

Mount Pleasant Primary School Parent Newsletter – Issue 23 11th April, 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we come to the end of a very successful Spring term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, our parents as well as our staff for their hard work throughout this long term. I am sure everyone is ready to enjoy a well-earned and much needed Easter holiday.



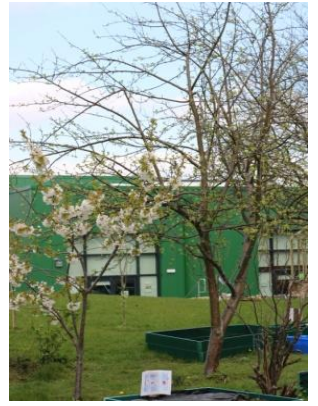
After a lengthy delay in the building works, I am pleased to announce that our Early Year's external play space is finally ready for children to use. Classes have already begun to make full use of this wonderful and exciting new play space. Reception children have weekly Forest-School lessons which involves time spent in the brand-new outdoor classroom followed by activities in the our 'enchanted forest'. As part of the outdoor sessions, children also have the opportunity to enjoy the other elements of this play space, such as the huge sandpit, the climbing frame, play stage area, tubby tunnel and

exciting new hill and slide. Nursery and Year 1 children have also started to use this area and we are looking at timetables so they can use it even more.





You will also see how well we are beginning to use another area in our external space, the Fruit Garden, where different classes have been busy getting their plots of land ready and have started growing a number of vegetables.



A big thank you to Year 2, and their wonderful Easter assembly, as they reminded everyone of why Christians celebrate this important festival. Easter is celebrated by some of our families and many of our staff. I am sure you will join me in wishing everyone who will be celebrating Easter these holidays that they have a wonderful time with their family and friends.

Many of our families and some staff will also be celebrating the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi – again this is a very significant festival within the Sikh calendar, and many of us might witness the Vaisakhi annual parade through Huddersfield and other local authorities. It is a great sight to see and reminds everyone of key messages of working together and being proud of your identity and beliefs. After the Easter holidays, Year 4 will be leading an assembly to celebrate this festival. I hope everyone who will be celebrating Vaisakhi has a lovely time with their family and friends.



Also after the holidays, many of our families and staff will start the month of Ramadan. This is a very spiritual time for Muslim families, with a celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr to mark the end of this month. Ramadan Mubarak to all our families and staff celebrating this month.

Sharing and celebrating the various religious festivals our families and staff engage in reminds everyone that whilst some of our beliefs may differ, we have many similarities. I feel tremendously proud that as a school we celebrate differences and similarities. Not just with religious faiths but with other beliefs, as well as with race and cultural similarities and differences. We teach our children to respect and care for each other.

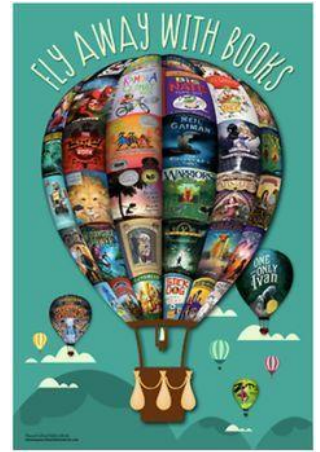
Yours faithfully,
Mrs N Nazir
Head Teacher



WORLD BOOK WEEK

World Book Week was a huge success with children really enjoying and engaging with their year group's book. The week was jam packed with activities related to the texts and time was given to children to make props to go with their costumes. Children also enjoyed story time with different adults sharing their favourite stories with them each day.

The week ended with world book week assemblies where children were able to share some of their work and show off their costumes! Winners for best costumes (children and adults) were chosen who received a £5 a voucher to spend at the book fair.



RED NOSE DAY

This year for Red Nose Day, we were extremely busy trying to raise money for charity! We were blown away by the support from children, parents and teachers this year and would like to thank everyone who took part in giving to people in need. We sold 400 red noses in school; we had a non-uniform day for children and staff; and held the event of the year: Pie a teacher! At lunchtime children and teachers came flocking into the small hall to pie five fabulous teachers who gave up their faces for charity! Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed throwing cream pies at teachers and in total, after a full day of raising money, we managed to raise £1020.00! All the money will go to the Red Nose Day charity to support those who need it most in the UK and internationally. Again we would like to thank parents, staff and children for their generosity and we hope you all had a great day.

