



Mount Pleasant Primary School PARENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 9 – Christmas 2016



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Christmas 2016 issue of our newsletter. We have come to the end of another fantastic and productive term in which so many exciting events have taken place for the children at Mount Pleasant. I am pleased to be able to inform you that the building work is progressing very well. Despite the many challenges from the building works since September, staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that each and every child's education remains strong and unaffected. Children have also had the opportunity to visit our building site and witness the demolition. They have also taken part in 'building workshops' delivered by our new school construction company inside the classroom.

This term we also launched our new exciting Cornerstones curriculum. We ensured that all our children were provided with exciting and 'Memorable Experiences' to engage them with their new learning. These include: Roman / Celt battle in a nearby field; an alien crash landing on the school site, Year 6 role-played the experience of WWII evacuees, and just recently we took 400 children, parents and staff to watch the Cinderella pantomime at the Lawrence Batley Theatre. This week, our youngest children delivered to the whole school and their parents a truly amazing Christmas performance called 'Shine Star, Shine!' It was wonderful to see the confidence our children had in performing in front of such large audiences. We are all so proud of them!

The greatest news I want to give you comes following the recent release of the Primary Performance League Tables as published by the Department for Education. You will be pleased to know that our school has done exceptionally well in comparison to other Kirklees schools. These truly amazing results demonstrate the commitment and passion of staff that has enabled our children to receive excellent education. They also evidence that our school is continuing to move from strength to strength. A big thank you from me, firstly to our children, and then our staff and parents who have worked so hard to make this happen. Overview of results as follows:

- **Progress for Disadvantaged Children – 1st place from all 110 primary schools in Kirklees**
- **Reading Progress – 7th position in Kirklees**
- **Writing Progress – 8th position in Kirklees**
- **Maths Progress – 22nd position in Kirklees**
- **Combined score for Reading, Writing and Maths – 32nd School in Kirklees**

I would like to use this opportunity to say a big well done and thank you to all of our truly amazing children, wonderful staff and very supportive parents. Everyone deserves a well earned rest! And finally, on behalf of all the Staff and Governors of Mount Pleasant, I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas Holiday and a Happy New Year.

Mrs N. Nazir
Headteacher



Shine Star, Shine!



As part of our special Christmas performances, the children in the Nursery and Reception classes at Mount Pleasant Primary took part in a spectacular version of Shine Star, Shine. The play tells the story of the big star which shines to show people the way to the stable. Both pupils and parents watched the performance and joined in merrily to the many songs.

Children in Need 2016



For Children in Need this year, pupils raised money through a non uniform day. Both staff and pupils wore spots and stripes to support the initiative. The School Council also organised bake sales, and pupils were asked to donate their spare copper coins to raise money.

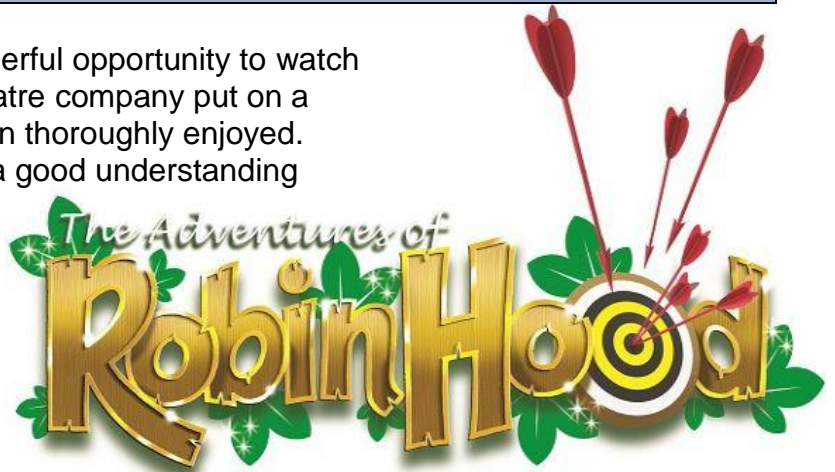
Pupils also got to meet Pudsey Bear who came to visit them at the school. He thanked everyone for all the money raised for Children in Need. The money raised this year will be going to the 'Forget Me Not' charity for children.

The School Council have announced that, *"Together we raised £464.55 this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported this worthy cause."*

The School Council are already discussing more exciting charity collection ideas for 2017.

Robin Hood Pantomime

All our children in KS1 and KS2 had a wonderful opportunity to watch Robin Hood Pantomime in school. The theatre company put on a wonderful performance which all our children thoroughly enjoyed. This experience provided our children with a good understanding of live performance and engaging the audience through the use of voice and actions.



