

Mount Pleasant Primary School

Parent Newsletter – Issue 25

October 2019

Happy Halloween



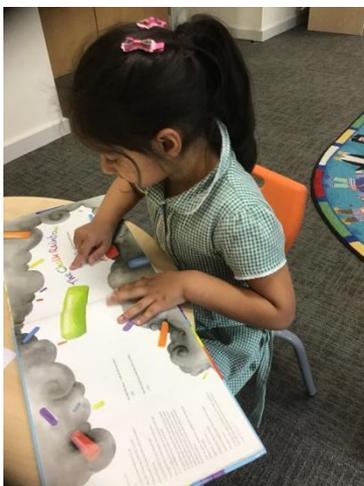
Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, can I start by thanking all our families for making a great effort in attending parents' evening last week and meeting the class teachers. It was wonderful to hear all your positive comments on how the staff and school are helping your children make such great progress. It is important to us that our parents are happy with our school, as we are all working hard together to make a massive difference to all our children's learning.

After the fantastic Key Stage 2 results in July 2019, where we met and exceeded national expectations, and just as importantly with our children making above national for progress, we are now working hard to ensure that we continue with our amazing results. We have set ambitious targets for all children, with appropriate interventions so that children can meet these expectations. Parents are always asking what they can do to support their children at home. We have invested in two online resources; Oxford Reading Buddy and Times Tables Rockstars. Every child has their own log on details and can access these resources for free at home. Please make sure that your child does read every day at home, they can read their reading book, library book or go online on Oxford Reading Buddy. Children should also practise their times tables. For the first time this year, children in Year 4 will be tested on their times table fluency for up to their 12x table.

Looking forward to the next half term, this will be very busy with many planned visits, memorable experiences, visit to the Lawrence Batley Theatre as well as our usual assemblies and lessons celebrating different festivals and events, such as Remembrance Day.

Yours faithfully
Mrs N Nazir
Head Teacher



Reading is always going to be a high priority in our school and we are always looking into new ways on how we can engage children so that they develop a love for life-long reading. In September, we launched Oxford Reading Buddy in school. All children from nursery to Year 6 have been issued with logins and they are able to use the site at home to access hundreds of books and practise their reading skills. Workshops have been held in school for parents where further information was shared and demonstrations given on how to use the site with their children at home. Most children are reading books and

completing the quizzes and several children are well on their way to earning their first badges! Please encourage your child to use the site at home. You can access it on the following address www.oxfordreadingbuddy.com

Spelling Bee



As part of our celebration of International Literacy Day, we have been running the Spelling Bee competition in school on a Thursday and Friday lunchtime where children from LKS2 and UKS2 have had the opportunity to take part. All children taking part had a list of words they needed to learn which were taken from the National Curriculum. Every week, they were tested using different words from the list. The children have persevered and have shown resilience which are great qualities to have in order to succeed in learning. There were several rounds in the competition and LKS2 children will have their finals in the last week of term- watch out for the names of the winner and runners up. UKS2 children will continue with competition in Autumn 2 and names of winners announced in due course.

Memorable Experiences

Nursery & Reception



This half term our nursery and reception children worked on the concept of 'family' within their project "All About Me". Thank you to all parents for bringing in photos of the children with their families; they thoroughly enjoyed sharing them with everyone and this encouraged them to get involved in discussions within class.

The children all loved being creative and contributing to this wonderful classroom display by making self portraits for their 'selfie' picture frame. Their individual designs were fabulous.

Well done to Hirah Shahzad and Yalin Aziz in Nursery who have borrowed the most books from our reading Library this half term! Each child has chosen their own special story book to take home as a prize. Keep reading!



After the long summer holiday the children from Year 1 were amazed to find that an alien spaceship had crash landed in our garden.

We explored the crash scene and looked for lots of different clues to help us decide what might have happened. The children were so excited to see the police investigating and loved helping.



Year 2



Our Year 2 memorable experience this half term has been a pirate party. We all dressed up as pirates and sang pirate songs, and played pirate games. The children shared some snacks and watched pirate cartoons. Everyone had a great time.



Y2 - Land Ahoy!

Year 3



As part of their memorable experience Year 3 pupils were visited by the powerful Greek God – Zeus. He shared some interesting stories from Greek Mythology and the children had a chance to ask him some questions. This was followed with tasting some Greek food which the children thoroughly enjoyed.



