

Mount Pleasant Primary School Parent Newsletter – Issue 10 17th February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the February half term issue of our parent newsletter. You will be able to read about a number of very exciting memorable experiences that children have enjoyed over this half term. Also there are upcoming events such as the World Book Day which is always a fun-packed school-wide learning activity.

You will be pleased to know that the building work is progressing to plan. The steel frame of the school has been erected and you will be able to see the shape of the new build. The remaining structure will be built over the next few weeks after which the focus will shift to the internal works.



Children have been taking part in various poster-designing competitions that have been organised in partnership with the building contractors. The winners will be announced after the holidays.

You may have received a message from the school that we are currently in the process of upgrading our school phone system. Please note that during this period, we will be using the following temporary phone numbers: **1 – 01484 480153** **2 – 07826786439** **3 - 07746596210** Once the upgrade is complete, our contact phone number will revert back to the main school number and the above temporary numbers will be disabled. Please see the school website for updates on this work.

Please note that the school will be closed on **Monday 5th June 2017** as we will be holding our final inset day for this year. This means that after the May half term holiday break, children will return to school on **Tuesday 6th June**.

For now, I hope you all have a wonderful half term break and I look forward to seeing all the children on Monday 27 February 2017

Best Wishes

Mrs N Nazir
Headteacher

Year 6 Choices Workshop: British Values

Year 6 pupils were recently visited by Jude Wright who works for the Peace Museum in Bradford to explore themes relating to the choices people make in times of conflict.

The workshop used World War 1 as a starting point, the children were asked to explore what courage means, what influences our decisions, and discover those who joined up to serve their country and those who spoke out for peace in times of conflict.

Next the pupils looked at similar topics in the present day, exploring the world today and how we can open up dialogues and respond to the threat of extremism.

The children thoroughly enjoyed this thought provoking visit.

Internet Safety

On Tuesday the 7th February, children at Mount Pleasant and all across the world took part in Safer Internet Day 2017. The children participated in a range of activities, all focused on increasing their internet and computer safety awareness.

As a result of our collective action, Safer Internet Day reached 2.8 million children and 2.5 million parents (in the UK)!

On Safer Internet Day we encouraged children to 'Be the change' and help make the internet a better place. Teachers at Mount Pleasant shared strategies with your children to help them make a positive difference online.



Through the course of the day, the children also completed a questionnaire which revealed just how many of them use and have access to apps/media sites which have strict user age policies! Many of these sites require users to be a minimum age of at least 13. We encourage all parents to check their child's app usage!

World Book Day

World Book Day is here again! We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 3rd March. We hope all the children will come to school dressed as their favourite story character. There will be prizes for the children who have really thought about the characters they would like to be. There are lots of ideas on the World Book Day site for simple costumes that are not expensive to make. <http://www.bookaid.org/support-us/world-book-day/world-book-day-dress-up/>



Hiccup Horrendous
Haddock III



The Very Hungry
Caterpillar



Wimpy Kid



The BFG

We will be promoting Book Week with all the children throughout the week with all of the staff making a special effort to engage the children in stories.

The week kicks off to an exciting start with the performance poet Donovan Christopher working with Years 4 and 5 to write and perform their own poems. Donovan will have some of his poetry collections on sale at the end of Monday.



Look out for our Book Fair, which will be arriving 8th March 2017 for 7 days. More information will be coming about this after half term.

ParentPay

Dinner money . Kirklees Council request that dinner money must be paid in advance and dinner accounts must be kept in credit. Debit balances will eventually be passed onto Kirklees if after several request from the office, these are not bought into credit.

Trips/Events . The school request that all trips and events payable be paid online via ParentPay. Any letters regarding trips and events will have a barcode to pay at a PayPoint on them if you wish to pay via this method.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office and they will be happy to help.

Attendance

Please see listed below our latest Attendance figures:

- 95.6% - current attendance
- 3% is authorised absence, (illness)
- 1.2% is unauthorised absence (unauthorised leave of absence)

We recently sent out a letter to the whole school reminding parents of our school policy on extended leave. We are pleased to see that the majority of parents have taken the information on board and we thank you for your support in this matter.

We have lots of children that are still arriving a few minutes late every morning, to avoid your child being given a late mark please try and get your son/daughter to their classroom doors before 9.55am.

