

Mount Pleasant Primary School Parent Newsletter – Issue 30 February 2021



12th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This has been a strange half term with lockdown, and schools closing for many children. We have had to manage having children physically in school and supporting them with their learning, whilst providing remote teaching to all the children at home.

I really appreciate parental support with the remote teaching and learning; parents have been brilliant in ensuring that their children log onto the zoom live lessons, complete their activities and share learning onto seesaw. We have seen some amazing responses and children are continuing to make progress, despite the challenging circumstances.

Remote teaching will continue for at least two weeks after the half-term holidays, and the earliest we have been informed that schools MAY fully reopen will be on Monday 8th March. The Prime Minister has said that he will be giving parents and schools two weeks' notice of any full reopening, so we should find out soon.

In the meantime, please do continue to keep yourselves and your families and friends safe. Follow all lockdown rules and limit any unnecessary contact with others. I know we are all missing our families but in order to keep everyone safe, all contact outside of your immediate household needs to stop. If we all follow the rules, hopefully transmission rates will continue to fall, and we will have a much nicer summer.

Moving onto exciting items - I am really looking forward to a different type of World Book Week this year with the Masked Reader - this is going to be really exciting for everyone. Please encourage your children to enter the competition and become a Masked Reader themselves. This involves creating a video of them reading an extract from a story, trying to disguise their voice, wearing a mask, and then sharing the video with the class teacher. There is a £10 book voucher for every winner in every class.

I hope everyone manages to stay safe and has a nice, relaxing half-term holiday.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs N Nazir



**You've heard of The Masked Singer.
This World Book Day
Mount Pleasant presents
'The Masked Reader.'
Who's behind the mask?**

**Can you follow the clues to reveal who is
reading and what they are reading?**

**Launches 1st March 2021 on a
Seesaw platform near you!**

Solar Dome

Exciting things have begun to happen in our fruit garden. The construction of our new solar dome is in progress; we just need a bit less snow! Keep an eye on the School's Twitter page for updates!

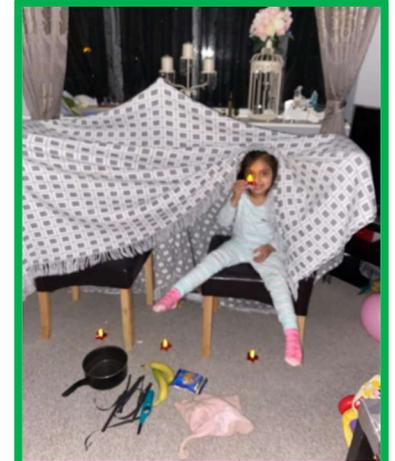
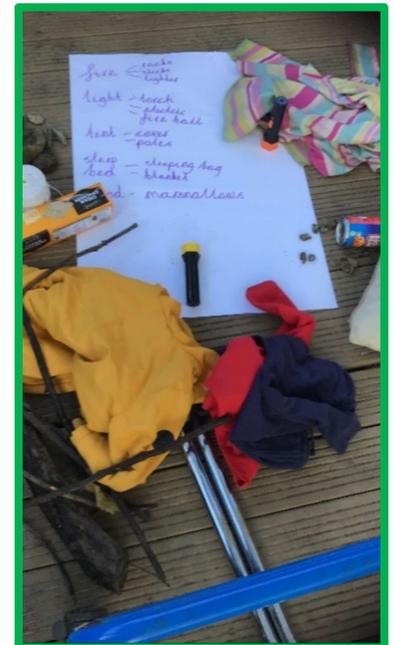


Reception Memorable Experience

Camping Day: This year camping day had to be a little bit different as with all the new lockdown restrictions the usual campsite at Mount Pleasant had to be closed until further notice. However, this was not going to stop the Reception children having a fabulous day!



It all began by making a list of equipment the children would need to take on their camping day. Then they had to conquer the challenge of designing and building their very own tent. We had lots of creative ideas, using bed sheets, clothes-horses, tables and many other household objects.



Just as the children managed to pitch their tents, they heard and saw a range of nocturnal animals coming from the woods. They used various sources to research these animals that are awake during the night. The children were fortunate enough to observe owls, bats, foxes and even a badger that wandered through Miss Wood's campsite at her house too.



In the afternoon, the children had the chance to talk to their fellow campers over zoom to share their amazing tents, enjoy a camping treat and sing some lovely campfire songs. Finally, before getting into bed the children listened to a lovely story in their tents and imagined what the beautiful twinkling stars would look like.

The children learned a lot of new topical words and ideas that they applied to their play and learning as we continued our topic of light and dark over the half term.

Year 1 Memorable Experience

This term in Year 1 we have been learning a lot about famous tourist attractions in England and the history of London in our 'Bright Lights Big City' topic. We had a wonderful time at our Royal Tea Party. The Queen unfortunately had to self-isolate and could not come to school.

However, we did make the Queen's favourite cucumber sandwiches and enjoyed eating other tasty treats for our afternoon tea! We even practised a curtsy or bow for the next time the Queen comes to our school!



'Wear Blue' Day



On Friday 29th January we took part in a "Wear Blue" day to support Huddersfield Town AFC. As the club fund our popular breakfast club we were enthusiastic about getting involved. The children in school and at home were asked to wear blue. Some of the children took part in an exciting workout online provided by Huddersfield Town AFC. Reception set up their own football training obstacle course to take part in. Everyone had a great time in supporting this fantastic event.



Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 is an international day of remembrance for the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

In Year 6, we have been learning about the discrimination Jewish people faced.

On 27th January 2021, Upper Key Stage 2 pupils watched a special video, which was made by the 6 million + charity, faith representatives, the local community and local councils. This video shared the experiences of a woman who survived the holocaust, and refugees who moved to England to escape death in their own countries.



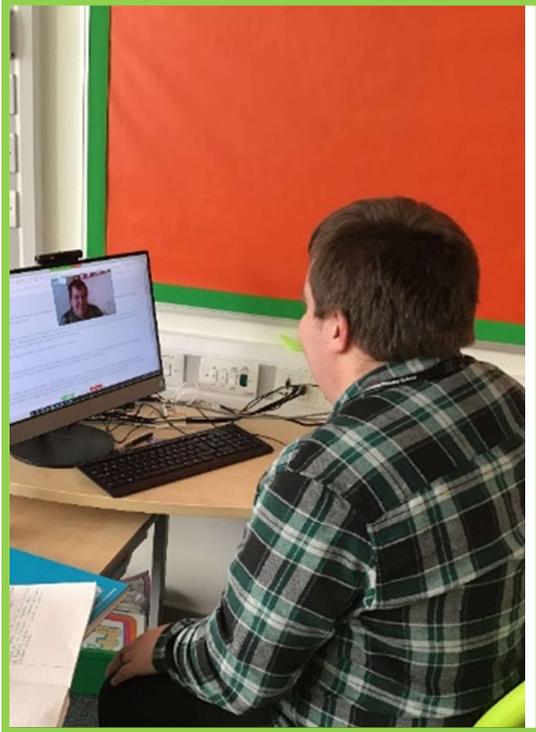
Its message was simple:

Be the light in the darkness!



Remote Learning

Due to the national lockdown since the beginning of this term, most children have been accessing their learning from home. The curriculum the children have been receiving remotely mirrors the curriculum they would have received if they had been in school. Children have been logging into live Zoom lessons with their class teachers and completing work set on Seesaw. Their work is being marked and feedback provided. Some children are being supported further with one-to-one support with regular check-in calls as well as receiving interventions such as one-to-one reading and phonics interventions.



In addition to this, workbooks for English and Maths, alongside stationery such as pencils, exercise books, whiteboard and whiteboard pens were provided for all children so they were well equipped for learning at home. We have also been provided with laptops through the Government's 'laptops for schools' scheme and many families without devices have been supplied with these so they can access the learning provided. In addition, the Government has been working with several mobile network providers to give free increased data allowances to those who use their mobile phones to access learning but are unable to afford the increase in data usage; the school have applied for this on behalf of a number of our families.

Children, who have been in school, have been receiving their normal lessons with class teachers doing the inputs via Zoom and teaching assistants providing them with the support they need. As much as possible, the school day has been kept as normal with children receiving their normal offer of subjects such as PE and having their normal school dinners.

Good work is being celebrated with dojos and weekly class assemblies are being held on Zoom, recognising children for their efforts. Furthermore, we appreciate the support from parents and would like to thank you for your efforts in supporting your children with their learning, which we are aware, has not always been easy, especially for parents who are working from home too!

We are extremely proud of our remote teaching offer; feedback from parents and discussions with other teaching professionals, show that our children are receiving a good deal.



Class Dynamix

Danny Gough from Class Dynamix has sent this message to all our parents:

It's my great pleasure to have been invited by Mount Pleasant to help the school create their own dynamic school anthem and music video! The mission has been accepted to produce a piece of work that celebrates the school and showcases to the world its unique magic. There has never been a greater need for a project like this, that embraces community, unity and togetherness, especially after this past year of being apart.

The work has begun via Zoom, with last week seeing 30 children from Years 4 to 6 being given the task of brainstorming lyrical ideas and inspiration for the song. We used the school motto of "Think big. Aim high. Achieve" as the springboard for our creative ideas.

The children will be given a demo version of the song by next week to begin the process of learning and perfecting the anthem at home. Once lockdown is over, we will start our work recording selected vocalists for the track inside school in bubbles, before our final mission of filming the music video begins!

We are so excited to be working on this and we are very determined to make this an unforgettable piece of work. You may know the name Class Dynamix from last year's Britain's Got Talent - where our anti-bullying work and passion for inspiring kids with confidence was showcased to millions around the world.

We can't wait to help Mount Pleasant capture its vision on this project.

Danny



Diary Dates

Can parents please take note of the term times below and only book holidays in the school holiday periods.

Friday 12th February	School closes for half term.
Monday 22nd February	Those children allowed into school to return.
Friday 26th March	School closes for Easter holidays.
Monday 12th April	Children return to school.
Friday 28th May	School closes for half term holidays.
Monday 7th June	Children return to school.
Friday 23rd July	School closes for Summer holidays.

School Mini bus



I am really pleased to say that we have started training staff to be able to drive the school mini bus. We are extremely fortunate to have one of our staff members, Mr Imran and one of our Governors Dr Williams, as trained minibus driving instructors, who have already started to train staff. This involves a half-day training session and assessment, with a practical, assessed session. The minibuses are a great resource for the school, and I am really looking forward to when we can take our children onto lots of local visits to enhance their experiences.

The winners of our mini-bus competition will be one of the first few children to sit inside the minibus as we take them for a drive and a visit to a local area of interest.

As part of our Year 3 curriculum, we like to take children to the beautiful Castle Hill historical site, and I am hoping we will be able to do this for all year 3 children this summer.