



# Mount Pleasant Primary School

## Parent Newsletter – Issue 14

### 13 October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very busy and exciting start to the New Academic Year. Our children have settled very well into their new classes and are already making great progress with their learning. Our parents, as always, have been excellent, working with staff to support children's learning through attending parents evening and workshops. Our wonderful staff have also been busy preparing for our move into the new school building.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that our new school looks wonderful; all staff have now visited the school and seen their new classrooms and work areas. This has allowed them to start planning and preparing for the move. We have been busy ordering new furniture for the ground floor classrooms. The children cannot wait to move into the new build and they regularly ask me questions about the building progress as well as the design.

There have been some final complications to the new build which has led to a few days of delay. However, the contractors are working incredibly hard, working evenings and weekends to complete our new build on time. I am expecting handover to take place on Friday 27 October when we will be given keys to our new school. We have planned three days for the staff to unpack and ensure that classrooms, offices, school kitchen and other spaces are ready for the children when they arrive on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. In the unlikely event, that there are further delays to the new build, I will write to inform parents immediately. For now, I ask that you please keep an eye on the school website for any urgent announcements.

Once we have moved into our new school, the final phase of works will commence. Firstly, the contractors will remove the temporary modular classrooms from the play area, and then begin to demolish the rest of the old building. Once it is all demolished, they will landscape the full grounds creating an amazing new play area comprising of grass areas, hard play as well as a large new fenced MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) for children to play football etc. We are expecting the final phase to be completed for handover in July 2018.

Next week, I will write to all parents explaining the layout of the new school, timings, access routes etc so that parents are clear about arrangements for when they bring children to their new school. In order to ensure the least disruption to the children's education, I have had to plan the actual move to take place over a very short period of time. Whilst I am confident that everything will work as planned, I do ask parents to be patient over the first few days whilst people get used to the new systems. Our first priority will be to ensure that all our children are dropped off and picked up safely and collected by the right adult. We will need full co-operation from all parents and carers during this time.

Thank you in advance for this. I hope you all enjoy your slightly extended holiday and I look forward to welcoming you all to our new school building once we re-open.

**Please do keep a look out for my 'New School' letter which I will be sending to you, via the children, next week.**

Mrs N Nazir

(Headteacher)

## School Vision & Values



Firstly, thank you to everyone who helped create the school's new Vision and Values Statement, by taking part in the parent, pupil and staff workshops. It was amazing to see such a great interest in the exercise and we are pleased to see that parents, pupils and staff all had very similar thoughts and ideas for it.

We hope you like our new school logo as it embodies our motto of **Think Big, Aim High and Achieve**. The letters in ACHIEVE reflect our new school core values of ALL our children being Aspirational, Connected, Happy, Immersed, Energised, Valued and Empowered. This will be the identity of our new school.

### School Motto

The new school motto is “**Think Big, Aim High and Achieve!**” Please encourage children to understand and learn the motto, and envision it as the key objective throughout their time at Mount Pleasant.

### School Vision Statement

*“To nurture and empower lifelong learners to think big, aim high and be successful in achieving their dreams and aspirations.”*

### School Mission

Mount Pleasant's Mission is to create a healthy and respectful learning environment where outstanding teaching and learning can flourish in a friendly, inclusive and caring school in which children feel safe and happy. At Mount Pleasant, every child is provided with opportunities to maximise their full learning potential. This is achieved through a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum delivered through creative approaches and using the latest technologies.

### School Core Values

Our school community will achieve success because the school fully embodies the following core values of being:

**Aspirational** – **Connected** – **Happy** – **Immersed** – **Energised** – **Valued** – **Empowered**

### School Aims

Mount Pleasant's 7 Aims are achieved through staff and parents working together on our core values to ensure that every child achieves success by becoming:

**Aspirational** – We aim to provide children with the very best of role models who inspire and motivate.

**Connected** – We aim to strengthen teamwork and collaboration to connect learners to their peers, their school and their wider community.

**Happy** – We aim to ensure that every child feels happy and safe at school.

**Immersed** – We aim to provide a stimulating, learning environment (including digital aspects) which enables children to enjoy and become fully immersed in school life.

**Energised** – We aim to ensure that children are focused, are challenged and energised, from the start to the end of every school day.

**Valued** – We aim to equip all children and the school community with a sense that all individuals are uniquely valuable.

**Empowered** – We aim to produce strong, confident and society-ready children who have a positive outlook on life.

### Messages from the Office

**Dinner money:** Kirklees Council request that dinner money must be paid in advance and dinner accounts must be kept in credit. Debit balances will eventually be passed onto Kirklees if after several reminders from the office, if these are not bought into credit. If your child decides to change from dinners to sandwiches, or vice versa, please inform the office. Kitchen need to order dinners and if your child changes to sandwiches, you may still be charged.

**Trips/Events:** The school request that all trips and events payable be paid online via ParentPay. Alternatively, letters regarding trips and events will have a barcode to pay at a PayPoint on them if you wish to pay via this method.

