School PARENT NEWSLETTER

Autumn Half Term

Issue 8 – October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half term I am sure you will agree that this has been one of the busiest and most exciting starts for our pupils, staff and of course parents to a new year. There are a number of very interesting articles for you to read about the many educational experiences and adventures that children have had at school over this half term.

As you are aware thirteen classrooms have moved from the Junior School building and are accommodated in the new modular classrooms during Phase 1 of the building works. The pupils who were affected were very happy and excited about the new (temporary) facilities. We also welcomed the parents of those children to view the temporary accommodation and were pleased by the feedback you gave on the quality of the provision, even though it is temporary.

I would once again reassure parents that whilst the building work is essential and was a much needed requirement for our school, throughout the project the governing body, senior leaders and whole staff are committed and working hard to ensure that teaching and learning remains outstanding and that the work does not cause any negative impact on the excellent service that the school is providing to all its pupils. We are committed to delivering excellent and even better outcomes next year.

As you will be able to see every day the building work continues as planned and the old school has nearly completely been demolished. In order to take maximum benefit of this experience for our pupils, we are using this opportunity to show the children the building works in progress through various stages so they can see their new school being built. Over the next half term we will also be carrying out various classroom activities through which pupils will learn about building construction. Parents will be able to see pictures and updates of these sessions on the 'New Build' page of our school website.



Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to parents and carers for your support and patience particularly as we were organising the start and end of school day arrangements. As you have appreciated our focus was to put systems into place to enable us to receive children from you in the mornings and hand them back to you in a safe, orderly and efficient manner. I would also like to thank parents for not parking on the temporary yellow lines or zigzags on Victoria Road during school hours. We would encourage parents who live within walking distance to walk. As always, if you have any queries, concerns or suggestions for how systems can be improved, please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope everyone enjoys their well deserved half term holiday.

Mrs N. Nazir
Acting Headteacher

Key Stage 2 Visit to Watch Manchester United Match at Old Trafford



As a special reward for excellent effort and behaviour, pupils from KS2 were given the opportunity to watch Manchester United Football Team play at the Old Trafford Stadium. It was a wonderful and memorable experience for the children as they watched their sporting heroes in action. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event and atmosphere.

Following the visit, children wrote to thank Mrs Nazir for organising the visit and sharing their experience.

"We walked towards the stadium and it had a massive 'Manchester United' sign, it was enormous. Miss gave us our tickets and we went in. The security and police checked us. I could hear the screaming from the outside. Everyone was so excited. We all cheered "united, united"... Then after half time, Zlatan came and headed the ball and GOAL!!!!. The crowd went wild, everyone was cheering. Then it was time to go home, we all had a picture and went on our way."
(Yaqoob Sharif 5C)

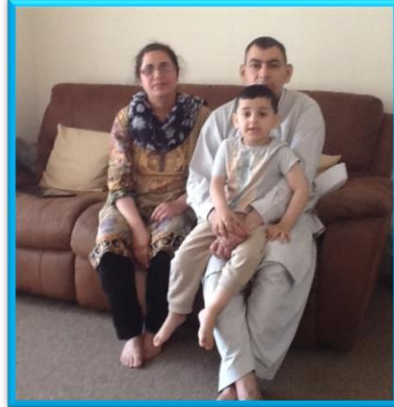
Mrs Nazir was very pleased with children's feedback. She thanked all the staff involved in the visit and has promised to organise other similar exciting events as for future years.



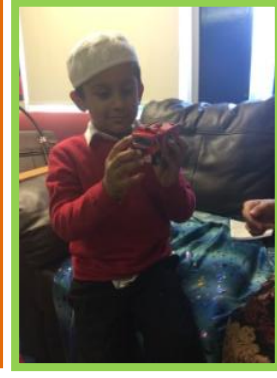
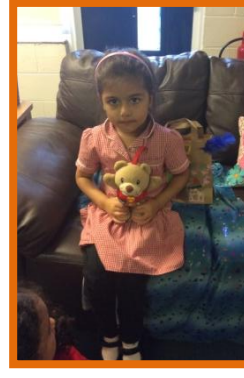
'Topics' in Our New Exciting Curriculum

This year we are really making sure that foundation subjects are developed and made more engaging and exciting for pupils. We have invested in a new curriculum called Cornerstones through which various topics are used to motivate children in their learning. Below are some brief examples of topics that have been covered in various years.