On a brighter note for all KS1 and KS2 children with 100% attendance we had two fantastic parties in the hall where the children got to choose a movie on DVD, they also had popcorn and juice, this was a very entertaining and fun packed afternoon and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Mr Manning and Mr Douglas for all their help setting up and clearing away.

Parents Evening is on Tuesday 4th April 2017 – please make a note of this in your diaries

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Nursery

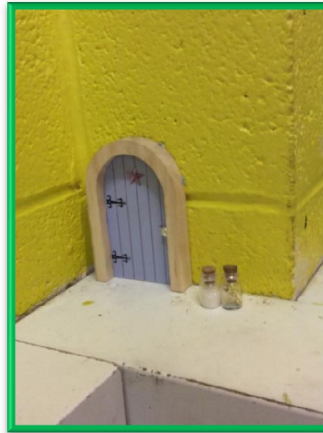
Welcome to all the new children and families that have joined us this term. Nursery is now full and we have been very busy this term fighting dragons and building castles. Our topic has been Are dragons real?

We've had great fun in our castle pretending to be knights and princesses and one day we had a very special visitor when Her Royal Highness, the Queen came for her tea. The cucumber sandwiches were delicious.



Reception

The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about different traditional tales. Over the course of our learning we have had lots of visitors in Reception including a dragon that had lost his memory and some helpful fairies who have visited us through their fairy door.



Year 1

This term we started our topic, "Bright Light Big City" with a very special visit. We were lucky enough to have a visit from The Queen herself. We organised a tea party where we enjoyed cucumber sandwiches and specially decorated buns. When the Queen visited we asked her lots of questions about her family and where she lived. We told her we were going to be learning all about London! Once the Queen had headed back to London we carried on with our tea party and managed a good game of pin the tail on the corgi! We've really enjoyed learning about London and the Queen for our topic this half term.



Year 2



Street Detectives - This half term Year 2 have been exploring the local area and discovering how it has changed over time. Our topic of ~~Street Detectives~~ sent us on an investigative walk around Lockwood where we got to compare different buildings and identify interesting features. We also visited a modern church! Our fieldwork has led us to create our own maps and helped us to discuss life in the past.

Year 3

Year 3 have had fantastic time learning about food this half term. We walked to Sainsbury's to find out where food comes from and found out about all the different varieties of food.

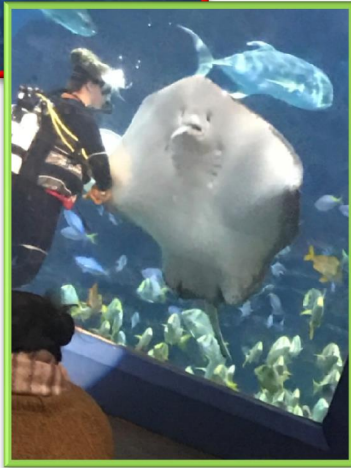


Year 4

Year four's memorable experience was enjoyed by all. We viewed many tanks of ocean creatures. We watched divers in the big tank feed sharks and rays. Our workshop told us about adaptations of different sea creatures including sharks, rays and star fish. The viewing tunnel was exciting as we went around it on a moving conveyor belt. The large sharks and ray fish swam over our heads.



Eels and beautiful, colourful fish swam around us. It was amazing!



Year 5



Topic: Pharaohs.....Year 5 travelled back 5000 years to the dusty realms of ancient Egypt. They cruised along the Nile, entering a world of mysteries and curses, mummies, kings and much more! Our memorable experience involved the children witnessing the process of mummification (embalming).

Year 6

In Year 6 we made giant and mini icebergs! The Year 6 pupils observed how the icebergs sit in the water and how they change over time. We explored questions such as:

What happens when you add salt to our iceberg?

Why do you think there are bubbles in it?

Why does the ice move as it melts?

Which parts melt more quickly - the parts above or below the water?

We then moved on to do some descriptive writing in our English lessons, describing everything that we experienced.