Year 3 Diwali Assembly



As part of their RE Curriculum, Year 3 learned all about the festival of Diwali and why it is important to Hindus and Sikhs. The children learned the story of Rama and Sita and then rehearsed a performance of it to share with the rest of the school in a special assembly. The children took part in an exciting workshop on classical and modern Indian dance. Everyone was very impressed with the newly acquired skills that they demonstrated so enthusiastically and confidently to the whole school.



Visit to Manchester United Football Match



On Wednesday 30th of November 2016, 28 children from Years 5 and 6 witnessed sporting brilliance live as Manchester United took on West Ham at Old Trafford and emerged victorious in the fifth round of the EFL cup.

The children were able to watch their favourite footballers in action and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Staffing Announcements

We would like to say farewell to Mrs Hemingway, Miss Ilyas and Ms Kennedy who will be leaving us today. We wish them all the best in their future careers. Also we welcome the following members of staff into their new roles:

Mrs S Clarke – Year 1 Teacher (replacing Miss Ilyas)
Miss R Khan – Year 2 Teacher
Ms H Simmonds – School Finance Officer
Mrs D Brooke – Teaching Assistant
Miss O Nguyen – Lunchtime Supervisor
Miss I Muhammad – Lunchtime Supervisor

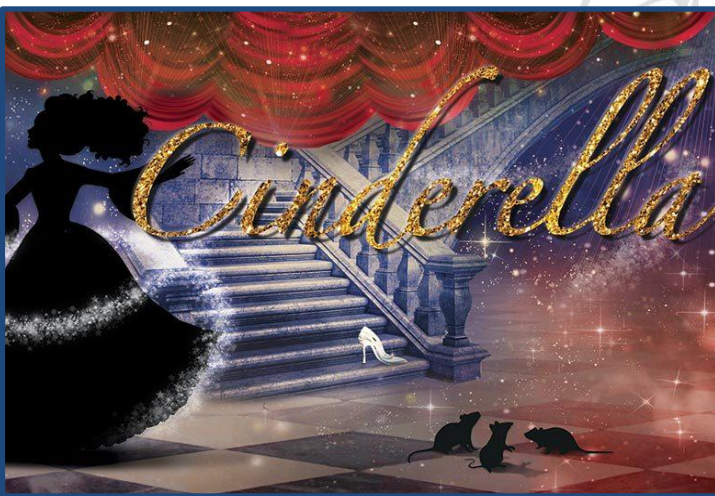


Whole School Visit to Lawrence Batley Theatre

The Cinderella Pantomime was enjoyed by all!
..."No it wasn't!!" ..."**YES IT WAS!!!!**"

The walk to the theatre and back was definitely worth it as the children had the whole theatre to themselves and interacted with the actors on stage. It was a truly amazing experience and a big thank you to Mrs Oya and Mrs House for organising this special event for us.

Many thanks to the parents who joined us and several local Community Police Constables who supported us during our walk to and from the theatre by helping us to cross the roads safely. The children felt very special having the police escort us all the way and back!



Parents & Friends of Mount Pleasant

Thank you to everyone who joined the meeting during this half-term. There are several really interested parents, who are wanting other parents to join them in some fund-raising ventures. They are beginning their campaign with selling refreshments after various school events. The funds which are raised will initially provide some improvement to the range of playground equipment. Parents and carers are asked to speak to their children about the kind of apparatus they enjoy using, and also about the new equipment they have been provided with recently. They are really enjoying using the new resources. Please get in touch with the school office or go to the website to contact parents who have already volunteered their time. They would really welcome your interest and support.

Family Learning

The weekly sessions run by tutors from Kirklees College, will be continued in January when the focus will be upon Understanding the SATs which children are working towards. The sessions are aimed at parents with children in Years 4 – 6 and will help you to support your child by improving your own knowledge of what is involved within the SATs. Make sure you apply to join the sessions as soon as you can, before the places are taken! Please give your name to your child's class teacher. Don't leave it too late – or you will miss out!



Express week

The 'Express week' celebration sessions are being enjoyed by many parents. Comments are extremely positive and the opportunity to share in children's learning is proving to be both interesting and informative for many. Children are taking great delight in sharing their learning with parents and are proud to do so. Our intention is to organise these sessions each half-term to encourage children to talk about their learning with parents. It has been great to see so many of our dads as well!



Year 5 Hanukkah Assembly

With the Jewish festival of lights – Hanukkah - coming up, Year 5 have been busy preparing and rehearsing their Hanukkah assembly. Hanukkah lasts for 8 days and begins on the 25th day of Kislev (a month in the Hebrew calendar).

This year, according to the western calendar, Hanukkah will begin in the evening of Saturday 24th December and will end in the evening of Sunday 1st January 2017. Using role play and singing in their assembly, children in Year 5 explained to KS1 and KS2 what Hanukkah is, when Jewish people celebrate it, and why.

