



Mount Pleasant Primary School Parent Newsletter – Issue 44 July, 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another fantastic year at MPPS, I would like to start by thanking parents for your continuous engagement and support throughout the whole year. We have accomplished so much together and in particular achieving another 'Good' Ofsted grading despite a much more challenging framework, was indeed very special, as it verified our school's tremendous achievements.



As we talk about results, I am extremely proud to inform you of how amazing our children have done again in all their tests. In Reception, the children are assessed against the EYFS framework and whilst in the past children nationally scored significantly higher than our children, this year we have narrowed the gap superbly and now are close to national averages. In Year 1, our phonic results were fantastic and the best they have ever been at 87%, a lot higher than national. Likewise, in KS1, our children were on a par with national and higher than national for Greater Depth. Once again, our brilliant Year 6 children continued to impress us as they scored either inline or above national! Please see the table of results on the next page.

On another celebratory note, our children had a wonderful day celebrating Eid with an amazing party – thank you to parents for all your very generous donations. It was lovely to see the children in their party clothes.

The Awards Ceremony and the Nursery/Year 6 Graduation Ceremonies were truly special as we got to say well done to so many of our children who have gone the extra mile this year. As always, we are so sorry to see our Year 6 children leave, but they are ready for the next chapter in their lives – we wish you all the very, very best!



In this final week of term, our children had a great time learning all about keeping themselves healthy. They thoroughly enjoyed circus skills and many are now jugglers!

As always our Summer Fayre is a fantastic way of celebrating with the whole school community a successful end of the year.

From myself and the whole school staff we wish you a fantastic summer holiday and will be looking forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

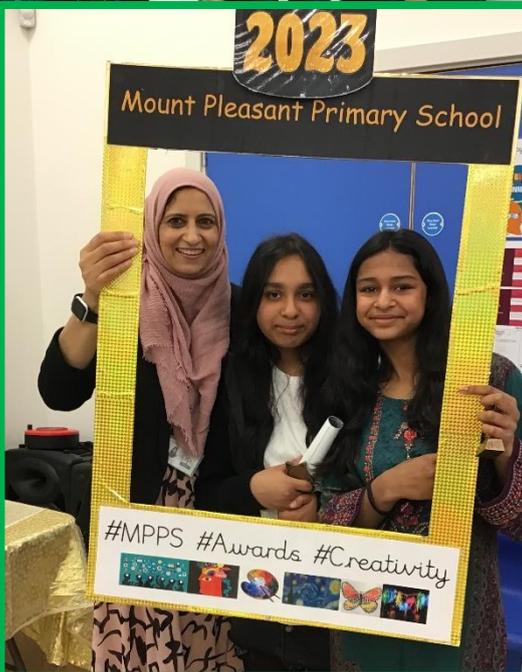
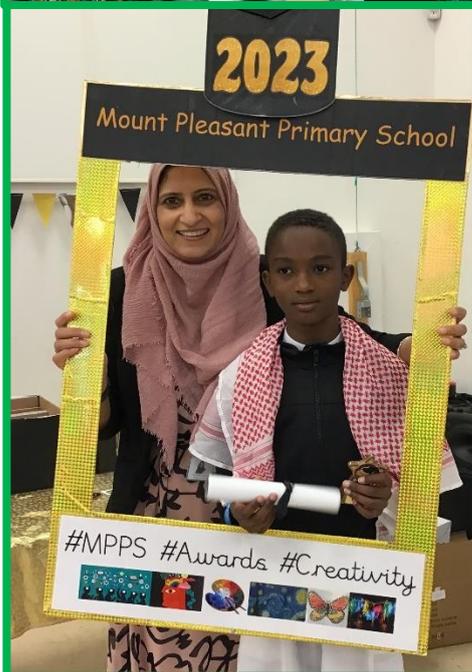
Yours faithfully
Mrs N Nazir