Year 4



Year 4 pupils enjoyed a visit from a Roman soldier who led the children in quizzes, contests and an exploration of Ancient Roman artefacts. It was a fabulous exciting day for everyone and the children learnt a great deal about this period in history. The children dressed up in Roman clothes and really got into the spirit of the day.



The children were very proud of their own roman shields and their loud roman warrior roars.

Year 5



Year 5 pupils travelled back in time 5000 years to the dusty realms of ancient Egypt. They cruised along the Nile, entering a world of mystery and curses, mummies and kings. The children were mesmerised when they witnessed the process of mummification (embalming). They looked at photos of and explored the contents of the tomb of Tutankhamun and created a timeline to show how ancient Egyptian civilisation developed.



They learnt about Egyptian headwear and the role of an Egyptian pharaoh; and even learnt how to write like an Egyptian scribe!

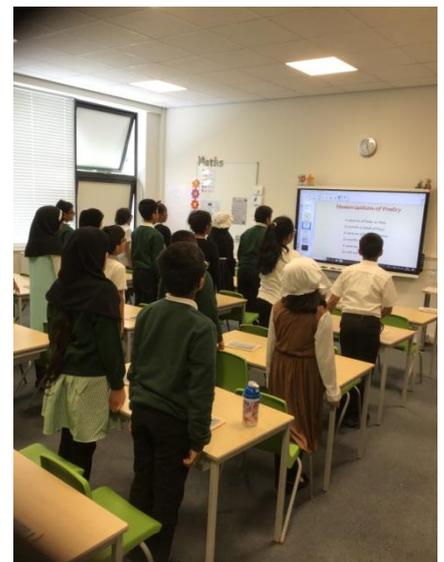
Year 6

For their memorable experience this half term Year 6 pupils have learnt about the Victorian Era and how times were very different for the rich and the poor children. They learnt how hard life was for the poor; children working long hours; life in the workhouse, and crime and the severe punishments. They learnt about the impact of the Industrial Revolution and about the Great Exhibition held in Hyde Park's Crystal Palace. They enjoyed dressing up in Victorian clothes.

We asked the children to dress up as Victorian children. They experienced a day of Victorian schooling. They had to learn their times tables, have dictation lessons and practice their joined up handwriting. It was a very long morning! However, in the afternoon, children were able to design, make and evaluate Victorian toys such as Peg Dolls and Thaumatrope. It was so much more fun in the afternoon without the strict Victorian rules.



Teachers carried canes; children used 'slates' instead of paper; fingernails were checked for cleanliness, and all had to stand up very straight and recite what was on the board! A typical Victorian school day.



Sport

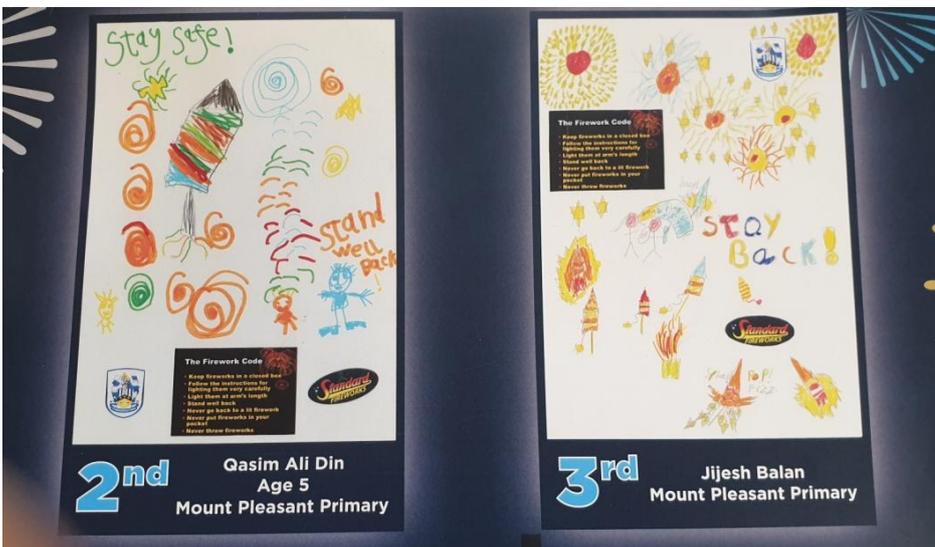


This half term children from various year groups have participated in out of school sports events. In September we attended a girls football tournament at Newsome High School and in October a hockey tournament at Rowley Lane School. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and experience. Thank you to all parents for your continued support.