Happy Hanukkah



Pupil Attendance

Overall pupil attendance at Mount Pleasant Primary School is very good, at 96.2%.

We are very happy to announce that 68 children from Reception and KS1 and 140 children from KS2 have come to school every day since September and have achieved 100% attendance. Their efforts will be rewarded by receiving a 100% attendance certificate and in January they will be invited to a DVD and Popcorn Party.



Gentle reminder; Please only keep your children absent from school when they are really ill, we will always send a poorly child home if they are not well enough to be in school. Also, wherever possible please try and book Doctors, Dentist or any other appointments out of school time.

We have noticed an increase in the number of children coming into school late, this can be very upsetting for your child and also disruptive to the class teacher when a lesson has started. The gates are open from 8.35am and the classroom doors are open from 8.45am and close at 8.55am.

Children keep collecting your weekly merits and once you have collected 10 please see Miss Kershaw and she will reward you with a 100% attendance pencil.



Year 4 & 5 Building Workshop

Kier Group, the construction company building our new school, delivered some educational workshops with Year 4 and Year 5 children. During the workshop, children learned about the creation of responsive and sustainable architecture. Pupils were asked to work collaboratively to make a 3-D model using only spaghetti and marshmallows; with such delicate equipment, this proved to be trickier than expected. Nevertheless, all children persevered and through trial and error they managed to create some successful models – some more complex than others!



As a result of this experience, children became aware of the hard graft and skills involved in construction, such as being imaginative, creative and resourceful. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and some expressed a desire to embark on a career in construction or architecture when they are older. Moreover, they can now link this learning to what is happening on site with the new build currently under development.

New Governors

We are pleased to be able to welcome the following two new governors who have recently joined the Mount Pleasant Primary School Governing Body:

Mrs Bridget Crabtree – She has vast amounts of experience in education and teaching and has also played a proactive role in adult learning.

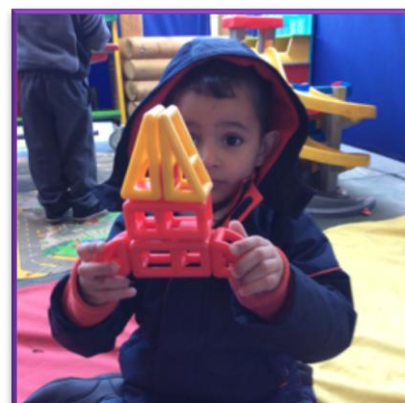
Councillor Andrew Cooper – He is a long service councillor to our Lockwood and Newsome ward and has been a governor for other local schools supporting them through their new build initiatives.



Memorable Experiences

Nursery

This term the Nursery children have been to the moon! We packed our bags, got dressed in our spacesuits and took off, 5,4,3,2,1Blast off!!! We had a picnic, walked on the moon and then flew home again. We have also been making and painting rockets with shapes and bricks, and learning all about shiny things!



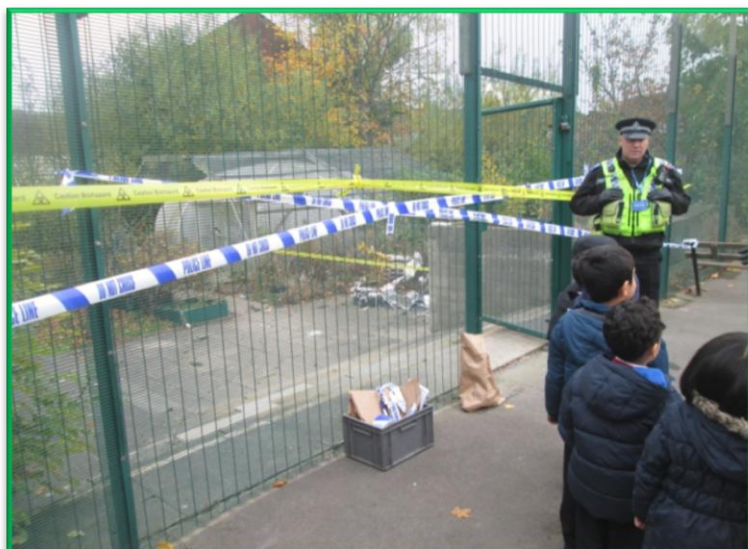
Reception

Reception have been learning about the Gruffalo and had a special visit from The Gruffalo and the Mouse. The children enjoyed meeting them both and were able to think of tricky questions to ask the characters. They have also written them letters.



