

Mount Pleasant Primary School Parent Newsletter – Issue 31 25th March, 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we come to the end of this Spring term, I would like to start by expressing thank you to everyone. It has been another unusual and challenging term, as we worked through remote teaching for so many weeks, and then fully back into school. A year ago, this week, we experienced our very first school lockdown, as all schools closed. I sincerely hope that we do not have any further school lockdowns, so children are able to come to school every day, and successfully build upon their learning and experiences.

As the successful vaccine roll-out continues, it is pleasing to see that Lockwood has a high take-up for the vaccine. We all know that vaccinations are an effective means of fighting infectious diseases, and we have been fortunate that globally vaccines have been produced to help us fight back against Covid-19. Many of our staff have already been offered and taken up their vaccine. When you receive the call for your vaccination, do please get yourself vaccinated, to protect yourself, your family and our wider community.

Due to the disruption in children's learning this year and the different experiences children have had due to isolation periods, bubble closures, etc, there will not be any of the usual statutory assessments, such as phonics screening, KS1 and KS2 SATs. However, we continuously assess children, mostly through our daily teaching and through tests at the end of the term. Children will still be assessed by their teachers, using year end expectations, and old test papers, to produce an end of year assessment for each child. This will be shared with parents through the end of year report.

In the meantime, please continue working with your children at home through the next steps which teachers shared with you at this week's parents' consultations. As you are aware the school has purchased excellent online resources to support home-learning, including TTRS and Oxford Reading Buddy.

It was pleasing that we were still able to go ahead with our annual favourite of dressing up as story characters for World Book Day. I am really hopeful that we will be able to return to our 'normal' World Book Day dress up next year.

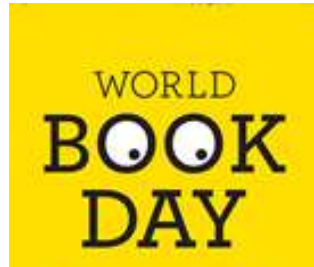
After the holidays, the holy month of Ramadan begins which many of our families take part in. As always, we ask that parents allow their children (if they so wish) to take part in fasting during the weekends, and not during the school week. For the oldest children (Years 5 and 6), if parents are happy for their child to fast during the school week, please follow the instructions from Mrs Ashtiaq's letter.

I hope everyone has a lovely holiday, and if the Government allows the next stage of the road map to be implemented, it means that we will be able to see our family and friends (up to 6 people) outside and including our gardens. This will be very welcome by everyone indeed. Please do follow all national restrictions, as the police are fining if anyone breaks them. For everyone celebrating Easter, I hope you have a wonderful time and are able to celebrate in the garden! Enjoy the yummy Easter eggs as well!

Mrs Nazir (Headteacher)



World Book Day

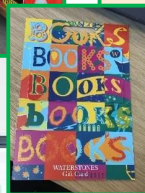


To celebrate World Book Day this year, we ran our very own Masked Reader competition! The adults in school read a passage from a book whilst in disguise. The videos were posted on Seesaw and the children had to guess who the adult was and the book the passage was taken from.

It was great to see their responses on Seesaw - we have some good detectives in our school who used the clues in the videos to inform their guesses!



Some children made their own Masked Reader videos and a competition was run in classes for the best video. The winner received a £10 voucher for Waterstones.



All the children in the school received £1 World Book Day voucher. Alongside this, they received a book and a sachet of hot chocolate to enjoy so that they could get cosy whilst reading their new book.



Science Day

The theme for 2021 British Science Week was '**Innovating for the Future**'. It was an incredibly fitting choice given the unprecedented times we have been living in throughout much of 2020. Science is all about innovation and working to create a better future for all. The opportunity to use our creativity to solve problems is something we should all aspire to.

Each Year group planned experiments and investigations on this theme using the British Science Week resource packs. Children were also encouraged to think about their own innovations – from inventing their own toy to designing a useful machine that would help their family or the whole world!



To coincide with British Science Week, there was a focus on Women in Science.

Our aim is to continue to raise the profile of significant female scientists. We presented their life journeys as stories of resilience, belief in oneself and empowerment: stories that every child, should hear.



Children were introduced to scientists such as Mae Jemison the first African American women in space; Rosalind Franklin who played an instrumental role in the discovery of the DNA structure, and Dr Hayat Sindi a scientist and innovator. These were just some of the major contributors' children looked at.

Nursery Memorable Experience

This half term in Nursery we have been learning about transport and journeys. The children enjoyed learning about the different land, sea, and air vehicles. They have enjoyed exploring the school's minibus. They had the amazing opportunity to sit inside the minibus and even had a go at getting into the driver's seat and honking the horn.



For Science Week, the children explored different materials to make boats which they then tested to investigate whether their boat would float or sink in the water. We had lots of fun making and testing our boats!



Reception Memorable Experience

The Reception children really enjoyed a trip out in one of our brand-new Mount Pleasant Minibuses! We learnt all about how a minibus works, explored the engine, the interior and exterior and finished off with a ride around Huddersfield. We enjoyed travelling in style!



