

Mount Pleasant Primary School

Parent Newsletter - 22nd October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has been fantastic, and I am sure the children will be looking forward to a well deserved break. As usual it has been an exciting and eventful half term.

Life Patron

We are very pleased and excited to announce that Dr Nasim Hasnie (OBE) became Life-Patron of our School on Monday 5th October 2015. This very honourable position has been granted as recognition of his 42 years of voluntary service as a governor, Vice Chair and Chair of Governors at the school.

Dr Hasnie agreed to accept the patronage to support the best interest of pupils, teachers, parents and stakeholders. As Life-Patron, Dr Hasnie will be the school's ambassador in the community presenting a positive image and promoting the school's interest for the continued success of Mount Pleasant. A full biography of Dr Hasnie's extraordinary career will be available on our school's website at

www.mountpleasantschool.co.uk

To celebrate this honour and demonstrate the school's appreciation of Dr Hasnie's long service, a celebration ceremony will be held at the school. We will be writing to parents with full details of the event, very soon.

Website and VLE

We hope everyone has had the opportunity to visit our new website, www.mountpleasantschool.co.uk

We are very pleased with it as it has plenty of useful information which hope you will find interesting. New parents in

particular have commented on how helpful they have found it. Please note the new translate feature allows the website to be translated into many different languages.

Teachers have set homework and discussion activities on the school VLE which will mean children can start accessing it. Parents will also be given log in details in the near future.

Reading Cafes

Last year Mrs Oya and Mrs Gull (English leaders) introduced Reading Cafes which were extremely successful. Reading Cafes allowed parents to spend quality time reading with their child 1-1 in a relaxing environment whilst enjoying a lovely breakfast. We will be reintroducing Reading Cafes again this year and would urge all parents to take part. The Reading Cafes supports our real push on 'Reading' and provides opportunities for children to engage with books and develop a real love for reading.

Autumn/Winter

Don't forget clocks go back on Sunday 25th October which means shorter days so please keep children safe. Ensure children have reflectors. With shorter days come colder and wetter days so please ensure children are kept warm. Make sure you send your children to school wrapped up and please write your child's name on hats, gloves and scarves so that they do not get lost.

Year 6 High School Applications

If your child is in Year 6, please ensure you apply for a place at your child's chosen high school as soon as possible. You can do this by using the information from the 'Apply On Time' leaflet sent to you in September.

The deadline is 31st October 2015. Applications sent after this date could result in your child not having a place at your chosen High School.

Free School Meals Key Stage 1

If your child is in KS1 and if you are entitled to free school meals, then please ensure you apply for your child's free school meal through www.kirklees.gov.uk or contact Kirklees on 01484 221928.

Attendance

Attendance for the first half of Autumn Term is off to a good start with attendance from September averaging out at 97% including EID.

Well done to all our children who returned from the summer holidays on time, only 0.12% of children took extended Leave of Absence. May I take this opportunity to remind parents that Leave of Absence will NOT be authorised and parents will be fined by Kirklees Council. If your child does not return to school within ten days he/she will be referred to the Children Missing in Education Team and steps will be taken to remove your child from Mount Pleasant School roll.

This year we are strongly focusing on punctuality, children should not be having more than 3 lates during any one term. Children who are late into class can find it very upsetting and unsettling, especially our Reception and KS1 pupils who not only have to walk through unfamiliar surroundings but are also missing valuable learning time. The attendance officer will be monitoring children who are late and will be sending weekly message updates. If your child is persistently late, you will be invited into school to discuss the reasons; with this in mind can all parents please

make an extra effort to get your child/children into school on time through their Key Stage area door.

MPPS follow Government guidelines with regard to Persistent Absent children; your child only needs to have 5 days absence (85%) to fall into the category of PA. To avoid this happening to your child we are monitoring all children's percentages, when it falls below 90%, we will write to parents to advise them. If your child's attendance does fall to 85% or below then we will be inviting parents into school to discuss the reasons/concerns with Dr Ali.

On a lighter note please see below our new and exciting attendance incentives for this coming year:

- ◆ Children with a full weeks' attendance will receive a golden ticket. The best class attendance will receive a certificate and the class will get to keep the trophy until the next week's assembly.
- ◆ Every half term the best class attendance will receive a certificate, a bun and a drink of juice.
- ◆ Every term the best class attendance will receive a certificate, and a chosen treat of pizza or ice cream.
- ◆ In December and July we will draw one lucky winner from the golden ticket box and they will win a fabulous prize of a tablet.

