

# Mount Pleasant Primary School

## Parent Newsletter 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the Acting Headteacher I would like to start off by saying that this has been one of the most exciting times for both staff and pupils at Mount Pleasant Primary School. There have been so many great developments which we have celebrated and the year has flown by so fast with summer holidays already here.

Firstly, we were extremely pleased to receive the school's best ever Key Stage 2 results back in the Autumn term and this year I am very happy to report they are even better. Then we received the brilliant news that our school was finally going to have its much anticipated new build and as you know I have been working closely with the EFA, Kier, the local Council and Governors in seeing this project through. We are all really excited.

As always, our children have been wonderful, making excellent progress across the school and enjoying the many exciting visits and visitors in the school to enrich our curriculum. Our children have also taken part in many sports tournaments with Year 2 winning theirs and Year 5 coming second. The annual Aspirations Day and Awards Ceremony were very well organised by Mrs Ali (further details in the newsletter). As always, parental engagement has been fantastic with parents fully engaging with our many workshops and parents know how we greatly value parental engagement as a three way process to give all our children the very best education.

Most of our Year 6 children sadly left us last week to take part in early transition at Moor End Academy and we are already missing them. Their end of the year talent show was amazing and we wish them all our Year 6 children the very best.

### Our Fantastic Results!

I am delighted to announce that once again our children have performed brilliantly with their end of year key stage tests. As you may be aware, the new tests were extremely challenging with many schools and head teachers across the country voicing their concerns. Schools have now received their results and they have been disappointingly low. However, I am delighted to inform you that Mount Pleasant children have performed exceptionally well, achieving higher than the national average. Well done Year 6! We are so proud of you.

### Key Stage 2 Tests

As Year 6 parents will know, the year six tests this year have been very challenging and at times quite confusing with the Government providing late information and guidance. Parents will have seen on the media how disappointed schools were with the results as first numbers released indicated that only 53% of children had achieved the expected standard in the combined measure for Reading, Writing and Maths. In comparison, our children achieved an excellent 58% with the same measure, therefore achieving much higher than the national comparison. These are preliminary figures with the finalised data due to be released later on in the year. I would like to offer all our year six children my congratulations and praise them for their hard work all year. We are very proud of them all!



School Safeguarding Officer: Mr S. Johnson  
Kirklees Duty and Assessment Service Tel: 01484 221000 or email  
[www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com](http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.com)

## Key Stage 1 Tests

I am also delighted to inform you that our Year 2 children performed exceptionally well with their new and very challenging tests. National figures have not yet been released but we are proud of our results.

## Year 1 Phonics

Parents of children in Year 1 will be aware that all children in this year have a phonics screening check end of the year. This year our children demonstrated an excellent understanding of phonics as they scored much higher than last year with 76% achieving the national standard. Well done to our wonderful Year 1 children and staff.

A massive well done to all our hard working children; to teachers who continuously push the children to achieve higher and higher and to our very supportive parents. Together, our partnership has once again proved to be very effective.



**Primary School  
of the Year - Finalists**

Last week, Mount Pleasant Primary were invited to a very exciting event to celebrate education within Kirklees and Calderdale. It was organised by the Examiner with various awards such as inspirational teacher, healthy awards to name a few. Our school was a finalist for one of the most prestigious awards, Primary School of the Year! This was a very proud moment as we celebrated our school's amazing achievements. Well done to everyone!



Finally, I hope everyone enjoys their well deserved Summer Holiday.

Mrs Nazir (Acting Headteacher)

## Aspirations Day

On Thursday 16th June 2016 we held our 'Aspirations day' for Years 4, 5 and 6. This was to help raise children's aspirations for their future careers. They were able to see the possibilities available to them and how they would achieve them. Many children had their dreams confirmed whilst others learnt that they may want to consider other jobs.