"We had to wear seat belts to keep us safe. I liked it when we beeped the horn and looked under the bonnet. It was fun!" - Anniebeth



"We went to see Castle Hill. I liked the sliding door on the minibus. It is cool." - Aahil





Not only are our new minibuses ideal for short trips out and about for all our children but they have also been a brilliant learning experience for them in other ways as you can see from our photos and comments above.

Commented [DT1]:

Year 1 Memorable Experience

This term in our **Paws, Claws and Whiskers** topic the children dressed up as an African wild animal as part of their memorable experience day. We made our own animal mask and we even made a special cookie called Mbatata from Malawi. Malawi is a poor country, but the people are known for their hospitality and friendliness. They are known as the "Warm Heart of Africa". It is traditional to cut these Mbatata cookies into the shape of a heart.



Year 2 Memorable Experience

Year 2 had a very exciting day celebrating Science Day during our first week back. We completed lots of experiments throughout the day. In the first experiment, the children were investigating how to make dirty water clean.



"First, we put some pasta, rocks, beads and tissue into a plastic bottle. Next, we poured the water in and most of the dirt stayed on top of the tissue. The clean water filtered through the tissue into the bottle" - Remas (2B)



Waqas and Fatima (2C) really enjoyed making their water filters.

“I think the dirt is going to stick to the paper and pasta” - Waqas.

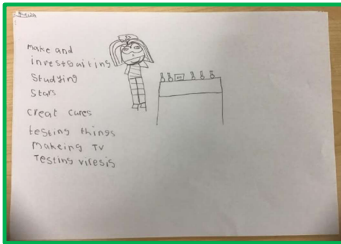
Fatima waited very patiently to have her turn, she particularly enjoyed touching the swirly pasta. Yasser and Qasim were fascinated by the texture of the pebbles:

“We think the dirt will stick to the pebbles because they are rough!”

The children really enjoyed making their own flitter jars. Here they investigated which materials were the best at floating or sinking and whether using bigger or small pieces would look better.

“The flitter jars were my favourite because they looked cool” - Arsalaan (2B)

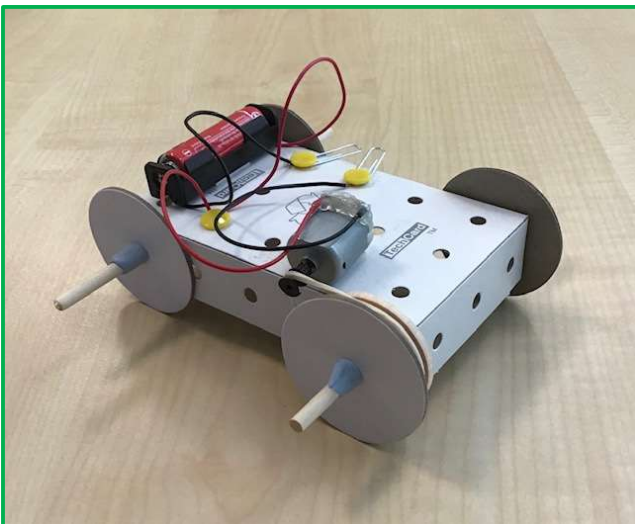
We also thought about what a scientist is, and we drew pictures and wrote about the kind of things that they do. We discovered that anyone can become a scientist if they work hard.



Finally, the children became inventors and designed something which would make their lives better. The children were very creative and came up with designs such as a lift to take them all around the world quickly and talking pencils to help them with their writing and colouring.



Year 3 Memorable Experience



Year 3 have been looking at forces this half term.

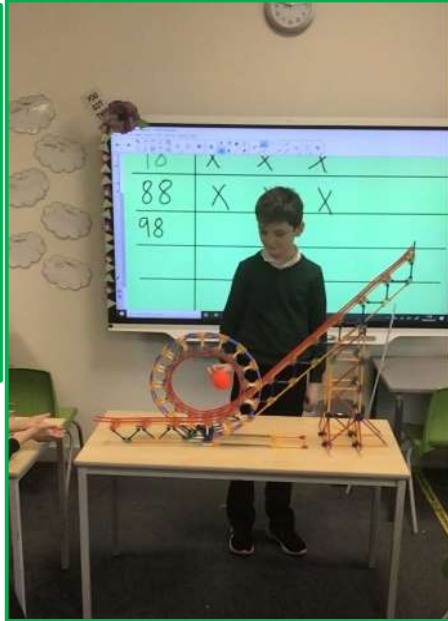
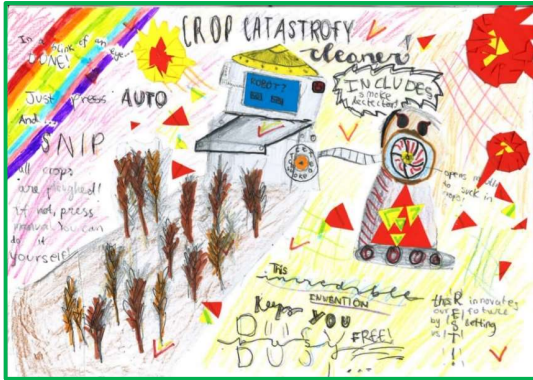
As part of our work, we have been investigating pushing and pulling; friction and magnets.