**School Milk:** From September school milk has to be ordered online. The school will provide parents with a letter and leaflet of how they can order milk online at the end of each half term – this will be available for next half term.

**Appointments:** We seem to be getting an increasing number of children leaving school for appointments. Please book dentist, doctor or other appointments outside school time.

**Absence:** If your child is not in school for whatever reason, please ring the office first thing.

**Nut Allergies:** Due to many of our children suffering from nut allergies, please do not send nuts in your child's packed lunch or as a snack.

**Privacy Notice:** Please visit <http://www.mountpleasantschool.co.uk/page/privacy-notice/29684> to have a look at our school's updated Privacy Notice.

If you require further help, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

### Monies Raised



On Friday 28th September we held a coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Charity. Staff and parents donated cakes and biscuits to sell. This was a great opportunity for everyone to get together socially and support a great cause.

Furthermore, the children worked extremely hard to bake and decorate cakes and biscuits for parents and children

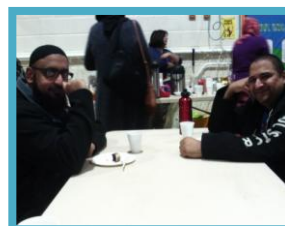
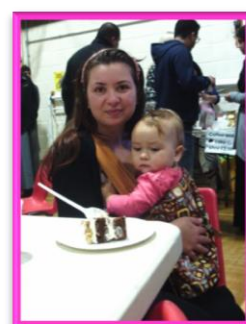
to buy throughout the following week.

Thank you to everyone that attended and contributed.

All money raised will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Research to support those suffering from cancer and their families.

**MacMillan Coffee Morning £680**

**Forget me Not Children's Hospice £216.75**



**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING**



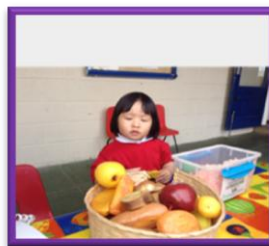
## Sports Tournaments



We are looking to participate in various out of school sports tournaments this year and have already got the ball rolling with a football and hockey tournament. Children thoroughly enjoy these out of school experiences and they are particularly valuable in providing social, competitive and fun experiences for children at Mount Pleasant. Thank you to all the parents who come along and support these events.

## Memorable Experiences

### Nursery



We would like to welcome all our new children to Nursery. We have been busy exploring all the exciting things to do at Nursery and love the story of Owl Babies. Mummies always come back!

### Reception



In Reception we have enjoyed learning about minibeasts and had a great time on our bug hunt adventure exploring where minibeasts live. We managed to uncover lots of different minibeasts and enjoyed looking at them closely as to compare their similarities and differences.



### Year 1

#### Alien Spaceship Lands in School Grounds

The children in Year One returned to their classrooms after lunch to find that a mysterious crash had taken place in the school grounds. Armed with magnifying glasses and bags to collect evidence, the children explored the crash site and soon came to the conclusion that an alien spaceship had crash landed at Mount Pleasant! Unfortunately, the alien was nowhere to be seen but he did leave a trail of green slime all over the playground. Please let us know if you see our lost alien!



## Year 2



Year Two enjoyed a very unforgettable 'Pirate Day' which transported them on a visit to 'pirate island' where they walked the plank and shot cannonballs. They then joined the crew on the pirate ship and it was all hands on deck as they learnt directions and how to speak like a pirate. The children also sailed the high seas by drifting on an immensely long whale.



## Year 3

Year 3 had a very special visitor!

As part of our topic on Gods and Mortals, Zeus king of the gods paid us a visit.

He arrived during a thunderstorm wearing white robes decorated with leaves. The children asked him questions about himself, in particular they wanted to know about why Zeus was so mean to Prometheus. This seemed to get Zeus rather annoyed and he began to shout. The children learned that it is not a good idea to upset the gods. One boy even asked him why he was foolish. Zeus got really angry and it was quite terrifying.

The next day they decided we should write him a letter to thank him for sparing some of his very precious time to visit us.

## Year 4



The children took part in a mock Roman versus Celtic battle. This was done as a "wide game" where children were Celtic or Roman warriors. We went to a woodland area in Lockwood where they guarded their own territory whilst trying to capture the flag of the opposing army. Children used their knowledge of Celts and Romans to defeat their enemies, using great tactics and strategies. This included using different ways to sneak up on each other, surround the enemy or capture their prisoners. After a couple of games it was declared a draw.

## Year 5



Year 5 were visited by the Chief Alchemist's Apprentice who showed us some samples of mysterious objects from the mystical 'Alchemy Island'. He also gave us a map and read a riddle which children had to unravel to discover the key to beginning our adventure and finding gold hidden deep in the Island's mysterious landscape!