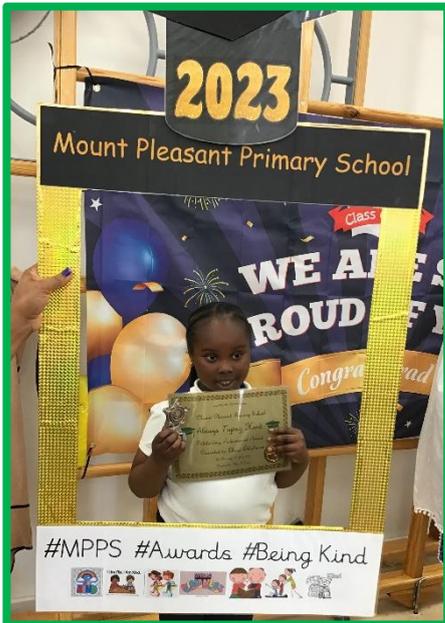
Please note these results are provisional and will be verified later in the autumn term.

Area	School	Local	National
KS1 Reading Expected	65%	63%	68%
KS1 Reading Greater Depth	21%	16%	19%
KS1 Writing Expected	53%	58%	60%
KS1 Writing Greater Depth GD	3%	6%	8%
KS1 Maths Expected	70%	68%	70%
KS1 Maths Greater Depth	19%	14%	14%
Good Level of Development	63%	65%	67%
Y1 Phonics	87%	79%	79%

Area	School	National
KS2 Reading Expected	71%	73%
KS2 Reading Greater Depth	26%	-
KS2 Writing Expected	78%	71%
KS2 Writing Greater Depth GD	17%	-
KS2 Maths Expected	79%	73%
KS2 Maths Greater Depth	21%	-
KS2 SPAG Expected	77%	72%
KS2 SPAG Greater Depth	47%	-
KS2 (Reading, Writing, Maths)	63%	59%
Please note national greater depth results have not been published.		





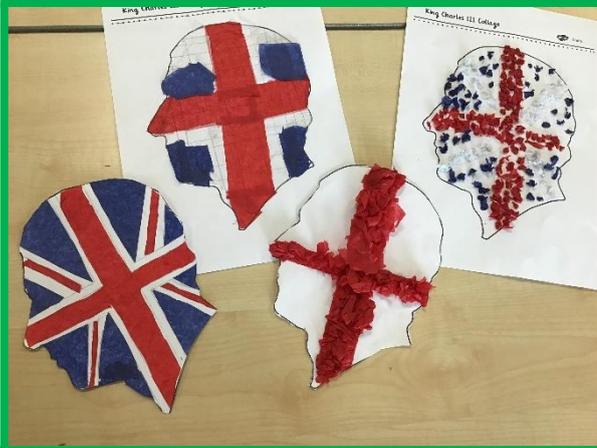




Celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III



**Coronation
of King
Charles III**





Aspirations Day 2023

There was a real buzz around the school on our Aspirations Day. All year groups had a fabulous afternoon engaging with a whole host of professionals from our community. West Yorkshire Police brought their police van and the Year 1 children were very excited to climb inside and set the sirens going, dress up in mini police uniforms and take a turn at putting the handcuffs on. Zoya in 1A said *"I loved dressing up as the police. I felt like a real police officer."*



Project Sport staff came and got the children involved in team building with group problem solving exercises. Eesa in 1C said *"I liked working as a group to build a strong bridge - it was fun!"*



West Mount Vets sent one of their veterinary nurses who brought her dog, Maggie. Reception children loved listening to Maggie's heartbeat with the stethoscope and hearing all about how to look after her.

Kirklees Active Leisure lifeguards came and taught the children all about water safety.

Switalski's Solicitors ran an interactive session with a quiz, all about the rules of law and what solicitors do. The children enjoyed the role playing and the quiz and were delighted when they were given goodie bags at the end of their session.



A student from the University of Huddersfield Biology department came along and the children were involved with a crafting exercise, making the different parts of biological cells, represented with pipe cleaners, paper, string and pompom balls.