Nursery – *“Welcome to all our new Nursery children! Our topic is ‘How much do I love you?’ Our families have been helping us settle into nursery. Here are pictures of our mummies and daddies love us very much!”*



Reception – The children in Reception have been exploring the topic of Friendship. We have looked at the story ‘On Sudden Hill’ about two friends and their adventures with boxes and making new friends. The children have been inspired by the story and have created different box models and worked collaboratively with their friends to create dens and use their imaginations to think of their own adventures.



Year 1 – Our first half-term has been really exciting as the children have enjoyed the topic ‘Paws, Claws and Whiskers!’ We launched the topic with a visit from the RSPCA. Our visitor discussed the importance of looking after animals.

In English, we have looked at lots of exciting stories about animals. The children have enjoyed learning animal rhymes,

songs and re-enacting stories too! Below, is a photograph taken during our retelling of the well-known story ‘Dear Zoo’. In science we have been sorting animals and have moved onto looking at what animals eat. The children had lots of good ideas!





Year 2 - Year 2 went on a trip to Standedge Tunnel. We went on the train and had to walk along the canal. We learnt about safety around water and then we had a trip into the Tunnel. It was really dark when they turned the lights off and everyone screamed really loudly.



Year 3 – In Year 3 we have been learning about Ancient Greece. We have looked at the story of Zeus as well as Theseus and the Minotaur. We also had a very exciting time making Greek scenes on pottery plates and our own version of Trojan vessels and swords and shields.



Year 4 – Year 4 have had a fantastic time finding out about the Romans and Celts. We started by making shields, which we used when we had a mock battle in a nearby wood. Children loved discussing battle tactics as they competed to be the first team to capture the enemy flag. It was a hard-fought battle but in the end the Celts won! This led on to learning about Boudicca, a famous Celtic warrior who led her people in revolt against the Romans and even defeated them in battle and destroyed Londinium (Roman London) before the Romans eventually prevailed.

We have enjoyed a lot of creative activities this term, including creating our own Roman mosaics, modelling statues of Boudicca using wire and plaster, and making a delicious Celtic meal using fresh ingredients. We also learnt about gladiators - fighting for their lives to entertain wealthy Romans - and wrote a script pretending we were commentating on a gladiator fight.



Year 5 – In Year 5, our foundation subjects have been focused on Alchemy Island. During the first week of term, we had a special visit from the Island's Chief Alchemist's apprentice. With him, he brought samples, which were taken from various locations across the land, and a riddle, which the Year 5 children had to decipher to discover where our journey was going to begin.

Throughout this half term we have been travelling through the four kingdoms of Alchemy Island, and completing tasks to help the citizens and the Chief Alchemist. We have developed our skills in science, computing, geography and computing. During the Innovate week, the children composed a piece of music for a video game based on Alchemy Island, using all their skills and knowledge of Alchemy Island to compose an effective piece of music.

Year 6 – In Year 6 the children had a chance to participate in a trip to Shepley as evacuees. This memorable experience was designed to give the children an insight into how it may have felt to be evacuated during the Second World War. As they arrived at school the children were sorted randomly into large groups and told that they were being evacuated to areas that many of them had never heard of before. They were then rushed onto a train and split up into smaller groups. When arriving at our destination teachers stood with their small groups and talked about how this made the pupils feel. They also shared with them some of the facts and stories about evacuees during the war. Many of the children agreed that the whole experience (up until they realised we were coming back to school) made them feel slightly worried, anxious and unsure of what was going to happen. This experience has fed really well into our English topic and the children have completed numerous units of work related to their first hand experience of being an evacuee!



Wake Up Shake Up - "Wake up, shake up" is the latest thing happening in year 1! We are trying to encourage the children to be more active and enjoy exercise. We will be doing our "wake up, shake up" dance every morning from 8.45am-8.55am. All parents and carers are welcome to join in with the children and staff!

ParentPay

School Dinners – If your child has school dinners and is in KS2, their dinner money must be paid online via ParentPay or use a PayPoint card. If you do not have a ParentPay login, the office can provide you with your login details. Dinner money must be paid in advance and be kept up to date. The school sends out reminders via text message and letters home if dinner money becomes owed.

Trips/visits – These are always put on ParentPay for you to pay, however if you require a barcode letter to pay, please feel welcome to do so at the office or ask class teacher.

Flapjack – This must be paid on a termly basis and office will send out letters each term in advance for parents to pay on ParentPay.

Milk – This is to be paid on a termly basis and office will send out letters in advance for parents to pay on ParentPay.