Firework Poster Competition

Huddersfield Town Football Club, alongside Standard Fireworks, rolled out a firework poster competition to local schools. We were very pleased to find out that two children from our school won 2nd and 3rd place in the competition and each received a huge box of fireworks. Take a look at the wonderful posters below drawn by Qasim Ali Din 1A and Jijesh Balan 3C.



Also a special commendation was given to Haniya Farooq in reception class Holly for her delightful drawing below.



Congratulations to Qasim, Jijesh and Haniya for their brilliant competition entries.

The Crosland Moor and Lockwood Hub



Everyone is welcome to join the Community Hub for an informal chat, coffee, tea or juice on Wednesday 30th October during half term 10.00 – 2.00 pm at the Community Building at Oak Primary School.

Advice and support will be available from the following services:
Family Support / C&K Carers /
Locals / Early Years /
Parenting Team / Housing /
PSCO / Prevent Team.

Times Tables Rock Stars



At Mount Pleasant Primary School we want all of our pupils to have great recall of the times tables and high confidence in mathematics. Children in Year 2 to Year 6 now have access to Times Table Rockstars to help them practise their times tables. Times Table Rockstars is an online programme for times table practise that is both effective and motivational. Your child will have a login and password that will allow them to access games to improve their speed of recall and, should they wish, to compete against their classmates and children around the world.

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week; and this is where you come in. For your child to be fully motivated and for them to get the best out of the practise, they need your help. Without your praise and your reminders, without you sitting down next to them or checking their work, practising times tables will not feel important to your child, and the more facts your child remembers, the easier it will be for them to apply them to other areas of mathematics. Please encourage your child to play the game at home regularly. Each half term, one child from each class will be awarded with a prize and certificate for making the most progress which will be celebrated in 'Special Assemblies'.

Times Tables Rockstars can be easily accessed with internet browsers or alternatively with phones and tablets using the Times Table Rockstar app. For internet browsers, visit <https://trockstars.com/> for apps, visit the App/Play Store.

Please note: if your child has lost their username and login, please see the class teacher who can reset it.

Packed Lunches from Home

Increasingly we are finding that the packed lunches that children bring from home are unhealthy and/or unsubstantial. It is important that children have a balanced healthy diet and that they eat enough to keep them alert during the afternoon.



Super Salad Wraps

Lots of crunchy veg for texture, whilst cheddar cheese and hummus give a flavour hit. Alternatively, add tuna, chicken or egg.

Omelette in a bun

Fill the omelettes with juicy cherry tomatoes, crumbled feta and spinach for a mouthwatering bite. You could add extra salad if you like, and older children may like a touch of salsa or pickle as well.



For further ideas, a great website for you to take a look at for inspiration is

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/school-packed-lunch-inspiration>

Summer 2019 Garden Party Proceeds

We are pleased to be able to inform parents that our summer garden party raised £1353. We will be using this money to purchase learning resources for the children, in particular for outdoor play equipment.

Messages from the Office

We would like to remind parents once again to make sure that children's full names are written into their coats, clothes, bags and other belongings; any property found can then be returned to the rightful owner.

Thank you to parents for signing up for School Ping and Parent Pay. The vast majority of parents have signed up now. If you have not yet signed up for these it is essential that you do. If you need help please call into the school office.

Firework Display and Event

During the half term holiday, on **Sunday 27th October**, HTFC are hosting a fireworks display in their St Andrews Road car park at the John Smith's Stadium. There will also be a funfair, food and drink stalls, live entertainment, face painters and Pulse Radio doing a live show. Gates open at 4.30 pm and the firework display starts at 7.45 pm. Watch out for the poster being sent out to parents via school ping! Tickets only £4 adults and £2 under18s. Pre-book at the ticket office online at htafc.com/tickets or phone 01484 960 606.



Parent information session on emotions



We are inviting all parents to an information session on emotions. The session will be held in school on Thursday 14th November at 9am in the Small Hall. Salma Mahmood, a Family Emotional Health Worker from Northorpe Hall will be delivering the session. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits on offer!

The Welcome Centre



The Welcome Centre in Huddersfield helps local families and individuals in crisis with food, toiletries and other essential items. They also provide guidance and support for those in need.