An artist / graphic designer showed the children her work on screen and some pieces from her portfolio. They loved seeing her work and had lots of interesting questions. Khizar 2A said *"I liked how the artist told us how to draw her pictures – they are amazing – very realistic"*.

Members of the air ambulance control staff came and the children were interested to hear all about how the calls come in to them from the emergency services.

Budding fashion designers were guided by the Huddersfield University fashion and textiles student to design their own clothes.

Lawrence Batley Theatre staff brought pantomime props and held fabulous interactive sessions with the children, showing them different acting techniques and telling them about the different roles people can have working in a theatre.



GP Mr Junaid Azam came with his doctor's bag and showed the children how to use all the medical equipment; they particularly liked the stethoscope.



Staff from Greenhead College Psychology department came and the children found the psychology experiments very interesting. Mihran in 5B said *"we learnt how optical illusions can play tricks on our brain."*

A student from the University of Huddersfield Forensic Science department came and told the children all about the world of forensic science. They got involved in a fabulous activity taking fingerprints and putting them into keyrings.

Cummins Turbo Technology staff talked about careers in the industry and encouraged the children to work hard.



Dr Sohail Luqman from Valli Opticians came with all the tools of his trade; explaining to the children what an optician does for his patients.

Engine Room Graphic Designers came to give a presentation, getting the children involved in guessing what the different logos shown were advertising and then designing their own logo.



Kirklees Recycling staff and Suez Recycling and Waste Management taught the children all about recycling in fun, interactive ways that the children really got involved with. These practical sessions taught the children a lot about recycling



All in all it was an informative, inspirational and aspirational day, broadening the children's horizons. Aliyah in 5B said "it taught us about different jobs that we didn't know existed". Zahra 3B said "I learnt what to recycle. We had a fantastic afternoon."

Athlete Sporting Event



On Monday 12th June GB Wheelchair Tennis Player Anthony Cotterill came to visit us.



We took part in a timed circuit to raise money for the Paralympics and our school. He was such an inspiration and we had a fantastic day.



Children heard the inspirational message of *'never giving up no matter what circumstances you are faced with!'*

GoldKite Award

This is the first year we have achieved the 'Gold' School Games Mark which recognises commitment to the development of sports competition and physical activity across our school and into the community.

The criteria of the School Games Mark aligns directly with the School Games outcomes. Our school has demonstrated how we are:

- maintaining and growing the school's engagement in the School Games and the delivery of 60 active minutes for every child
- creating positive experiences by ensuring physical activity and competition provision is designed to reflect the motivation, competence and confidence of young people and with a clear intent
- creating positive experiences to support character development of targeted young people
- advocating to key stakeholders how the School Games makes a meaningful difference to the lives of children and young people, including engaging and educating parents.

Thank you to all the parents along with everyone else who has been involved in helping us achieve this.



River Holme Project

Conservationists from the River Holme Project came into school to work with Year 4. They delivered River Explorer sessions. Everyone involved had a go at drawing good and bad rivers, aquatic invertebrate sorting, wildlife puzzles, river table activities and scavenger hunts. The children learnt about food chains; they watched the lifecycle of a Mayfly first-hand in the classroom; they created a poster to show the stages of the lifecycle; they had a go at nymph ID and learnt about why Mayflies are so important to rivers.



Healthy Food Choices

A very exciting competition has been taking place across school in the final week of term. The children have been learning about healthy food choices, kitchen safety and knife safety. Each year group has produced a healthy meal entry for the competition, which was judged by Mrs Nazir. Some of the fantastic entries included pasta and vegetable sauce in Year 3, a curry in Year 4 and fruit kebabs in Year 1. School has smelt amazing all week! The winners of the competition were rewarded with ice pops and extra playtime at the end of the week.



