



Mount Pleasant Primary School

Parent Newsletter – Issue 17

29 March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very cold half term with the 'Beast from the East' bringing unusual amounts of snow, resulting in some school closure days. I wanted to start this newsletter by explaining that closing the school is never an easy call to make, as a number of different factors have to be considered before a final decision is made. The two days when we had a late start was to allow our staff who travel long distances the chance to arrive safely at work, through the traffic disruptions. Parents also appreciated the late opening times so they could bring their children into school when the roads began to clear. I would like to thank all our parents who have been very supportive and understanding through these difficult few days.

New School – New External Play Spaces



When parents approach me they always have lots of questions about how the new external play spaces will be for children, once the building work is completed. I am pleased that everyone is so excited to see how the work is progressing and what we are planning. I have been working closely on this with the Chair of our Governing Body's Resources Committee, Cllr Andrew Cooper (pictured above) who is able to share that, "As Mount Pleasant Primary School is a central hub for the local community, the new external spaces are going to be a great asset for everyone. Governors are really impressed by the Head Teacher's plans and excited to see it develop into a truly amazing outdoor learning environment for the children and local families. The school's excellent achievements, results as well as the exciting new building and external developments are the main reasons why we are such a popular choice for parents, with many families appealing for places for their children."

At the recent Resources Committee meeting, we discussed and agreed key elements which will be our priority as part of the new build contract as well as some follow up works that are taking place with the support of Kirklees Council, over the coming summer holiday break. I would like to share a brief outline with you now, so that you will have a glimpse of the exciting developments that are to come.

Over the coming months, we will:

1. Install canopies outside Nursery, Early Years and KS1
2. Have a brand-new sports pitch with football, netball, basketball, as well as a running track for school athletics.
3. Create better access arrangements for everyone to enter the school grounds from Victoria Road.
4. Develop the grassed area at the bottom of the KS1 playground, adjacent to Lockwood Road, which will provide a wonderful park setting for the school and local community.
5. Develop the fruit garden to make it into an 'edible playground' through which children can learn about growing fruits and vegetables.
6. Build external classrooms in the centre of the playground which will allow children to enjoy outdoor learning.

I will continue to update you on this in further newsletters.

World Book Day

Our parents, children and staff worked extremely hard in designing costumes for World Book Day. Each year we are amazed by the high quality and wonderful creativity of the designs. World Book day is all about appreciating and enjoying reading and I am delighted that our children love reading and are enjoying our two amazing libraries. Look out for some of the world book day photos further on in this newsletter. We also have many photographs on the screen in the main entrance. Look out for the updates on the website where we will upload more photographs.

Mrs Oya's Retirement

As many of you will already know, Mrs Oya, who has worked at the school for many years will be leaving us today. She has been a wonderful and inspiring member of our team, ensuring that English and in particular Reading have remained a high priority within the school. She has introduced so many amazing educational initiatives to the school, including the new Cornerstones curriculum, the two new school libraries, as well as the World Book Day event. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for her future. We will truly miss her!



General points

Further on in the newsletter, we bring your attention to our attendance figures and I am disappointed to say that the number of term time holidays some of our families have been taking is having a serious impact on our attendance and on children's learning. Please take note of the new year calendar and the holidays and use this to book your holidays for next year. Term time holidays are not permitted and parents will be issued with fines.

FREE New School Uniform Jumper

I am pleased to announce that we will be celebrating the official opening of our new school with all children receiving a gift from the school of the new school jumper and book bag (with the new logo). The new school colours and logo have received an overwhelming amount of support from parents, children and staff. We will be sending out letters to parents about the new uniform after the Easter holidays.

I hope everyone has a lovely Easter holiday and I look forward to seeing you back after the holidays fully relaxed and ready for the Summer term.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs N Nazir
Head Teacher

New School Uniform



The school will be introducing our new school uniform from September 2018. This will be:

- Green logo v-neck jumper
- Green logo sweatshirt
- Green book bag
- White shirt/polo shirt
- Black trousers or skirt
- Black shoes

Samples were on show at Parents Evening and we received fantastic feedback from parents.

The school will be providing every child a logo jumper and book bag from July, ready to wear in September 2018.

Further details will be shared in due course.

Attendance

Attendance is currently averaging 94% compared to last year at this time when it was 95%. See brief breakdown below for your information:-

2017/18		2016/17	
Overall attendance	94.4%	Overall attendance	95.4%
Authorised Absence (illness)	3.5%	Authorised Absence (illness)	3%
Unauthorised Leave of Absence (holiday)	1.4%	Unauthorised Leave of Absence (holiday)	0.9%

Looking at the above figures we can clearly see that children taking leave of absence has dramatically increased from last year. **Can I remind all parents that leave will only ever be authorised in extreme circumstances and all unauthorised leave will be issued with a fine.**

We will be holding another draw for all children with 100% attendance when we return from the Easter break, and we will announce the lucky winners of the Waterstones Book tokens in the next newsletter.

There is race on for the best class attendance in KS1. Class 1A is galloping on in front at 95% - closely being chased by classes 2A and 2B at 94%. It is also very exciting in KS2, with classes 3B, 3C, 4B, 4C, 6B all at 96% closely followed by 3A & 6A at 95%.

Good attendance promotes good health, solid friendships and an overall sense of achievement and wellbeing for all children. **Parents please consider your child's education, continuity and wellbeing when you make decisions about taking them out of school. It is their future in your hands!**

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thank you to everyone who made this such an exciting and enjoyable day for all the children, staff and parents. The costumes were fabulous, as you can see from these photos below.