During the afternoon, the children had the opportunity to listen to and speak with a range of people and ask questions about their jobs. Visitors included the police, fire service, dentist, hospital doctor, surgeon, chemistry teacher, nurses, GP, Sales Manager and CEK Careers

The children thoroughly enjoyed it. Aisha Shahid from Year 5 said, 'It taught me life is not easy but if you try you get a reward.'



Kelisha Hogan from Year 4 explained 'I want to be a doctor because if someone is hurt or ill, I can help them'.

The visitors also enjoyed coming into school! The careers advice organisation said 'thank you for the opportunity to visit Mount Pleasant Primary. Your very well behaved children are a credit to the school. They were polite and showed a keen interest in the subject of different careers available.'

## Our Annual KS2 Awards Ceremony

Our ceremony took place on Thursday 23rd June 2016 in one of the elaborate theatre rooms at Huddersfield University. It was an auspicious occasion that inspired pupils, teachers and parents alike. The event was to celebrate the children's hard work and excellent achievements. It was lovely to see so many parents turn up to support their children. There was an atmosphere of great excitement as everybody arrived and gathered together. There were five different categories (English, Maths, Creative Arts, Sports and Overall) with 60 certificates that were awarded.

The special guests were the Deputy Mayor, Mr Barry Sheerman MP, Mr Donovan Christopher, a poet, our lifelong School Patron, Dr Nasim Hasnie and Mrs Corinne Kelly, the school's violin teacher. They all gave inspirational speeches and presented the awards.



There was wonderful entertainment! Singing from the year 6, a dance performance from three of our very talented Year 6 girls, a violin recital from Mrs Kelly, a violin performance from some Year 5 and 6 pupils and Donovan entertained us with his poetry.

The afternoon was a complete success and everybody involved was so proud of the achievements of the pupils. Seeing their siblings and peers receive the accolades also inspired other children to achieve great things and strive to improve.

A proud parent quoted, 'this is a special event which recognises how well the children have done.' Likewise many children explained, 'it was really special to be able to share our achievements with our parents.'

We look forward to our next Award Ceremony with great anticipation.



## Arts in the Woods Project

Children from Year 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in an exciting arts project called Art in the Woods during the summer term.

Working with Mrs Ellis (who is also an artist) and Mrs Ali from year 4, 18 children worked over 6 weeks to create wire and nylon figure sculptures. These sculptures were acrobats that hung, twirled and twisted from hula hoops.

Art in the Woods is a temporary outdoor sculpture trail around Holme Styes Reservoir at Hade Edge. On a day trip to the site, the children took their sculptures and helped install them in the trees, also making a tunnel entrance to the wooded glade from hula hoops. While there they also had the opportunity to see the other artists installing their art pieces, and walk around the woods.

Our chair of governors, Dr Andy Williams came on the preview evening to see the work of our children and he remarked, 'the 'Arts in the Wood' exhibition was an exciting affair which I visited for the first time this year. I was delighted to hear that our pupils had taken part in event and went to the launch event on the Friday evening. The pieces were a mixture of those created by school groups and some by the artists themselves all on the theme of 'circus'. The sculptures are now back in school and will be displayed here for all to enjoy".

## University of Huddersfield Garden Project

Recently, some Year 5 and Year 6 children accomplished a project for the University of Huddersfield, alongside the national construction company – Morgan Sindall. As part of Miss Aziz's enrichment, the children created designs for the garden which is outside one of the new buildings on the site. The children's designs will be displayed at the university and ideas have been implemented in the new garden. On Thursday 7th July 2016, the children visited the university to do some planting where they developed their gardening skills as well as patience, creativity and an enjoyment of working outdoors. All of the children enjoyed taking part in this project and said they learned a lot from this experience. Keep a look out in the Huddersfield Examiner for a photograph of your child if they have taken part!



## Queen's Birthday Celebrations

Our children and staff came out full force to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's birthday. Children spent time learning all about the Queen and her life.

The catering staff put on a special dinner to celebrate the occasion which the children enjoyed very much!