Reception Memorable Experience

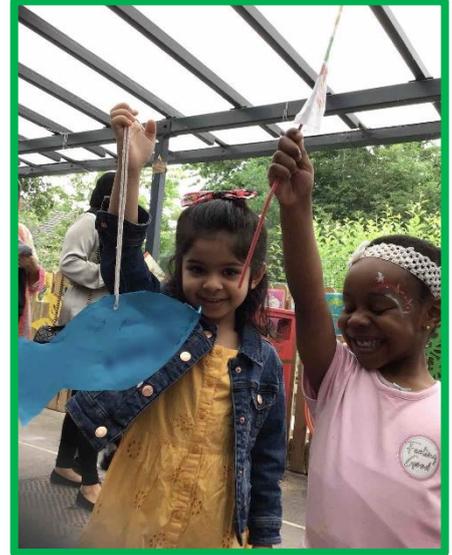


The children in Reception enjoyed a fantastic visit from Pets at Home. They carefully handled the different animals that came to visit and enjoyed learning lots of information about them and how they should be cared for. They met rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, rats and even a snake called Heidi!



Nursery Memorable Experience

EYFS beach day was a massive success and the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in all the different seaside themed activities. Children found pirate coins in the sandpit, took part in donkey bike races, had their faces painted, made bracelets, decorated biscuits and completed a whole host of craft activities. We can not carry out these events without the support of our parents so thank you to everyone who attended.



Year 1 Memorable Experience



Year 1 had an amazing time at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. This related to our topic in science, where we have been learning all about animals and their diets! We particularly loved looking at the polar bears, as we got very close to them! The weather stayed lovely for us too!



Disney Festival



Some of our girls from Year 1 went to an amazing after school Disney festival, dressed as their favorite Disney characters. They practised their fundamental skills with experienced coaches. They pretended to be Woody, tiptoeing around Andy's bedroom. They also pretended to be Elsa going on a special adventure. They all had a fantastic time and won a magical charm at the end of the session.

Year 2 Memorable Experience



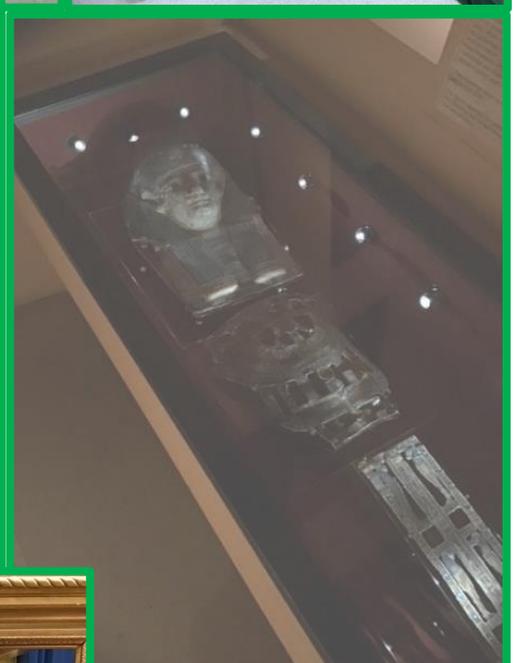
Following on from their 'Animals, including Humans' science lessons, Year 2 had a wonderful day visiting Lower Fold Farm in Holmfirth learning about animals and their habitats. We discovered how sheep are kept in a herd and how they are looked after, especially the sheep expecting babies. We saw some baby lambs being born and were able to help bottle feed some of the older lambs. The children were able to see and touch lambs wool in its original form and see how it can be twisted to make thread. The highlight of the day was watching Max the farm dog herd the sheep. He was so clever and well trained and could move a big herd in minutes!



We also saw hens, cattle and horses and enjoyed the beautiful views of the reservoir and valley. What a great day of outdoor learning!

Year 3 Memorable Experience

Year 3 visited the Egyptian exhibition at Bagshaw Museum. The day involved excavating artefacts to decide what jobs people did. We then visited the museum and made our own cartouches. The day ended with us embalming a mummy and carrying out the funeral rituals of the ancient Egyptians.



Year 4 Memorable Experience

At the start of this half term, Year 4 spent some time in the garden. We buried pieces of cloth in the ground and made predictions about whether the cloth would degrade. We will return in a few weeks to see what changes have occurred. We also hunted for invertebrates and planted some radishes and cabbages. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time and is excited to check on the progress of the seeds and to see what has happened to the buried cloth.