As you know, we have been collecting items in school for the Centre and would like to thank parents for your generosity. We will continue to collect items to pass on to the Welcome Centre on a regular basis. If you would like to donate items of food or toiletries please drop these into the school office or pass on to your child's class teacher. Thank you so much for your support. If you would like to support the centre in other ways, perhaps as a volunteer, please visit their website for further details; <https://www.thewelcomecentre.org/> or drop in to their premises at 15 Lord Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1QB.

Of course, you can also receive support from them if you are in need of help yourself:

To get help from The Welcome Centre, you need a referral from a support worker or support professional. There are a few simple ways to do this.

- If you already receive support from a service or professional, you can ask them to make a referral for you. This could be your GP, social worker, community psychiatric nurse or an agency such as housing services, Lifeline or Connexions.
- You can telephone Kirklees Local Welfare Provision Team (LWP) on 01484 414782. If you don't have a phone to call LWP, there's a free phone at the Customer Services reception, Civic Centre III, High Street, Huddersfield.
- You can call in at Kirklees Citizens Advice & Law Centre (1 & 3 Brook Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1EB) between 9:30am and 3pm Monday to Friday, or at the Huddersfield Mission Cafe (3-13 Lord Street, Huddersfield HD1 1QA) between 10:00am and 1:30pm Monday to Friday. Both of these organisations have advice workers who can make a referral for you.

KIRKLEES SHARED LIVES IN NEED OF SHORT BREAK CARERS



Kirklees Council is currently looking to recruit more Shared Lives carers to offer Short Breaks (up to 28 days a year) in order to help vulnerable adults and their full time carers within our communities.

Shared Lives is a scheme run by Kirklees Council – It is much like fostering but Shared Lives carers support adults with additional needs – it could be a learning disability, early on set dementia, after hospital care, mental health issues or a physical disability. The scheme recruits, trains and supports carers who are then carefully matched to a service user or users. Short breaks carers receive £75 per night when caring for a service user.

If you are interested in becoming a Shared Lives carer, whether it's to offer short breaks, long term support or day support please contact the team on 01484 221000, or email shared.lives@kirklees.gov.uk or visit www.kirklees.gov.uk/sharedlives

All short break carers would receive comprehensive training and would be DBS cleared.

Attendance

All our parents and families are aware that attendance and punctuality is very important to us, so you can imagine our disappointment at the overall percentage for last year when it was confirmed as 94%. This is the lowest it has been for a number of years and is lower than the overall national figure. OFSTED are really keen on attendance and punctuality, it is a key factor that they monitor when visiting schools.

After analysing our statistics, illness is one of the main reasons for low attendance with leave of absence following closely behind. With this in mind please see the table below; we have a total of 874 authorised absences since returning in September and 299 unauthorised absences. Please always be mindful before allowing your child to have that “odd” day off school if he/she is just “not feeling up to it”. It could make a huge difference to our attendance figures making our school even more brilliant! Once your child is in school they forget they didn't want to come and have a fantastic day of learning. Remember, we will always call parents to collect their child if they are really “not well enough to be in school”.

Please also bear in mind that when you are thinking about taking extended leave during term time, If you really need to go, come and speak to the Headteacher, try to minimise the number of days you request, for example 5 days, by attaching them to a holiday. We believe your child's education is more important than going abroad in term time.

On the plus side we have got off to a fabulous start this term and our overall percentage is averaging at 97%. We have so many children that come to school every day hitting 100% attendance every week, we are very proud of them and their achievements will be celebrated at the end of term.

	Total Absences since September 2019		Total Attendance % since September 2019
Group	Authorised No.	Unauthorised No.	
Year Group R	167	15	95.36
Year Group 1	131	44	96.67
Year Group 2	88	3	98.29
Year Group 3	137	54	96.13
Year Group 4	90	70	97.08
Year Group 5	135	39	96.28
Year Group 6	126	74	96.12
Totals	874	299	96.62

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Friday 25th October 2019	Last day in school for children before half term.
Monday 4 th November 2019	INSET DAY
Tuesday 5th November 2019	Children return to school.
Friday 20th December 2019	Last day in school for children before Christmas Holidays.
Monday 6 th January 2020	INSET DAY
Tuesday 7th January 2020	Children return to school for the Spring Term.