## Year 2 Trip to Blackpool Sea Life Centre

Year 2 really enjoyed their trip to the Sea Life Centre where the children learned about different sea creatures and the habitats they lived in. We visited the rock pool where we could touch shrimps, starfish and stingray eggs. The children saw lots of sharks and stingrays – one was even laid on top of the tunnel, it was HUGE!



## Staffing Changes

The following members of staff are leaving us this summer and we wish them the very best for the future:

Mrs Gull (Teacher)  
Mrs Ashtiaq (Teacher)  
Mrs Hunt (Teacher)  
Miss Gull (Teaching Assistant)  
Miss Tiplady (Nursery Nurse)  
Mrs Munt (Nursery Nurse)  
Mrs Kauser (Maternity)  
Mrs Mehreen (Maternity)  
Mr Kamal (Teaching Assistant)

We welcome the following members of staff:

Mr Greenhalgh (Teacher)  
Mrs Whinfrey (Teacher)  
Mrs Ilyas (Teacher)  
Mr Master (Teacher)  
Miss Hampshire (Teacher)  
Miss Patel (Teaching Assistant)  
Ms Yolande (Teaching Assistant)  
Miss Aklaq (Nursery Nurse)  
Miss N Wood (Teaching Assistant)

## Attendance

Our current attendance is averaging out at 95%. From September, through the backing of Staff and Governors one of the school's key priorities will be on ensuring our attendance is comparable with national attendance figures. We have been allocated an Attendance and Pupil Support Officer from Kirklees; his name is Terry Roberts and he will be coming into school on a weekly basis to work alongside Miss Kershaw to raise our overall attendance. We have set our target at 96% for next year and trust we can rely upon all our parents to help us achieve this.

To support the school raise its attendance, always think very carefully before keeping your child at home. Please always ask yourself, "is my child too ill to go to school today? Or would they be able to manage and the school can ring me if there are any concerns?" We, like all parents believe

strongly that “every child matters” and that every day a child is absent from school, they will miss an important day of learning.

Bearing the above in mind we are going to become strict with appointments made during the school day; please always try to make appointments outside of school time. If any are made during the school day (due to emergencies), and in order for your child to be released from school and for the absence to be authorised, we will require proof of the appointment i.e. a medical card/hospital letter etc. We are also going to be closely monitoring punctuality; children who are regularly late to school will be referred to Terry Roberts who will investigate this further. Please remember that our doors open at 8:45 for morning activities and registration is at 8:55a.m.

In the new year, and following parental requests, we will be changing our current system of rewarding attendance through the big prize draws and instead we will have smaller prizes for all children who achieve 100% attendance. These will be shared at the next newsletter.

Finally, on a real positive for our attendance records, I am pleased to announce that 64 children have achieved a fantastic 100% attendance. These children will all receive a special treat of Dixon’s icecream and a 100% attendance certificate. Well done to them all! The 2 lucky children who won the golden ticket draw and received the fabulous prize of a bike are Daniyal Hussain class 4A and Xinyi Chen class 1B.

## Reception Reptiles

Reception have been learning about Africa and studying the story Handa’s Surprise. To develop their understanding of exotic animals we had a visit from Reptile Life. The children were able to hold all of the animals even the gigantic Burmese Python Jessie. They loved learning new facts about the animals and were all very brave.



## Spelling Challenge

The Spelling Challenge arranged through the PTA was a huge success. They managed to raise over £100. Each of the following winners received a £5 book voucher.

Most words: Khadijah Ashraf 2B, Safyan Mohammed 4A and Samara Maeresa 5B.

Longest word: Hammad Ramzan 1A, Wareesha Khan 1A, Mohammed Ali 3B and Ammarah Sajid 5B.

## Contact details

If you change your telephone number please remember to let the office know. There have been quite a few occasions recently, when the office try to phone parents only to find the number has changed and they are unable to get through. For emergency purposes it is essential that we have both parents/carers phone numbers and at least one other contact on our school records. Also please note when we call from the school phone, it will be displayed as “No Caller ID” on your phone. We are finding an increasing number of parent’s mobiles/landlines, not accepting “No Caller ID” numbers. Please check your settings and amend if necessary to accept our calls.