We are very grateful to all the parents who shared this exciting day with us. We value the obvious thought and effort that was put in to dressing up the children so brilliantly.

It was the first major event we have hosted since moving into the new building and we are so pleased that it was such a resounding success. The children got so much out of it and we hope they will continue to be inspired by their reading. Thank you to all parents who supported the World Book Day and supported the school and your children at our Book Fair. Our new library is a wonderful area for the children to enjoy cultivating their imaginations and a love of reading.

Here are some of the fabulous characters from the day.





Parents' Evening and VLE

Thank you for attending our first Parents' Evening in our fantastic new school.

We would also like to thank parents for using the VLE to book their appointments. This has saved a lot of time and paper and we hope has made it easier for you to book your appointments. We have had a few teething problems whilst setting up this new system, however we have received a lot of positive feedback from parents who are happy with the VLE already.

The VLE is a great resource which allows school to communicate more effectively with parents. We are able to send messages via email and to the smart phone app. I would advise all parents to download the school spider app (if you have a smart phone) so that you receive all notifications and messages.

In order to access the VLE, you need to go to the school website <http://www.mountpleasantschool.co.uk/> and the pupil login box is in the red section, whilst the parents' login is in the black bar at the top of the page.

Over the coming year, we will be arranging another VLE workshop to help parents with accessing the VLE and the booking system. If you do have any issues, you can see Mr Stretton after school who will be happy to show you how to use the VLE.

We would like to thank parents again as this is a big change and I can understand this can be daunting, but the benefits for us all in the long term will be worth it.

Thornton Lodge Community Centre

ESOL Course: New ESOL course starting at Thornton Lodge Community centre after Easter. Classes will be twice a week for 10 weeks.

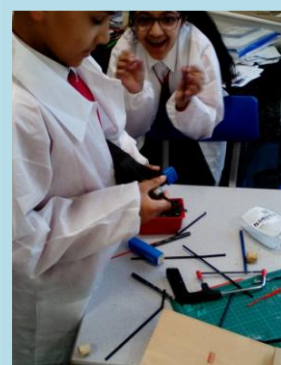
Exercise classes- Running three time a week from Thornton Lodge Community Centre. All session is 10am to 11am on Mon, Wed & Fri. (Free Creche on Fridays)

For further information or to register call Missbah on 07871938174

Science Day

British Science Week took place on 9-18th March. It was a national ten-day celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Our school took part by having a Science day on Friday 16th March.

This was a wonderful opportunity for our school to promote STEM with an array of creative activities, investigations, games - all of which enthused and engaged our children allowing them to explore Science in the world around them.



Messages from the Office

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 reminders from the office, these are not bought into credit. If your child decides to change from dinners to sandwiches, or vice versa, please inform the office. Kitchen need to order dinners and if your child changes to sandwiches, you may still be charged.

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

School Milk: Milk is now ordered online. The school will provide parents with a letter and leaflet of how they can order milk online at the end of each half term – this will be available for next half term

Appointments: We seem to be getting an increasing number of children leaving school for appointments. Please book dentist, doctor or other appointments outside school time.

Absence: If your child is not in school for whatever reason, please ring the office before 9.00 am.

Nut Allergies: Due to many of our children suffering from nut allergies, please do not send nuts in your child's packed lunch or as a snack.

Privacy Notice: Please visit <http://www.mountpleasantschool.co.uk/page/privacy-notice/29684> to have a look at our school's updated Privacy Notice.

If you require further help, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Lockwood Tots

Lockwood Tots group runs every Wednesday in school from 9.00am – 11.00am at a cost of 50p per session.

Responsibilities

Although the school gates open at 8:30am and children in Years 5 and 6 (with parental consent) are able to come to school by themselves, the school cannot take responsibility for any child until the school doors open at 8:40am (with the exception of Nursery and children who attend Breakfast Club). Parents are responsible for their children until 8:40am.

We would also like to request that parents dropping and picking children up park safely and appropriately. Parents are parking on the coned areas, which is making it unsafe for children and parents who walk home.

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Thursday 29 th March 2018	Key Stage 2 Special Assembly (invited parents only) 9.00am
	Key Stage 1 Special Assembly (invited parents only) 9.30am
	Children Break up for Easter Holidays
Monday 16 th April 2018	Children return to school

Proposed Mount Pleasant Term Time and Holidays 2018-2019

Autumn Term 1

- **Monday 3rd September 2018** INSET Day
- **Tuesday 4th September 2018** INSET Day
- Wednesday 5th September 2018 First day of school for children
- Friday 26th October 2018 Children break up for half term holidays

Autumn Term 2

- **Monday 5th November 2018** INSET Day
- Tuesday 6th November 2018 Children return to school
- Friday 21st December 2018 Children break up for Christmas holidays

Spring Term 1

- Monday 7th January 2019 Children return to school
- Friday 15th February 2019 Children break up for half term holidays

Spring Term 2

- Monday 25th February 2019 Children return to school
- Friday 12th April 2019 Children break up for Easter holidays

Summer Term 1

- Monday 29th April 2019 Children return to school
- Friday 24th May 2019 Children break up for half term holidays

Summer Term 2

- Monday 3rd June 2019 Children return to school
- **Monday 22nd July 2019** INSET Day (disaggregated)

1 x INSET Day to be confirmed

At Mount Pleasant Primary School, we Think Big, Aim High & Achieve!