

Mount Pleasant Primary School

Parent Newsletter - December 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has been fantastic with the news of our **best ever end of Key Stage 2 SATs results, with children achieving higher than National as well as Kirklees average for Reading Writing and Maths** (full details available on the School website).

As well as some general announcements, you will read in this newsletter how this has been an exciting and eventful half term and now I am sure the children will be looking forward to a well deserved Christmas break.

Please note School has an INSET day on Friday 12th February 2016 and therefore school will be closed to all children.

On behalf of the Staff and Governors of Mount Pleasant, I'd like to wish you a wonderful Christmas Holiday and a Happy New Year.

Mrs N. Nazir
Acting Headteacher

Reading Cafes



A huge thank you for taking valuable time out of your day to attend the school's Reading Cafés supporting your children to become better readers. As you are aware the Reading Cafés were reintroduced due to popular demand from parents and children. During the sessions parents have expressed that they would like the Cafés to continue so they can use the school library and take the opportunity to enjoy reading with their child.

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.

Pupil Premium

As we have previously noted on parents' newsletters, if your child is in receipt of the Pupil

Premium funding, there are benefits additional to free school meals which apply – for instance: free flapjack, free bookbag and free revision guides in year 6.

A new benefit this year is a subsidy towards school trips. If your child qualifies, you will be entitled to a 50% reduction in cost, applicable to all school trips throughout the year. Your teacher will be aware if this applies to your child, and you will only be asked to pay half the advertised amount as the remainder will be paid by the school.

Please note that Pupil Premium funding is not the same as universal free school meals for KS1. Children in KS1 may still be able to claim Pupil Premium funding, but an application needs to be completed, in order to access this. If you have any questions regarding this, please speak to the school office, and someone will be happy to help you.

Staff Updates

We are pleased to announce New Appointments in school:

- Mrs Lynnette Haley - Office Manager
- Mrs Helen Simmonds – Business Support Officer

We are also pleased to say that Mrs Tasneem Majeed has returned from maternity leave.

Mark's Magic Kingdom

A huge thank you to all who came to watch Mark's Magic Kingdom. The evening raised £166.60 which will go towards buying new equipment for the children to use at lunchtimes. We would like to thank everyone for their support especially PTA chair Mrs Saffiyah and Mrs I Akthar for organising the successful event. A total of 124 tickets were sold.

Attendance

Attendance for the second half of Autumn Term is 96.4 % and the average percentage from September is 96.5 % (This figure includes 1.6 % taken for religious observance)

Punctuality has slightly improved however it is still a cause for concern with a small number of children being persistently late. Please make every effort to bring your child to school every day on time.

We are also very concerned that there has been an increase in children being picked up early from school and coming in late because of medical appointments.

Doctors and Dentist appointments wherever possible should be made outside of school time. Reception/Office staff will be asking for proof of the appointment so please bring the appointment card/letter into school when you collect your child in order for us to authorise the absence.

In KS1 class 1A and in KS2 class 6A won the best class attendance for last half term and they received a certificate, a bun and a drink of juice. We will be drawing one lucky winner from the golden ticket box at the beginning of next term so help your child/children collect as many tickets as possible by coming to school on time every day.

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. Also our hair policy is a simple hair cut without any lines or patterns.

New September 2016 Intake

If your child is starting full time Primary School in September 2016 you must apply online by the 15th January 2016. Failure to apply could result in your child not receiving a place in School. If you apply late your application will NOT be considered until all on time applications have been allocated school places

Late Arrivals

We need to stress the importance of all children having good attendance as research indicates poor attendance has a direct impact on children's learning. Ensuring children come to school on time is also a key factor as the morning sessions in particular have key learning taking place even during the ten minutes before registration. Please ensure that your child receives their full entitlement to learning by making sure they come to school on time.

School doors open at 8:45 and registration is at 8:55am. Anyone arriving after this time will need to be registered at the main office and will receive a late mark.

School finishes at 3:15 and any parent arriving later than 3:25pm will have to collect their child from the main office. Can parents please ensure that children are collected from school on time as being picked up late does cause children to become worried and anxious. We would not expect any child to be collected late more than once in any week.

Autumn/Winter Free School Meals Key Stage 1

If your child is in KS/EYFS 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.

Please note all dinner monies should be paid every Monday in advance. **In the New Year School will be going cashless, all parents will need to pay for dinner money through Parentpay. If you do not have a username and password please contact the office who will provide you with one.**

Poppy Appeal

We are pleased to announce that School raised £183.53 in our Poppy Appeal. Your support is much appreciated.

Governors

We are very sad to inform you that Mr Faruq Kidiwala has resigned as Chair and Governor of Mount Pleasant Primary School. Mr Kidiwala has been Governor for three years at our school and has voluntarily supported the school throughout his time as Governor and as Chair of Governors. We wish him all the best for the future.

We are pleased to announce that Mr Abdul Wahid is now our new Chair of Governors with Mr Istikhar Aziz as the new Vice Chair.

New Parent Governors

Thank you to the three parents who expressed an interest in becoming Parent Governors. Also thank you to all parents who took part in the elections. The count took place Wednesday 4th November and we are pleased to announce that the following parents have been voted as the new parent Governors;

- Mrs Amina Rashid
- Mr Andy Wali

We warmly welcome Mrs Rashid and Mr Wali and look forward to their positive contributions to our school.

Message from the new Chair of Governors Mr Abdul Wahid

Firstly, I am very pleased and proud to be elected as the Chair of Mount Pleasant Governing Body. My role involves working strategically with the leadership team and governing body to support the school's vision and ensuring positive outcomes for our pupils.

In the immediate future the school will be working with the West Yorkshire Teaching Alliance to support the leadership team continue to deliver the school's vision and positive outcomes for pupils. The school will also be recruiting for a substantive Head and I will keep you informed about this.

I am extremely pleased to hear the school had its best results to date for pupil outcomes with children making outstanding progress and achieving

better than national expectations. A very big well done from myself and all the governors, to the children, staff and parents who have enabled such excellent results.

Safeguarding

Choosing the right computer game for your child

We are concerned that a growing number of children are playing computer games that are not suitable for them such as Grand Theft Auto, Call of Duty, etc. These games are intended for ages 18+ as explained below. Children playing them are exposed to extremely violent and sexualised content. This can be upsetting and damaging for children. There is the added risk that children contact other game players online - they are talking to strangers with no way of knowing who these people are. You would not let your child talk to strangers in the street, so why allow it online?

We suggest that you check the age rating of the games and only buy those recommended for your child's age. Also, be very careful about allowing online contact between your child and other gamers. If your child is already playing these games, we would recommend that you explain the issue to your child and stop them playing in future.



Age ratings explained

Like films, games are rated by age. This age rating (PEGI) that appears on the front of the box and provides a simple traffic light system for ages: Green is advisory and marks 3+ and 7+ ages Orange is for games suitable for 12+ and 16+ Red is for games online suitable for 18+. On the back of the box there is additional information about why a game has a particular age rating — violence, sex or drug references for example.

More information is available on sites such as www.nspcc.org.uk

Photo Gallery

Year 4 Trip to Leeds City Museum



Year 5 D & T Workshop



EYFS Nativity



School Council Trip to Huddersfield Town Hall



Year 2 Moon Buggy Workshop



Reading Cafe



Final Message

Once again, we hope everyone has a great holiday and for all families celebrating Christmas we hope you have a fabulous day with family and friends.

We wish everyone a Happy new year.

School reopens on Monday 4 January 2016