FUNDRAISING FOR

COMIC RELIEF

RED NOSE DAY



Grow to School have been coming into school to work with our children, implementing their food growing project, 'The Growbag'. They have been working in school with Years 1,2,3,4 and 5 and will continue to run a full day session every half term over the course of the year.



We have a lovely growing area which we are bringing more into use. The children have learnt a lot about tool safety, different types of soil and how to improve the soil with soil conditioner and manure, as well as hands-on experience of gardening and growing food. They have planted onions, peas, beans, chard, radishes and early potatoes. All the children enjoyed the sessions, despite the intermittent rain and a few muddy coats!

During the summer term Grow to School staff will also be working with Year 6 and Reception classes carrying out a biodiversity audit of the school grounds, mapping the natural diversity of the site, getting the children learning outdoors and carrying out the survey work.



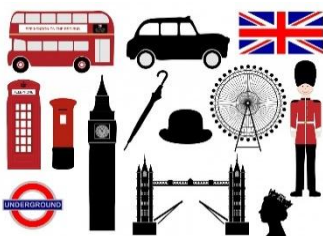
Reception Memorable Experience

During this term Reception enjoyed their visit to Kirklees Light Railway, as part of our transport topic. The children travelled on a coach to the train station where we met the driver who told us the train's name, it was called 'The Owl' and he would be pulling us in the carriages. Next, we boarded the train to Shelley Station. On our journey, we saw lots of different farm animals, went through a dark tunnel and listened out for the Steam Engine's whistle to signal our final stop. The children watched the engine go on the turn table before taking us back to Clayton West. After a yummy picnic lunch, the children had the chance to whizz around the pond on the mini train; experience the amazing new climbing frame and swings, and a trip to the engine shed where they found out how steam engines work. The children really enjoyed their experience and came back to school with lots of new vocabulary and a better understanding of their topic.



Year 1 Memorable Experience

For our memorable experience this term Year 1 had a very important visitor, The Queen, who came to see us. We all made cucumber sandwiches and had a tea party. It was a great day!



Year 2 Memorable Experience



As part of our 'Street Detectives' topic, the children in Year 2 have had the chance to have closer look at our local area. We learned the names of streets in Lockwood and talked about the shops on each street. We also learned the difference between terraced, detached, semi-detached houses and bungalows.



Year 3 Memorable Experience



Linking in with their topic 'Mighty Metals' - Year 3 had an exciting time at the park investigating forces. We played and discussed which forces were used to make the equipment move and how gravity worked.



They were asked questions such as 'what makes the swing move to and fro? Do all things slide down a slide at the same speed? What prevents them from being flung off a roundabout? Following on, the children have been able to discuss and name different types of forces and their effects.



"I enjoyed this topic because I have learned about different forces and what attract and repel means" – *Ibraheem Hoseen.*

"Magnets are really cool and have so many uses" – *Uzair Ashfaq.*



Year 4 Memorable Experience



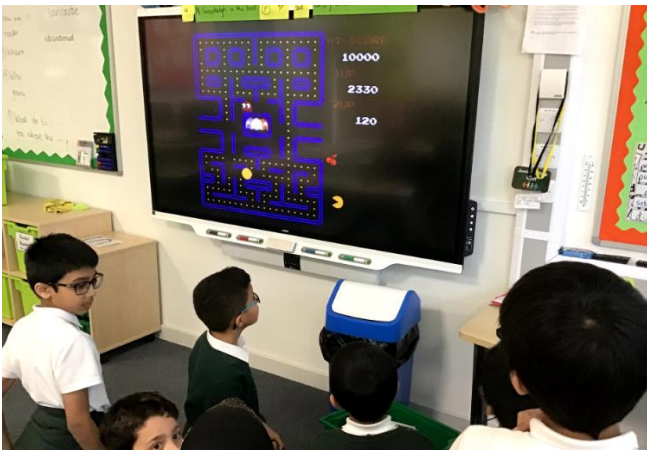
This term's memorable experience related to the Native Americans. The children spent a day designing and making totem poles, learning what they are and what they mean. This involved cutting, moulding, sticking and painting skills.

