



Mount Pleasant Primary School

Parent Newsletter – Issue 20

26 October 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a busy and enjoyable first half term of the school. As you know, we were given our complete site back (except for the grassed area just below Nursery and this will be complete next week). Having so much external play space has been fantastic as finally after two long years the children have such wonderful play space to enjoy. Children also are thrilled with their new uniforms and PE bags in the new school colours.

We had the Formal Opening Ceremony in September attended by Barry Sheerman MP, Thelma Walker MP, local councillors, local head teachers, representatives from the Government's Education Funding Agency, Kier (our school build contractors), along with some parents and staff. Children also joined into this event as we celebrated the formal opening of our beautiful new school. This was a momentous event as we shared the journey of the new school, had speeches from Dr Williams (Chair of Governors), our current School Council as well as a memorable speech from a wonderful former Mount Pleasant pupil called Mrs Gina Williams who has just turned 85 (Happy Birthday Gina!). Mrs Jacqui Gedman (Chief Executive of Kirklees Council) officially opened the school with everyone joining in with the ribbon cutting ceremony. Visitors were treated to a tour of the new facilities and participated in planting of new trees in our fruit garden.



Yesterday, we had our Grand Opening Party for all our children, staff and parents to enjoy. This was a lovely event with children and families enjoying the many activities, the Olympic Games taking place on our new Multi Use Games Area, the delicious foods served in the stalls, the fun and enjoyment on the bouncy castle and maze run. Many children took part in the Talent Show and Maths Treasure Hunt as well. There were over a thousand attendees and everyone I spoke with gave the event a huge thumbs-up, with many asking if we can make this an annual event. (See further pictures on pages 2 and 3 of newsletter)

Finally, I want to say a huge welcome Mr Umar Zulqarnain who has been appointed as our new parent governor. Also, a huge thank you to everyone at school, including all parents, for their hard work in making Mount Pleasant such an amazing school that everyone can be proud of. Enjoy your half term break!

Mrs N. Nazir (Head Teacher)





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, if these are not bought into credit. If your child decides to change from dinners to sandwiches, or vice versa, please inform the office. Kitchen needs 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 on them 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 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 first thing.

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.

Packed lunches: Can parents please note that it is school policy NOT to allow warm food in packed lunch boxes. If you would like your child to have a hot lunch you should buy a school dinner. All food in packed lunch boxes should be cold. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health guidance on food safety is very clear; warmth is one of the factors required for food poisoning bacteria to grow, and hot food which is kept in the ambient temperature of a lunchbox and eaten barely warm is unsafe practise.

Privacy Notice: Please visit http://mountpleasantschool.co.uk/serve_file/257753 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 starts 7th November 2018, every Wednesday in school from 9.00am – 11.00am at a cost of 50pence 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.

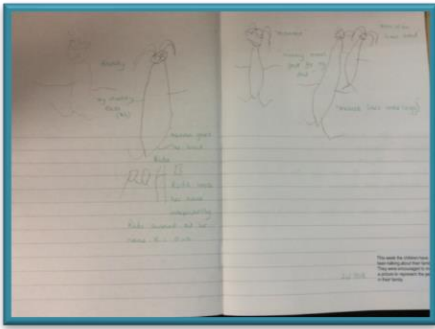
We would also like to request that parent dropping and picking children up park safely and appropriately. Parents are parking on the coned areas, which is making it unsafe for children and parents who go home walking.

ParentPay Activation

The school will be having a prize draw after the holidays for parents who log onto ParentPay and pay online. Further details will follow after the holidays. If you require your username and passwords for ParentPay, the office can give you these details.

Memorable Experiences

Nursery



This half term Nursery has been learning all about ourselves and our families. The children were asked to bring a photo of their family to Nursery. They then spoke about the different members of their family and drew pictures in our special books. We made a family tree display in our home corner which the children really enjoy visiting and looking at all the families.



Reception



Reception have spent this half term settling into their new routines. We have been seeing how incredible we are and trying out all the incredible things we can do. We've been to Africa with Anna Hibiscus and introduced everyone to our families. We've talked about who is in our family and why they are special to us. We've visited the garden

to collect apples for snack and leaves to create some wonderful artwork.