Fantastic Friday – this is a Friday dinner children in KS2 who have a packed lunch or go home for dinner must pay for if they wish to have a dinner every Friday. This has to be paid via ParentPay every half term starting Friday 4th November 2016. KS1 children are eligible for universal school meals, therefore they do not have to pay but if they are packed lunches or go home, then office must be notified.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

What is Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium is a grant allocated to schools with pupils on roll that are eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any time in the last six years. Each of these pupils attract a specific amount of funding each year which must be spent on them to improve their education. Schools have the freedom to spend the premium in a way they think will best support the raising of attainment for those pupils who are eligible.

Who is eligible?

Do any of the following apply to you?

- You receive Child Tax Credits (but not Working Tax Credit) and your gross annual family income is less than £16,190.
- You receive Income support.
- You receive Income Based Jobseekers Allowance.
- You receive Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).
- You receive a Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- You are an Asylum Seeker and receive support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS).

If so, you are eligible to claim Free School Meals and your child will receive the Pupil Premium Funding to help with their individual needs in school.

It is vital for parents to register their child as eligible for FSM so that Mount Pleasant Primary School receives their maximum Pupil Premium entitlement.

We are aware that there a number of parents that do not take up the opportunity for their children to receive free school meals. This could be for a number of reasons which may include that their children prefer packed lunch or that they feel their child may somehow be stigmatised by receiving free school meals.

We would firstly like to reassure parents that receiving free school meals is a completely confidential matter and children who receive free school meals receive exactly the same dinner as a child who is not receiving free school meals. Secondly, your child does not have to have the school dinner provided and can carry on with their usual arrangement.

The school and your child benefit hugely in receiving the Pupil Premium funding.

Why is it important?

This year, the pupil premium has funded:

- Training opportunities for staff.
- Funding to ensure children eligible to receive pupil premium funding receive a fully enriched curriculum.
- Additional support to provide more effective intervention.
- Assistance with school trips including residential opportunities.
- Lunchtime, sport and other clubs.
- Breakfast club through which we provide free breakfast every morning.
- Flapjack and milk.
- Study guide books for Year 6

What has it achieved?

Many pupils who fit the criteria for Pupil Premium have benefited from the enriched curriculum and extra-curricular clubs. We have seen improved behaviour, attendance, improved performance and raised self-esteem. Please visit the school website for a full report and breakdown of how Pupil Premium money is spent along with its impact on children's education.

If you think you are eligible to claim Free School Meals then please come to the School office and talk to our office team who will be very happy to assist with the application process. The office contact number is 01484 223198 and email address is office.mountpleasant@kirkleeseducation.uk. Alternatively please ring 01484 221928 or visit www.kirklees.gov.uk and click free school meals.

Attendance

Attendance is currently on target from September 2016 averaging out at 96%.

Gentle reminder; Please only keep your children absent from school when they are really ill and wherever possible please book Doctors, Dentist or any other appointments out of school time.

In order for us to maintain our target throughout the school year please be considerate when thinking about taking leave of absence. Please always make an appointment to see the Head Teacher before booking anything as we can give you the best advice on how to make it less

disruptive for your child. The majority of absences taken for leave will be marked as unauthorised, the local authority are clamping down on attendance and any child with a percentage lower than 90% will fall into the category of a persistently absent child which, along with the Kirklees Attendance & Pupil Support Officer, the school has to follow up.

Our new exciting reward system is as follows:-

- All children with 100% weekly attendance will receive a merit, when they have collected 10 merits they will receive a special attendance pencil.
- Each week the class with the best attendance will receive a certificate and they also get to keep the attendance trophy for the following week.
- Each term all the children with 100% attendance will have a treat, this will be a DVD and popcorn or ice cream in the infant hall.
- For all the children who have attained 100% attendance for the full year, we are going to hold an end of year attendance assembly. This will be a special event and all parents will be invited to see their children be awarded with a certificate and a trophy. You will also have the opportunity to have your photograph taken with your child by an in-house photographer as a keepsake.

Maths

Maths is about being able to understand and use numbers in a range of situations, for example when solving problems or making decisions in situations involving numbers. There are many ways you can support your child to become a confident mathematician.

For younger children: help with counting, children recognising numbers in figures and words, writing numbers in figures and words and number bonds to 5 and then 10. Learning their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Telling the time to quarter past, half past, quarter to and o'clock.

For older children: Learning their tables to 12x12, know the corresponding division facts, number bonds to 20 and telling the time to 5 minutes on analogue and digital.