Year 4 had a wonderful Memorable Experience day with our Anglo Saxon visitor Bjorn. They listened to stories; played an old game similar to naughts and crosses; solved riddles, and completed a quiz. In the afternoon they learned about Anglo Saxon weapons and warfare, then recreated the battle of Hastings in slow motion. Finally the children (and teachers!) took part in a javelin throwing challenge .



At the end of the day, a child said

“I didn’t realise that history could be so much fun!”

Year 5 Memorable Experience



Year 5 have researched, planned and cooked their very own healthy bolognese recipes. It was delicious!



Year 6 Memorable Experience

"Pirates of the Curry Bean"

To end their amazing year, Year 6 performed 'Pirates of the Curry Bean!' We are so proud of all the children for taking part, learning their lines and learning the songs. On the day, they were fantastic. Children, parents and staff were laughing throughout this adventure.

Year 6 Newby Residential Trip

After a hard year of work, a group of Year 6 children were able to go to North Allerton on a residential, our first since Covid. What an amazing time everyone had! Not only did we have problem solving and building trust in our peers activities, we were also able to abseil and swing on the giant swing, it was HUGE!



Circus Skills



As part of PSHE week, all the children in school have enjoyed circus skills workshops. The children were absolutely amazed by the magic tricks that they watched being performed in an assembly. They then had the chance to learn some of the tricks themselves! They learnt plate spinning, feather balancing and juggling. What a fantastic end to the year!



Bluegrass Workshop

Year 6 had a fantastic time in a Bluegrass workshop. After watching three amazing musicians perform a concert at school, Year 6 were able to work with two different stringed instruments to create pieces of music. After warming up by playing a ukulele, we all got a violin and learnt several notes to work together to play a piece called 'Scotland.'



Bluegrass is a type of American folk music with fiddle (violin), banjo, mandolin, acoustic guitar and double bass as the main instruments used. There's also a lot of harmony singing.

It developed in the USA after Scottish, English and Irish tunes and ballads, brought by European immigrants, were blended with African-American influences, including the banjo, which is an instrument of African origin.

UK musicians, Jay Bradberry and Mike Giverin, led the workshop. They were joined by Abbey Thomas. Abbey is a talented young musician who recently graduated from Leeds Conservatoire (School of Music).

The musicians performed a couple of half hour concerts at the start of the school day. Jay and Mike had put together a short but varied programme which included a couple of songs and some fast tunes, with the audience encouraged to sing and clap along at different times. The fiddle (also known as violin) got the biggest reaction, thanks to the children's previous experience of violin lessons. Following the mini concerts, Jay and Mike taught three 55-minute workshops to Year 6 children. These started out with a 10-minute taster session of ukulele, accompanied by singing, and then the main part of each workshop was devoted to learning the fiddle tune "Scotland" on the school violins. Jay had the class playing along using long long bows in the A part, chops on the B part and slides on the C part (demonstrating how you can make a comedy cow-mooing sound!) while she played the more complicated melody. Mike played the simplified parts for the children to follow along with, while Abbey played guitar back-up.

Summer Fayre

The sun shone and everyone had a fabulous afternoon. Thank you to everyone for coming to support the children and the school. We raised over £1000. Money raised from the various events will be used throughout the coming academic year to support additional extra curricular activities for the children. A brilliant end to a successful year.







Reading Challenge

Children who completed their year group reading challenge enjoyed a trip to Waterstones where they were able to purchase a book of their choice - of course within budget! It was lovely to see their awe and wonder and excitement at the sight of all of the brand new books on the shelves. Some very hard decisions had to be made about which to buy, but everyone was happy with their purchase in the end.