Year 1

For our memorable experience an alien spaceship crashed into our school. We then searched the ground and tried to look for clues to find out what had happened.



Year 2

Year 2 had a lovely afternoon enjoying a Pirate Party as part of our Land Ahoy! topic. Children came dressed as pirates and played fun games like pin the patch on the pirate and climb the rigging. It was lovely to see all the wonderful pirate costumes that parents had made.



Year 3

Our topic this half term was Gods and Mortals. Unexpectedly, Zeus, the King of Gods, visited us in school for our memorable experience and shared some of his adventures. Following his visit, we tasted some delicious Greek food and discussed the distinctive flavours. We also wrote a letter to thank Zeus for visiting us.



Year 4



This half term year 4 took part in a mock Roman versus Celtic battle. Children had fun either as a Celtic warrior or Roman soldier guarding their own territory whilst trying to capture the flag of the opposing army.



Year 5



To start our Alchemy Island topic we had a visit from the Chief Alchemist's very own apprentice. A range of objects including a riddle, key, map and samples (which were taken from Alchemy Island) were presented to the children. Their first task was to solve the riddle in order to work out in which Kingdom of Alchemy Island their journey would begin.



Year 6



In Year 6 we have been learning about the Victorians. We had to dress as Victorian children and we had strict Victorian teachers for the day. We got to make Thaumatrope and Peg Dolls.



School Council

This year we have elected a new school council! Classes were able to take part in elections and elect their class councillor based on submissions children gave on why they should be elected. Children were able to experience the excitement of counting votes and the suspense of revealing who had won. Children elected this year will be the voice of their peers in and out of classes.

Be-frienders 2018-19



In year 6, 16 children have been chosen to become be-frienders. These children will have the privilege of supporting others with problems they may have in and out of school. Children will sacrifice one lunch time a week to sit and listen to others and support them through difficult times. We encourage children to take on these roles to exercise empathy, listening and problem solving skills which will help them not only in school but in further education as well.

Weather Maths

As part of the teaching and learning in Mathematics we are introducing '**Weather Maths**' from **Year 1 to Year 6**, to develop children's mathematical fluency. Mathematical fluency is the ability to recall number facts, to know when to use these number facts and to be able to apply these readily to a range of situations. Knowing these facts enables children to focus upon understanding the concept of fractions for instance or to solve problems.



'**Weather Maths**' involves a series of stages (Sunshine, Rainbow and Climate) and this enables practice and testing on a number of aspects, including number bonds and multiplication tables.

Times Tables Rock Stars

When it comes to times tables, speed and accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculation therefore we have recently subscribed to a website called 'Times Tables Rock Stars'.

'Times Tables Rock Stars' is a website that lets children practice their times table in a fun, engaging and rewarding way. It lets them create and build a cool avatar, join a battle of bands against other classes and compete in times tables festivals against children around the world! Your child will come home with their user name and unique password which will allow them access to the website to complete tasks set by the teacher.



Attendance

Our current attendance is 96%. Once again, this year we will focus on raising our attendance and we are happy to advise that so far this term we have 292 children (including Nursery) that have come to school every day and achieved 100% attendance. These children will be rewarded and celebrated in a special assembly when we return next term.

As always we trust we can rely on your support to keep our attendance high and request that you always think carefully before allowing your child to miss a valuable day of learning. Bearing this in mind we also kindly request that appointments are not made during the school day unless it is an emergency. Please also remember that being punctual is a very useful skill to have, school doors open at 8:40am and close at 8.50am. For morning activities and registration is at 8:55a.m. Any child arriving after 9.00am will be given an unauthorised late mark.

Gentle reminder to all parents to let school know as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend school. Following Kirklees guidelines our protocol is to follow up any absences until we are satisfied that the reasons are valid and genuine. A child's safety and wellbeing is paramount to all staff at Mount Pleasant Primary.

Healthy Teeth

We have been provided with a supply of toothbrushes and toothpaste sets for our younger pupils which will be distributed soon. Please take the time to share with your child the information, which will be discussed in school, regarding good dental hygiene – healthy eating / regular teeth cleaning / regular dentist visits.



Opticians

Valli Opticians, Lockwood have visited school to speak to all our children about eye health and care. They have helped them to understand about things that can go wrong with their vision and what help opticians can give.