VLE

We are really pleased to see children use our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). During the term, teachers are going to set homework using the VLE. The children will then be able to create a response, upload documents and create their own blogs. During our VLE workshop with parents, there was a concern about other schools being able to see our blogs. This issue has now been addressed. I would also like to remind everyone, children need to have a good sleep and parents need to ensure children are not using the VLE or computers late at night

Diary Dates

Friday 17th February 2017	Children break up for half term
Monday 27th February 2017-02-14	Children return to school
	Poet D Christopher Year 4 and Year 5 children
Thursday 2nd March 2017	Year 3 Zoo visit (in school)
Friday 3rd March 2017	World Book Day Parade:
-	9am for Nursery (am), Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5
-	And at 2.30pm for Nursery (pm), Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6
Thursday 9th March 2017	Reception trip to Kirklees Light Railway
Thursday 16th March 2017	Year 4 Viking Day
Friday 24th March 2017	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 4th April 2017	Parent's Evening (Book Fair during Parent's Evening)
Wednesday 5th April 2017	Parent's Evening (Book Fair)
Friday 7th April 2017	Children break up for Easter holidays
Monday 24th April 2017	Children return to school
Monday 5th June 2017	INSET DAY (school closed for children)

Parent Teacher Group

We currently have a number of parents who are interested in meeting once per half term to discuss ways in which they could help the children / school. They have already been actively involved in some fund-raising sessions and have recently decided upon a few more ideas. **WATCH THIS SPACE!** . We will let children and parents know about future ventures as soon as they are finalised.

In the meantime . if you have a little spare time and want to come and join the group, please speak to your class teacher or get in touch with Mrs. House. All the events will be of benefit to your children - so why not give it a try. Come and have a drink with us and meet some other interested parents.

Parking at the Beginning/End of School Day

Most parents are extremely good and recognise the safety value of the yellow zig-zags outside the entrance to school. These **must be free of vehicles at both ends of the day** to ensure good visibility for those who need to cross the road, ensuring that our children and families are free from harm.

Please note, Nursery pick up time is 11.30am. Afternoon drop off time is 12.30pm.



Parent Governors

We are delighted to inform you that we have two new parent governors:

1 - Mrs Shafina Akthar who has a child in Yellow Class. She is an Optometrist and is looking forward to working with the school in her new role.

2 - Mrs Saffiyah Bibi has two children in the school, Year 2 and Year 5. She is the Chair of the PTA (Parent and Teacher Association).

They will both make an excellent addition to our Governing Body as they add to the Governing Body skills set and expertise.

We were sorry to receive Mr Andi Wali's resignation from his position as parent governor, as he returned to his home country. And a special thank you to Mr Istikhar (Ifty) Aziz whose term of office as Parent Governor finished after four years. He has been an excellent Governor, volunteering so much of his time and energy in supporting the school. Both of them will be greatly missed.

Special Awards Assembly

A big well done to all the following children for displaying outstanding learning and behaviour.

December 2016

1A	Raihan Kaminski	1B	Aiza Rehman	1C	Amaima Asam
2A	Arvin Rajabi	2B	Haroon Tariq	2C	Abbas Al-Obaidi
3A	Hammam Mohamed	3B	Aysha Bismillah	3C	Hafsa Mumtaz
4A	Asma Munawar	4B	Angel Sibanda	4C	Ishaac Ali
5A	Zahra Yaseen	5B	Fatima Zia	5C	Aaisha Saadiqah
6A	Emmanuel Matthew	6B	Zahara Miah	6C	Yahya Ashraf

February 2017

1A	Mohsin Ali	1B	Nusaibah Zaman	1C	Mohammed Dawood
2A	Aamina Ishaq	2B	Anthony Pagani	2C	Iqra Afzal
3A	Yousif Mubarak	3B	Ibrahim Khan	3C	Raheel Zulfikar
4A	Ibrahim Hussain	4B	Owen Wakefield	4C	Ezzah Khan
5A	Furqaan Iqbal	5B	Shenne Nzar	5C	Yousef Ghani
6A	Aisha Imran	6B	Zeeshan Khan	6C	Sajaa Ghazaal

1K a Day

Since the start of January pupils from Year 1 to 6 have been walking, jogging or running one kilometre every day around the school playground in an attempt to improve their physical and general well-being. We would like to thank all the parents who are supporting this initiative by walking to and from school with their children more regularly and hope that with its continued success, it will help children further understand the importance of leading a healthy and active lifestyle.