## York Trip

At the end of the last half term all of Year 6 went to York. The trip included visiting the York Dungeon touring the city and viewing the magnificent York Minster. Most children were nervous about going into the dungeon but once in, and after adjusting to the sheer darkness, they began to enjoy learning about the different periods of history. After lunch we made way to the Minster (via the Shambles) and it was a joy to see the awe and wonder on their faces when they first caught sight of the Minster. Overall, it was a memorable day enjoyed by all.

## Bikeability

Some of the Yr6 children took part in the Bikeability training. The two day programme taught children aspects of cycling safely. It included how to assess their bike and helmet, manoeuvring, signalling and how to ride safely on public roads. The children thoroughly enjoyed the programme and most received a level 2 qualification too.

## Emergency Planning

All of the Year 5 classes had the opportunity of working with 'Emergency Planners' who visited Mount Pleasant Primary on the 24th June 2016. The children were able to explore the nature and effect of different types of emergencies people are faced with such as floods, power cuts and torrential snow. The children were able to explore which procedures can be put in place to be able to deal with such emergencies, developing awareness and helping with such incidents as safely and swiftly as possible.

## Special Awards Assembly

Special assembly was held for our key Stage 1 children. Well done children, keep up the hard work next year.

1A	Aesha Asaghiar	2A	Awais Alam
1B	Heera Khan	2B	Ania Nazir
1C	Hassan Raza	2C	Zohaar Akhtar

## Reception Sports Day

Reception children enjoyed a very active morning. They thoroughly enjoyed the sports activities that were available to them and made full effort to be actively involved.





## Year 5 Enterprise

As you are aware, children in year 5 have been raising money as part of the Enterprise Challenge. They have been actively developing and applying their skills, making and selling various items during lunch times and after school. The children have fully immersed themselves in each of their chosen ventures, making the 2016 Enterprise Challenge a personal success as well as contributing to the year group as a whole raising money for the Year 5 trip.

## Year 6 Talent Show

The year 6 talent show was a blast of entertainment. We saw some serious talent and stars in the making – watch out Britain's Got Talent!



The joint winners were: Perfect Poets – Ayat Malik, Maryam Ali and Advia Javed. The Shield – Arfan Kabir, Moad Shebani, Sallah Mrabet and Brabuk Omar.

### Dates to note in your diaries for September:

Children break up for Summer	Friday 15th July 2016 - 3.15pm
Children (accept Nursery) return to school	Thursday 8th September 2016 - 8.45am
Nursery returning to school	Thursday 15th September 2016 - 8.45am
INSET Day (school closed for children)	Monday 12th September 2016

Full details of term dates for 2016/2017 or on the back page

**Please be aware that a separate letter is being sent out which provides further information and details about the arrangements for September and the new build. Also please do keep checking on the school website where we will provide further information about developments over the holidays**

**Website <http://www.mountpleasantschool.co.uk>**

From all the staff at Mount Pleasant Primary School, we wish all our pupils and their families a happy holiday, and please stay safe.

## Term Dates for 2016/2017

AUTUMN TERM 2016	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	INSET Day 1
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	INSET Day 2
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	ADDITIONAL CLOSURE DAY
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Children return to school (Except Nursery)
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	INSET Day 3
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Nursery children return to school
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	Children break up for half term holidays
HALF TERM	
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	INSET Day 4
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2016	Children return to school
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Children break up for Christmas Holidays
SPRING TERM 2017	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2017	Children return to school
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Children break up for half term holidays
HALF TERM	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Children return to school
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Children break up for Easter holidays
SUMMER TERM 2017	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Children return to school
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2017	May Day Bank holiday
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Children break up for half term holidays
HALF TERM	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Children return to school
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Children break up for Summer holidays

Please note that there is one more INSET day which will be organised during the year. Parents will be provided with information nearer the time.