Internet Legends

KS2 pupils have been involved in a presentation by visitors from 'Internet Legends'. During these sessions they were encouraged to consider how to keep themselves safe when using the internet. Parents and children are advised that

- when accessing the internet at home, children should be in the same room as parents to enable close supervision of content

- parental restrictions must be added to all apparatus

- children should NOT gain access to games which are inappropriate or have a higher age guidance (i.e. alongside older family members)

- children need to be able to alert an adult if they are concerned about anything they see or hear on

the internet (Police would be interested and take action if they are notified of any concerns.)

Telephone 020 7686 7225

www.parentzone.org.uk

www.parentinfo.org

The Be Internet Legends programme is designed to teach your child the skills they need to stay safe and have a positive time online. The fun family activities in this booklet are based around the Internet Legends code:

- Knowing what's OK to share on the internet and what's not
- Spotting the clues for what's real, fake, misleading or a scam online
- Learning how to keep information secure online and create strong passwords
- Asking for help from a parent or trusted adult with tricky situations online Understanding what it means to be kind online and respect other people's privacy

Each activity has a Quick Guide to support you and your family with important conversations that may arise around each topic. You can also refer to the library at the end of the booklet for useful definitions. Your involvement at home with these activities can really help your child to develop the necessary skills and reinforce the key messages to help them become safer and more confident when exploring the online world.

#BeInternetLegends

Reading

We want our children to enjoy reading and reap all the benefit reading regularly has to offer:

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.

After all, practise makes perfect in almost everything we do and reading is no different. So the more your child reads the better they will become at it.

2. Reading exercises the brain.

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV for example. Reading strengthens existing brain connections and also builds NEW connections.

3. Reading improves concentration.

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the text when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places and events outside their own experiences.

5. Reading improves vocabulary and language.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read our brains translate the description we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop, they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

8. Reading is a great way to spend time together.

Reading together on the sofa, bedtime stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending valuable time together.

9. Reading prevents boredom.

A book or an e-reader doesn't take much space and is light to carry so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.

10. Children who read achieve better in school.

Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good at reading tend to achieve better across curriculum areas.

As a school, we have given reading a high priority to ensure our children are maximising the opportunities to enjoy reading. These include our curriculum design, the way we deliver our guided reading sessions, our well resourced libraries and the quality of books children have access to in school and books they take home. Please look out for invites to the 'Parent Book Shares'

Date	Activity
Monday 5 th November 2018	INSET Day (Children not in school)
Tuesday 6 th November 2018	Children return to school
Friday 9 th November 2018	Year 5 Planetarium
Tuesday 13 th November 2018	Year 3 Yorkshire Wildlife Park
	Class 4A – Parent Book Share
	Class 2A assembly, 9.00am
	Year 4 Indoor Football Tournament, 4.00-5.30pm
Wednesday 14 th November 2018	Year 3 Dance Workshop
Friday 16 th November 2018	Children in Need Day
Tuesday 20 th November 2018	Year 3 Diwali Assembly
Thursday 22 nd November 2018	Year 2 trip to Conisbrough Castle
Tuesday 27 th November 2018	Class 6A – Parent Book Share
	Class 4A Assembly, 9.00am
	Year 6 Athletics (at school), 4.00-5.30pm
Monday 3 rd December 2018	Year 5 Hanukkah Assembly
Tuesday 4 th December 2018	Reception – Year 5 Flu Immunisations
	Year 1 - Change 4 Life Festival, 4.00-5.30pm
Thursday 6 th December 2018	Class 1C – Parent Book Share
Tuesday 11 th December 2018	Class 6A Assembly
	Year 3 Indoor Football Tournament (Almondbury) 4.00-5.30pm
Thursday 13 th December 2018	Class 3B – Pedestrian Road safety
Friday 14 th December 2018	Christmas Jumper Day
	Year 3 Diwali Workshop, 9.00-11.30am
Monday 17 th December 2018	Christmas Performances
	Class 3A – Pedestrian Road safety
Thursday 20 th December 2018	Class 3A – Pedestrian Road safety - am
	Class 3B – Pedestrian Road safety – pm
Friday 21 st December 2018	Children break up for Christmas Holidays