Reading Challenge

Just a quick update about our school's Reading Challenge. Thank you for continuously supporting your child in taking part in the reading challenge. Many children have achieved the first star award which is a book mark. Please motivate your child to progress further next term and receive a book for the class.

Harvest Collection

A huge thank you to all parents and children who donated items for our Harvest Collection. All produce was taken to CART in Lockwood.

School Uniform

Children must wear the correct uniform to school. The school would like to remind parents that your child **MUST** wear plain black trainers or shoes.

PE kits are black bottoms and a white t-shirt. Your child may wear a red/black/blue sweatshirt to keep them warm in PE during the cold weather.

We would also like to remind parents that the school does not allow children to wear nail polish at school.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Policy

Please have a look at our Safeguarding Policy on the school website. This explains some of the ways we ensure your child is safe and happy at school.

Updated Collection Policy

We have updated the school's collection policy - the new arrangements will start after half term (from Monday 2nd November). Parents should consider the safety implications when deciding that children can go home alone or be collected by other children.

Children in Year 5 and 6 will be allowed to walk home alone. Children in Year 6 will only be able to collect children in Year 4 and 5. Older children (Year 7 and above) will be able to collect children from Reception age upwards. Teachers will be asking you to sign a permission slip regarding these arrangements.

Safeguarding at Home Time

If you are collecting a child, please take the time to ensure that the teacher or member of staff dismissing the class is aware that you are taking them. Children in Class 3A and Year 4 will line up in the playground at home time to make this process easier. Can parents and carers please make sure they leave space for the lines! Arrangements will be the same as before in other classes. If someone different from usual is collecting your child, please ring the school office by 2.45pm at the latest to ensure the message gets to the class teacher.

Governors

Firstly a very big thank you to our parent governors Mrs Nahid Arshad and Mr Zahid Iqbal for their service, commitment and time they have offered to our school as two excellent parent governors. We are very sorry to hear they will no longer be parent governors but we are sure they will continue to be actively involved in other ways. We are currently in the process of carrying out elections for new parent governors.

We are also pleased to announce some excellent new co-opted governors who have joined the governing body; Mr Sajhad Hussain (experience in Finance and Project Management), Mr Paul Tonner (a former Headteacher in Kirklees) and Mrs Jean Palmer (a university lecturer at Huddersfield University).

Special Awards Assembly

Well done to the following children, keep up the fantastic work.

Special Assembly Awards for Autumn One

Year 1

- 1A Bawer Ghazi
- 1B Xinyi Chen
- 1C Musaa Ghani

Year 2

- 2A Alisha Hussain
- 2B Mohammed Elarrami
- 2C Seren Albarzeryi

Year 3

- 3A Taimur Ali
- 3B Maryam Khan
- 3C Maryam Taher

Year 4

- 4A Alishba Nazam
- 4B Fatima Zia
- 4C Maryam Shaffique

Year 5

- 5A Rohaan Ahmed
- 5B Zainab Sultan
- 5C Yahya Ashraf

Year 6

- 6A Safa Perwaiz
- 6B Almagbrok Akeel
- 6C Mohammed Islam

Project Paddington

Project Paddington has generated a lot of interest with our families with children eagerly bringing their old toys as well as donations. Whilst everyone has been most generous, we have been amazed at the huge generosity of two families in particular.

Maryam Khan in class 3B raised a staggering £200.
Rehan Kabir in class 1B raised an amazing £103.20

In total so far we have raised a very generous figure of £425. Thank you to all families and staff who have participated.



Create Beautiful Hair

Our school in partnership with Thornton Lodge Action Group are planning to offer 6 week course in Creating Beautiful Hair. Parents will learn to how to do different plaits; fresh plait, fish plait and other hair up dos in this practical and hands on course. To register call Missbah on 07871938174 or email Missbah@tactiongroup.org.uk



School Safeguarding Officer: Mr S Johnson
Kirklees Duty and Assessment Service Tel: 01484
221000 or email
www.kirkleesafeguardingchildren.com