Allow children to handle money and know the value of each coin and understand how many pennies are in £1.

Remember, you can always see your child's class teacher for further ideas or support.

Children Adopted From Care and The Pupil Premium

Children in schools who were adopted from local authority care or who have left care under a special guardianship or care arrangements order (formally known as a residence order), are eligible to attract the pupil premium. The pupil premium is an additional sum to help provide specific support to these pupils in school.

To enable the school to receive the funding we invite parents to self-declare that their child was adopted from care or left care under a guardianship or care arrangements order if they wish. Parents will then be asked to provide a copy of the adoption order. Please note that once declared the information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and sensitivity. Please contact Lynette Haley in the School Office to discuss this matter further.

Choosing the right computer game for your child

We are concerned that a growing number of children are playing computer games that are not suitable for them such as Grand Theft Auto, Call of Duty, etc. These games are intended for ages 18+ as explained below. Children playing them are exposed to extremely violent and sexualised content. This can be upsetting and damaging for children. There is the added risk that children contact other game players online - they are talking to strangers with no way of knowing who these people are. You would not let your child talk to strangers in the street, so why allow it online?



We suggest that you check the age rating of the games and only buy those recommended for your child's age. Also, be very careful about allowing online contact between your child and other gamers. If your child is already playing these games, we would recommend that you explain the issue to your child and stop them playing in future.

Parent's Coffee Morning

Thank you to all parents who joined us for coffee last week. We had the opportunity to discuss many elements relating to your child. These discussions will be shared with Senior Leaders, Class Teachers and other members of staff as necessary. Below are some of the discussions that took place as well as next steps which we will be taking:

Homework – Teachers will acknowledge with a comment when pupils make significant efforts.

Holiday logs – These are more open-ended to encourage children to engage their independent learning. Parents are not expected to spend extensive amounts of time on these projects but should encourage their children to work independently.

School dinners – The serving adults to have greater interaction with children while selecting dinner items – increased sensitivity and support for younger / new children.

Behaviour – An explanation of policy was provided which shared the schools, adults and children responsibilities and procedures.

Other News Items

Year 1, 2 and 3 Express Week - Thank you to all parents of pupils in Years 1, 2 and 3 who took part in the children's Express Week. At the end of the next half term parents of other year groups will also have a similar opportunity.

Reading Journals - Thank you to all parents who are regularly entering comments into the childrens' Reading Journals. This is a really good way of interacting with Class Teachers. Your comments (and questions) help to support your children and provide opportunities for staff to respond to your praise or enquiry. Parents sharing interest in children's reading can create much greater enthusiasm in an area which is constantly developing within each stage of your child's journey through school.

Family Learning sessions - Kirklees College will be providing a range of weekly learning opportunities for our parents. This starts with Early English and Maths skills which will be explored

through creating Storysacks for your children. These sessions will be led by qualified tutors and will enable parents to explore a range of creative activities whilst focussing upon positively supporting skills required within Nursery / Reception / Year 1.

The 6 week course will take place in the Infant Hall. The first session will take place on **Monday 7th November 9.15am – 11.15am**. Please ask the staff if you wish to book a place – but be quick as there are a limited number of places and they will soon be taken up.

School Holiday Activities

Please follow this link if you are interested in your children taking part in some excellent fun and fitness holiday activities including water based games, climbing, running and much more.

<https://kal.cld.bz/Kids-Holiday-Activities-October-2016>



Lockwood Tots

Do you have a child aged between 0 -5 years?



If so don't miss this fantastic opportunity to give your child the best head start. Lockwood Tots aims to prepare your child for Nursery by offering stimulating, fun and developmental play. Set in a safe nurturing environment. Please bring your child every Thursday morning 9am until 11am in the Infant Hall (entrance through the Nursery gates).