## Year 6

On the first day back after the summer holidays, Year 6 dressed as Victorians and experienced a typical school day. During the day we completed drills, used slate boards to write dictated sentences and learnt times tables by rote. We also made peg dolls. Life in a Victorian school was very difficult and very strict!



## Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 - 9.00am	Year 3 Diwali Assembly (Year 3 Parents invited)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 – 9.00am	Key Stage 2 Special Assembly (invited parents only)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 – 2.30pm	Key Stage 1 Special Assembly (invited parents only)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Children break up for Autumn half term
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	INSET Day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	School extra closure day
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	INSET Day
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2017	INSET Day
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	School extra closure day
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017	Children return to the new school

The INSET days and extra school closure days are subject to the new build being ready.

## Extended Leave

The Government has extremely strict guidelines regarding parents taking extended leave in term time for their school children. Please note that any time taken for will be strictly unauthorised. The Local Authority fine parents for term time holidays or low attendance and there have been cases in our local community where parents have been summoned to the courts to pay outstanding fines.

The Government has set 90% attendance as their threshold for monitoring poor attendance. If attendance falls below 90%, this is seen as persistent absence (meaning the child's attendance is very low). In such cases, parents are informed of this low attendance and asked to improve. Where there is no improvement, the local Authority intervenes and parents are invited to meetings with a representative from the school as well as the Local Authority to discuss the low attendance and how this can be improved.

Please make every effort to send your child to school every day and please do not book holidays in term time.

## Internet Safety

If you have any concerns about what your child is accessing on the internet - have a look at these sites and maybe share them with your child - as appropriate. Please speak to your child's teacher or Mrs. House if you wish to discuss on-line safety.

There are lots of dangers on-line. Please ensure that your child only has access to the internet if a responsible adult is with them.

CSE Internet Safety  
Keeping Children Safe Online  
Kidsmart

[www.ceop.org.uk/thinkuknow](http://www.ceop.org.uk/thinkuknow)  
[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)  
[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)

## Summer Fair

Thank you to the PTA for organising a wonderful Summer Fair and for everyone taking part. It was an amazing afternoon with many activities and lots of yummy food. We raised an amazing **£1454**. We have been asking children how they would like this money to be spent on and will update families in the future about how this money has... been spent.

## Attendance

Our current attendance is 96%.

Again, this year we will focus on raising our attendance and we are pleased to announce that we have the help and support of Terry Roberts, Attendance and Pupil Support Officer from Kirklees.

As always we trust we can rely on your support to keep our attendance high and request that you always think carefully before allowing your child to miss a valuable day of learning. Bearing this in mind we also kindly request that appointments are not made during the school day unless it is an emergency.

We have recorded a total of 239 late marks since the beginning of September. Can I please remind all parents that children who arrive late to school is very disruptive not only for the child but the class teacher too. The teacher has to break off from the lesson to bring the late child up to speed and this inevitably causes a disturbance in the classroom. Please remember that our doors open at 8:40a.m for morning activities and registration is at 8:50a.m. Any child arriving after 9.00a.m will be given an unauthorised late mark.

Obviously, we take Safeguarding very seriously and following a few recent local and national cases the need for more robust emergency contacts and first-day calling procedures have been highlighted for all schools. If your child is going to be absent can you please call the school as soon as possible and leave a message on the absence line.

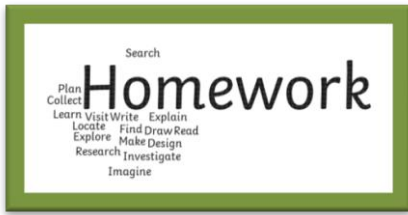
Please always make sure you notify the school of any new telephone numbers for any of the emergency contacts on our system.

If we do not know the reason why your child is absent from school our daily procedures are as follows;

1. Late children checked and input into the system.
2. 9.15am - 9.30am First day text sent to the first contact we have on our system asking for a response.
3. If we do not receive a response to the text message, we will telephone the first contact we have on our system within 45 minutes of school start time.
4. We will then ring everyone on the contact list until we receive a reply ensuring where possible that someone from outside of the family home has been contacted.
5. If we have not managed to make contact we will decide whether the circumstances warrant a home visit from school staff.
6. If after a home visit we still have not made contact we would ask the Police to initiate a "safe and well" check on behalf of the school.

## Homework

**“To nurture and empower lifelong learners to think big, aim high and be successful in achieving their dreams and aspirations.”**



Our school's mission statement is the inspiration for our new style of homework. We want our children to develop independence, imagination and perseverance in their learning and so we are trying to avoid 'worksheet' type activities that do little to encourage these skills.

Each half term children will receive a list of activities that support the learning that is happening in class. The expectation is that children will do at least one of these activities each week and bring them in on Monday to share with their teacher and classmates.

There will be times when teachers feel that some practise of basic skills is needed and then additional work will be sent home on Fridays. This may be different for different within a class.

On an ongoing basis there will be a tray of basic skills activities in each classroom that children can help themselves to on Friday.