Year 1

Year 1 had a very exciting start to the half term. When we arrived on 1st November we noticed something strange had happened in the garden. An alien spaceship had crash landed and an alien appeared to have escaped. The police came to see what was going on and taped off the area. Each class in Year 1 turned into investigators and went to visit the site to try to find out what had happened! We realised that one of the aliens must have had an accident because there was alien blood everywhere! The children enjoyed looking into the site and working out what had been going on over the holidays. We described the alien site and thought about what our mystery visitor might have looked like. Our "Beegu" story really helped us with ideas and we got really excited about learning about spaceships, aliens and the planets!



Year 2

The Year 2 memorable experience was a trip to Conisbrough Castle in Doncaster. We explored the keep and learnt all about where Lord Hamelin and Lady Isobel lived. We also had a classroom experience where we got to dress up as different characters such as a knight, chef, Lord and Lady.



Year 3

For their Memorable Experience Year Three had an exciting time visiting local playgrounds. They had time to try out the equipment and think about how it all works. They found out about materials used in the playground and the forces used to make the playground fun. All of this contributed a lot to their scientific understanding.

Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed a visit from a nutritionist Miss Waheed at the start of their teeth and digestion topic "Burps, Bottoms and Bile." She discussed the importance of keeping healthy regarding the teeth and digestive organs. The children then took part in a quiz which enabled them to become familiar with the topic words. Miss Waheed presented an engaging PowerPoint informing the children about healthy and unhealthy foods. After that, they experienced tasting fruits which have added health benefits. They were then given the opportunity to interview Miss Waheed with a question and answer session.

Year 5



This half term, Year 5 have been exploring space through our Stargazers topic. Our memorable experience was an exciting day at Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham. As well as learning about some of the main elements (fire, water, wind and earth) we had the opportunity to attend a space workshop. During this workshop we discovered some of the main stars and constellations in the night sky, the distance of each planet from the sun, life on the International Space Station, and even a demonstration of how rockets are propelled through space! The children left this experience with the zeal to explore and learn more about the universe in which we live.

Year 6

This term in Year 6 children had their memorable experience in Manchester at the Museum of Science and Industry! During the day the children had chance to explore the Museum of Science and Industry which fitted in with our topic, the Industrial Revolution within the Victorian era. Children had the opportunity to partake in three workshops, where they learned about the textile mills; they had the opportunity to work with textile machinery, explore the machines, and also learn about Victorian steam trains and transport. It was a fantastic day out and all of the children learned many new things.

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 your child's class teacher.

Flapjack

This must be paid on a half termly basis and the School 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 the School Office will send out letters in advance for parents to pay on ParentPay.

Fantastic Friday

This is a special Friday dinner for children who usually do not have a school lunch. Children in KS2 who have a packed lunch or go home for dinner can pay for a school dinner every Friday. Payment is made via ParentPay every half term. KS1 children are eligible for Universal Free School Meals, therefore they do not have to pay but if they have packed lunches or go home, then the School Office must be notified. This then allows the kitchen to have accurate numbers for catering purposes. For further details please contact the School Office.

Local PayPoint locations

Listed below are local addresses that provide a PayPoint service:

1. Lockwood Convenience Stores, 225 Lockwood Rd, Huddersfield, HD1 3TG
2. Simply Food and Drinks, 3 Church Lane, Huddersfield, HD4 6JE
3. 24 Corner, 19-21 John William Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BR
4. One Stop Stores Ltd, Broad Lane, Huddersfield, HD5 9BU
5. Top News, 55 Colne Road, Huddersfield, HD1 3AY



Dates to Note in Your Diaries:

Friday 16 th December 2016	Children break up for Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	Children return back to school (Spring Term 1)
Tuesday 10 th January 2017	Year 4 trip to Blue Planet
Tuesday 24 th January 2017	Year 6 Parent Workshops all day

European Alliance – Art Competition

Thank you to our new Governor, Councillor Andrew Cooper, who worked with the school and our Year 5 children, along with Miss Aziz, to enter an Art competition for the European Alliance. The theme was based on the title **'My Region, My Language, My Culture.'**

The aim of the drawing competition was to engage children in a creative exercise to express their views of how languages and cultures are experienced within a school context. It allowed complete free expression and supported children's creativity and innovative ideas expressed through art. The 3 winners from our school had their work displayed from 5-8th December in the Committee of the Regions Hall in Brussels. Well done to our three winners:



1st Place – Fajria Alwodai 2nd Place – Zainab Syeda 3rd Place – Nooralhoda Elarrami



Committee of the Regions Hall, Brussels

And finally...

Once again, from all the Staff and Governors at Mount Pleasant, we hope everyone has a great holiday and for all families celebrating Christmas we hope you have a fabulous day with family and friends.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year.

School re-opens Tuesday 3rd January 2017

*Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New
Year*