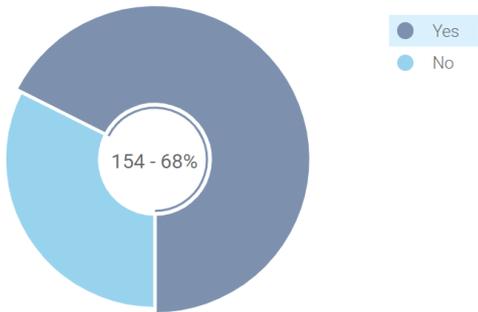
Administrative Notes

- School meals will be £2.55 per day from the beginning of term in September 2023. Please make sure that you have at least £12.75 in your child's dinner account at the start of each week.
- Please note that only Reception to Year 2 have universal free school meals. Once your child moves into Year 3 they will have to pay for school meals if they are not on benefits related free school meals. This should be paid for via Parentpay. All parents have been given Parentpay log ins, but if you need assistance please contact the office.
- If your child is not going to be in school for any reason, it is important that you telephone first thing in the morning to let us know why – you can leave a message on our absence line or speak to the office. 01484 223198. Phone lines open at 8.00 am. We have a duty under safeguarding to ensure that there is a reason for children being absent and if parents do not let us know straight away in the morning it takes a lot of time for attendance staff to phone to find out where children are.
- We have a lot of lost property in school and we are unable to return these items to their owners because there are no names on them. Please could parents put their children's names into clothing, bags, lunchbags, water bottles etc.

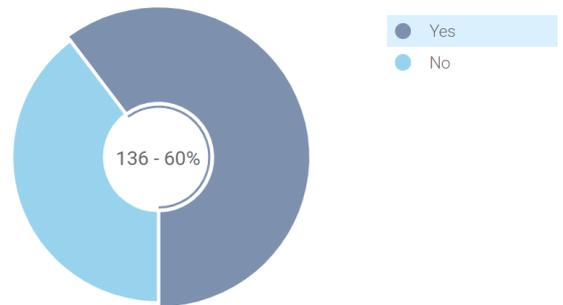
Homework Survey

Thank you to parents for completing the homework survey. We will consider your responses and take any appropriate action, for example, by ensuring we do have more workshops for parents next year.

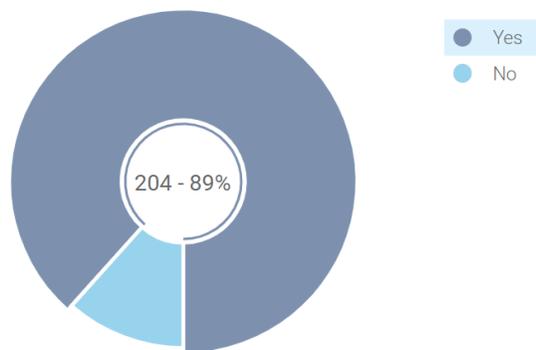
Does your child have enough homework in the week?



Would you like more workshops to support your child at home?



Is someone at home able to help with homework?



Please see next page for 2023 / 2024 Term Dates.

Term Dates

Can parents please take note of the term times below and only book holidays in the school holiday periods.

Autumn Half Term 1 2023

- **Monday 4 September – (INSET Day)**
- **Tuesday 5 September – (INSET Day)**
- **Wednesday 6 September – Children return to school**
- Thursday 26 October – School closes for October half term
- **Friday 27 October – (INSET Day)**

Autumn Half Term 2 2023

- **Monday 6 November – Children return to school**
- Friday 22 December – School closes for Christmas holidays

Spring Half Term 1 2024

- **Monday 8 January – Children return to school**
- Friday 9 February – School closes for February half term

Spring Half Term 2 2024

- **Monday 19 February – Children return to school**
- Friday 22 March – School closes for Easter holidays

Summer Half Term 1 2024

- **Monday 8 April – Children return to school**
- Friday 24 May – School closes for May half term holidays

Summer Half Term 2 2024

- **Monday 3 June – Children return to school**
- **Monday 17 June – (INSET Day)**
- Friday 19 July – School closes for the Summer holidays
- **Monday 22 July – (INSET Day)**