

Mount Pleasant Primary School

Parent Newsletter – Issue 15 (Dec 2017)

Dear Parents and Carers

I want to start off by thanking you all for being so cooperative and patient with all the changes as we moved into our new school this half term. I was also pleased to see so many of you taking time out to attend the school tours that I had organised to give you an opportunity to see first-hand our lovely classrooms and learning spaces. Based on the comments made by visitors, it is clear that the whole community has been incredibly impressed by the amazing results from the new school build. By ensuring that the school is designed and built in accordance with the needs of our current and future generations, this has resulted in us achieving one of the greatest accomplishments for our community.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff as the school move could not have been such a success had it not been for the hard work by everyone who went over and beyond in making sure the school was ready for the children on their first day back.



One of the key areas that people were impressed by is the new KS2 Learning Resource Centre. We will shortly be receiving delivery of the new furniture and equipment for the brand new ground-floor EYFS/KS1 Library and 'Virtual Reality' room in January. During the Christmas holidays, we will also be carrying out some additional works in the Nursery area by creating a secondary secure line to enable an efficient and safe change at lunchtimes between morning and afternoon sessions. The work is scheduled to be completed before children return on Monday 8 January 2018.

With regards the old school, the temporary classrooms have been removed and demolition work is now starting. This will be followed by carefully planned landscaping work for our vast children's play areas. These 'Phase 3' works are due to complete by July 2018 after which some final work will be carried out by the school with external canopies, lighting and developed learning spaces. This will be done over the summer holidays and will be fully completed by the end of August 2018, ready for our main opening ceremony for our new school in September 2018.

I hope everyone has a lovely and well-deserved holiday and for all our families and staff celebrating Christmas, I hope you have a wonderful day. A Happy New Year to everyone!

Mrs N Nazir (Head Teacher)



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. The School Kitchen needs 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 provided parents with a letter and leaflet of how they can order milk online 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.

School Snack - Flapjack

The school is no longer providing a flapjack morning snack. Flapjacks were first introduced a few years ago so that children had something to eat during playtimes to keep their energy levels high. However, with the introduction of our free Breakfast Club which is very popular and with Reception and Key Stage 1 children having a piece of free fruit daily, as well as the option to buy milk, we feel that this is enough nourishment for the children before they have their school dinner.

Haircuts and School Uniform

Your child must come to school in the correct uniform. Children **MUST** wear black shoes.

Haircuts must be appropriate, no lines or patterns please.

Main Office Entrance Area

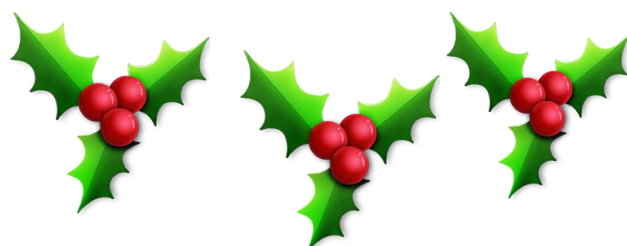
We are having an increasing number of parents waiting in the main office area. Due to health and safety reasons, we request parents wait outside their child's class/gate at the start and end of the school day.

Jewellery

New health and safety guidance states that earrings should not be taped during PE or swimming. Therefore the school cannot allow children to wear earrings on PE or swimming days. Parents must remove these at home or they will be asked to come to school to remove their child's earrings. Also, please ensure children do not wear any other jewellery or expensive jewellery to school. If your child does wear studs (on non- PE days) please ensure they are small and flat against the ear.

Gates Closing

Please note that our school gates are open from 8:30am and need to be **closed promptly at 8:50am**. This is to ensure that registers of children in school is taken accurately (in case there is a fire evacuation).



Attendance

Attendance is currently very impressive at 96%.

We are very pleased that so many parents and children take their attendance as seriously as we do and with this in mind we are very happy to announce that in the new year we will be holding a draw and 19 lucky children will receive a £5.00 book token and 3 lucky children will receive a £20.00 book token to spend at Waterstones Book Store. All children with a 100% attendance for the whole term will receive a personalised certificate.



Earlier in the term we had a meeting with one of the local Doctor surgeries who were very helpful and gave school some good advice with child illnesses. They acknowledged and agreed with what school advise parents on always getting your child/children into school - if they have a sniffle or a minor cold they usually forget about it once they are in school! If a child is too ill to be in school we will always phone home and alert parents.

The Doctors advised that if a child suffers with asthma and as long as they have had all their routine checks, have the correct medication at home and in school, there is no reason why asthma should affect a child's attendance/progress.

Term time Holidays

Whilst we understand that many families need to visit family living abroad, the school has no option but make all term time holidays as **unauthorised**. We are required to fine families when attendance falls below the government guidance of 90% if this is a result of term time holidays or other unauthorised absences.

Please note: we now have many year groups with children on waiting lists, so long absences can result in children being taken off roll and their places being allocated to other children on the waiting list.