The children chose animals that mean something to them to display on the poles.

A totem is a spirit being, sacred object, or symbol of a **tribe**, clan, family or individual. Some **Native American** tribe's tradition provides that each person is connected with nine different animals that will accompany him or her through life, acting as guides.



Year 5 Memorable Experience



To introduce our Time Traveller topic, the Year 5 children were shown a range of items from the past. The children were fascinated, surprised and shocked by the artefacts. After they had looked at the different items, they had to discuss what the items were, what they were used for and what they have been replaced by today.



Year 6 Memorable Experience

The Year 6 pupils have had a wonderful time this half term dissecting hearts and learning all about the anatomy of the heart.



The children were slightly disgusted, but clearly fascinated and totally engrossed in their dissecting.



This was part of the science and healthy lifestyle project this half term.

Nursery Memorable Experience



Nursery have enjoyed watching the eggs hatch and welcoming our 9 baby chicks. We had 5 boys and 4 girl chicks. The children loved learning how to care for the chicks and enjoyed holding them and stroking them.

What better way to celebrate new life at Easter than with newly born chicks hatching out of their shells!



NOTICES

- ❖ **NURSERY CLOSURE FOR POLLING DAY:** Parents please note that on **THURSDAY 2nd MAY** the Nursery will be closed both in the morning and the afternoon as it is being used as a Polling Station.
- ❖ **KS2 SATS:** Year 6 children will be doing their SATs in the week commencing **13th May 2019**. Please see below for details about the tests and the dates they will be taking them.

Date

Monday 13 May 2019

Tuesday 14 May 2019

Wednesday 15 May 2019

Thursday 16 May 2019

Exam

Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 1

Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 2

English Reading

Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)

Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

During this week, the school will be offering a free breakfast for all children in Year 6. The children will be able to come to school at 8:00am and enjoy a healthy and nutritious breakfast with their teachers and peers. This will also help in calming nerves and settle the children before going in to take their test.

If your child is unable to attend school on one of the days of the tests, please contact the school and let us know at the earliest possible opportunity.



How can you help your child to prepare?

Teachers will make sure all pupils in their class are prepared for the tests. There's nothing specifically test-related that you should do to prepare your child.

You should follow the general advice teachers give about supporting your child's education throughout the year.

What do the tests look like?

You can look at [past papers](#) by clicking on the hyperlink or searching online at www.gov.uk/STA.

Further information

Your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions you may have about the tests and teacher assessment judgements.

For more details you can visit www.gov.uk/STA or watch our [short videos](#) for parents about the tests at key stage 1 and key stage 2.



ATTENDANCE



As part of our attendance focus, we will be including an attendance table in our newsletter showing the overall attendance and punctuality to date for each year group and the whole school.

Pupils need to attend school every day to benefit from their education.

Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind.

Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

Current Year Group	Overall Attendance 03.09.18 – 09.04.19
Reception	90%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	96% - amazing!!!
Year 6	95%



MOUNT PLEASANT TERM TIME AND HOLIDAYS 2019-2020

Please use the calendar below when booking holidays next year. The school does not authorise ANY TERM TIME leave – parents who choose to do this are fined by the Local Authority.

Autumn Half Term 1

- Monday 2nd September – (INSET Day)
- Tuesday 3rd September – (INSET Day)
- **Wednesday 4th September – Children return to school**
- Friday 25th October – Last day for children

Autumn Half Term 2

- Monday 4th November (INSET day)
- **Tuesday 5th November – Children return to school**
- Friday 20th December – School closes for Christmas Holidays

Spring Half Term 1

- Monday 6th January – (INSET day)
- **Tuesday 7th January – Children return to school**
- Friday 14th February – School closes for February half term

Spring Half Term 2

- **Monday 24th February – Children return to school**
- Friday 3rd April – School closes for Easter holidays

Summer Half Term 1

- **Monday 20th April – children return to school**
- Friday 22nd May – School closes for May half term holidays

Summer Half Term 2

- **Monday 1st June – Children return to school**
- Friday 17th July – School closes for the Summer holidays
- Monday 20th July – INSET Day (disaggregated)



HAPPY EASTER