In Design Technology we had having lots of fun using materials to construct a simple vehicle which we used to change the size, speed, and direction of a force.

We think our finished vehicle is fantastic and we are very proud of the work we have completed.

Year 5 Memorable Experience

Year 5's first week back in school was a whirlwind. We celebrated World Book Day, International Women's Day, and Science Week with a whole host of creative activities.

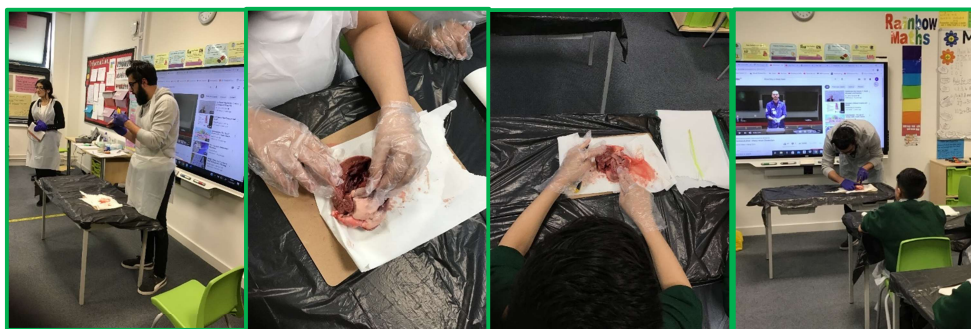


We embodied our favourite characters on World Book Day as well as donning a mask to compete in The Masked Reader. We created comic strips and illustrated the inspirational women in our lives as the superheroes they are. We spent a full day exploring and experimenting with plastic and forces as well as designing our own inventions to innovate our futures. The return to school has been a joyous occasion overall for Year 5.



Year 6 Memorable Experience

Scalpels at the ready! For our memorable experience, Year 6 had a fantastic time dissecting a heart! We were able to look the four chambers, arteries and how strong the muscles of the heart need to be to provide blood to the body.



Remote Learning – Parent Survey

We sent out 4 questions for parents to complete regarding remote learning. Thank you all for your fantastic response. We got an incredible 167 responses, representing 472 out of 639 children. I think the results demonstrates the trust parents have in our great school, and the recognition of everyone's hard work in ensuring ALL children continue to learn, regardless of the situation.

Please see the results of our survey below.

	Agree	Disagree
The teachers have provided a good range of lessons for my child through remote learning, during the lockdown	92% (154)	8% (13)
My child has received regular feedback and good support from their teacher	92% (154)	8% (13)
I believe that my child has continued to make progress as a result of the remote learning	84% (141)	16% (26)
My child has enjoyed their remote teaching lessons	78% (130)	22% (37)

Kirklees Local Offer

The Kirklees Local Offer is a one stop shop with lots of information, advice and support for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and their families.

You can find information on a range of areas including:

- Education
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Social Care
 - Education, health and care plans (EHCPs)
 - Activities and fun things to do
 - Preparing for Adulthood
 - Travel and transport
 - Financial Support
- Please visit the Local Offer. It also gives you the opportunity to give feedback and help us continue to develop it and make it the best it can be.

www.kirkleeslocaloffer.org.uk

Special Assembly Stars

Finally, a massive congratulations to our Special Assembly Stars, (two from every class) and Hira for being the first child to achieve the 100-book challenge. These hard-working and very well-behaved children had a special certificate and a wonderful prize to take home and enjoy over the holidays.



Term Dates 2020 - 2021

Please use the calendar below when booking holidays. The school does not authorise ANY TERM TIME leave – parents who choose to do this are fined by the Local Authority.

Autumn Half Term 1

- Monday 7 September – (INSET Day)
- Tuesday 8 September – (INSET Day)
- **Wednesday 9 September – Children return to school**
- Friday 23 October – School closes for October half term

Autumn Half Term 2

- **Monday 2 November – Children return to school**
- Friday 18 December – School closes for Christmas holidays

Spring Half Term 1

- Monday 4 January (INSET DAY)
- **Tuesday 5 January – Children return to school**
- Friday 12 February – School closes for February half term

Spring Half Term 2

- **Monday 22 February – Children return to school**
- Friday 26 March – School closes for Easter holidays

Summer Half Term 1

- **Monday 12 April – children return to school**
- Friday 28 May – School closes for May half term holidays

Summer Half Term 2

- **Monday 7 June – Children return to school**
- Friday 23 July – School closes for the Summer holidays
- Monday 26 July – INSET Day (disaggregated)

1 x INSET day to be determined.

HAPPY EASTER