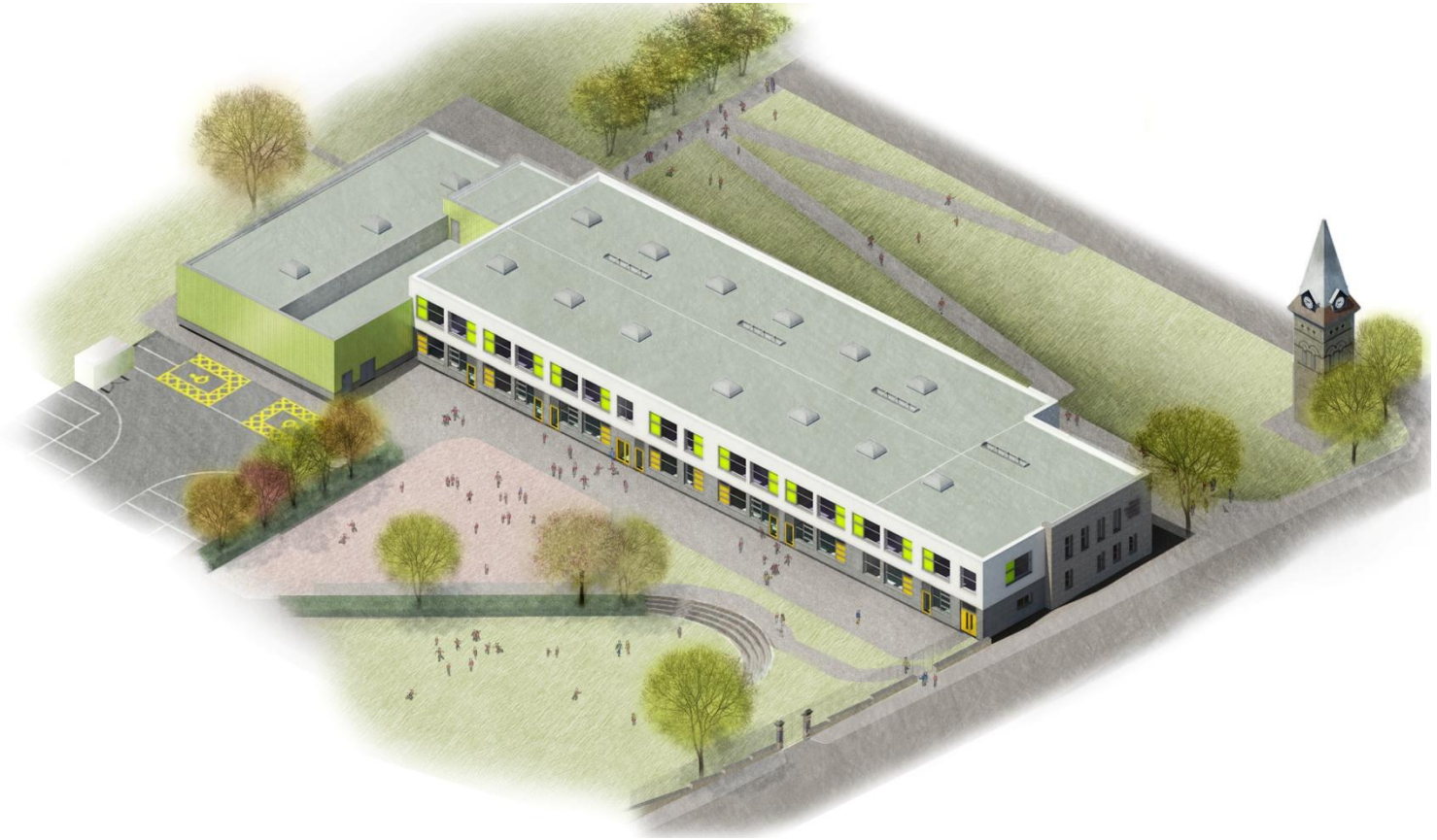
Dates to note in your diaries:

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| Monday 31 st October | INSET Day |
| Tuesday 1 st November | Children return to school |
| Tuesday 1 st November | Year 2 trip to Conisborough Castle |
| Wednesday 2 nd -4 th November | Year 6 Residential |
| Friday 4 th November | Year 3 Diwali Assembly |
| Monday 7 th November 2016 | Parents Evening for class 4A and 4B only |
| Tuesday 8 th November 2016 | Parents Evening |
| Wednesday 9 th November 2016 | Parents Evening (excluding 4A/4B) |
| Friday 9 th December 2016 | Year 1, 2 and 3 visit to Lawrence Batley Theatre |
| Wed / Fri 9 th & 11 th November | New Build workshop for Years 4 and 5 |
| Tuesday 15 th November | Year 5 trip to Magna Museum |
| Friday 18 th November | Year 6 trip to Manchester Museum |
| Thursday 24 th November | Pantomime – whole school |
| w/c 5 th December | Year 5 Hannukah Assembly |
| w/c 12 th December | Christmas Performances |
| Friday 16 th December | Final day of Autumn Second Half |



Mount Pleasant Primary School

For latest updates on the new school building works please visit the 'New Build' page of our school website at www.mountpleasantschool.co.uk



Mount Pleasant Primary School

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