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Friday 22 nd December 2017	9.30am Key Stage 2 Special Assembly (invited parents only)
	10.00am Key Stage 1 Special Assembly (invited parents only)
	Non uniform day – all school (£1 donation)
	Children break up for Christmas Holidays
Monday 8 th January 2018	Children return to school
Tuesday 9 th January 2018	Year 1 Dinosaur Planet visit
Wednesday 10 th January 2018	Planetarium visit for Reception
Thursday 11 th January 2018	Year 4 trip to Blue Planet
Friday 16 th February 2018	Children break up for the Half-term holidays



Safeguarding – Internet Safety

The Local Authority frequently send updated information related to helping to keep children safe, particularly when they are using on-line programmes and equipment. This is a really important part of the work undertaken by Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB).

We all know what a great resource digital technology is and how it plays a part in everyone's daily life. We know that our families do everything they can to keep their children safe; however, many families may be unaware of the **potential risks** posed through online activities. Statistics show that **CHILDREN** are seriously at risk if parents do not take responsibility for securing their child's safe use of any online apparatus or sites. The NSPCC and O2 have created a great online support for parents; please visit their website for excellent tips and support. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Below are some ways in which you can help your children stay safe online.

- Ensure you have high level **fire wall protection** enabled on all your internet technology including mobile phones.
- Keep all laptops, computers, tablets etc in a space where it is easily visible for you to check the sites your children are accessing.
- Talk regularly with your children about internet safety and to not share personal information online.
- Regularly check the internet history so you can be satisfied that your children are accessing safe sites only.
- Check that your children know where reporting functions are and how to block someone.

Where can I go for support?

As a school we will continue to support parents and children by ensuring we pass on information received from KSCB. Please look out for requests for parents to attend these meetings, during next term, and ensure you attend in order to get up to date information.

Policies, safety and reporting, YouTube:

https://support.google.com/youtube/topic/2676378?hl=en&ref_topic=6151248

Privacy complaint process, YouTube: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/142443>

YouTube Kids parental guide, YouTube: <https://support.google.com/youtubekids/#topic=6130504>

The **National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)** has a range of resources for parents on internet safety: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/saferinternet.org.uk> 0844 381 4772

PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education)

PSHE incorporates RSE (Relationships and Sexual Education), the emphasis being upon developing respectful relationships and keeping themselves and others safe. The Curriculum Newsletters, which are sent to you at the beginning of each half-term, will include information regarding specific subject matter. PSHE is involved within all areas of the curriculum, so some of the content is covered for example within Science / RE / Literacy. Specific Year Group meetings, arranged at various times, will help parents to further explore the content offered at different points within the school year.



Memorable Experiences

Nursery



The children enjoyed our trip to the moon. They dressed up, got in the rocket, pretended to take off, land, eat a picnic and come home. They also joined in with moving to the moon music.



Reception

The children in Reception had an excellent trip to Chester Zoo. The children thoroughly enjoyed looking at the different animals and their habitats including the giraffes, elephants, jaguar and one of our favourites - the lovely chimpanzees. We were very lucky with the weather and would like to thank all of the parents who accompanied us on the trip.



This term Reception are learning about "The Gruffalo". The children found a letter from the Gruffalo explaining that he was lost in our school. We followed the clues and discovered the Gruffalo in our new hall. The children were all very brave and had some excellent questions to ask him.



Year 1

Our topic this half term is 'Rio de Vida'. We have been learning about famous carnivals from around the world, including one in Brazil called Rio de Janeiro carnival. This week we had our own carnival at school. We wore our brightest clothes; made masks and headdresses and learned how to Samba dance. We had such a fun afternoon!



Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed a visit to Conisbrough Castle. They got to walk around the bailey and go to the top of the keep where Lord Hamelin and Lady Isabel once lived. The children also enjoyed dressing up as the characters of the castle and learning about life in the past.



Year 3

Year 3 went on a trip to Sainsbury's as part of our topic called Scrumdiddlyumptious. We went to learn about the different fruit and vegetables that they sold. We looked at where the produce came from, how it was packaged and we got to try some interesting foods, including persimmon and pea shoots.



Year 4



Year 4 enjoyed a visit from a dental nurse and a dental therapist for their memorable experience. The session included children using models to identify teeth and carry out a mock dental examination. Whilst carrying out this task, the children had to wear masks and gloves just like a real dentist. Furthermore, they completed a quiz, crossword and picture quiz to help reinforce the technical vocabulary that they will use throughout the topic of teeth and eating. Finally, the children were given the opportunity to ask the visitors questions that they had come up with in a previous English lesson. It was a super session that engaged and enthused the children about this terms topic.

Year 5

For our memorable experience this half term, the Year 5's were lucky enough to take a virtual reality trip to space! Each child had their own virtual reality headset which took them on an adventure through our solar system. We visited different planets in the solar system and learnt lots of exciting and interesting facts about the planets, their moons and our solar system. The children enjoyed exploring our solar system and it provided them with an inspiring introduction to our Stargazers topic.



Year 6

For our Year 6 memorable experience for 'A Child's War' we imagined ourselves being present when the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, announced to the country that a state of war existed between Britain and Germany on 3rd September, 1939 at 11.15. We then made gas masks and gas mask boxes to use during air raid drills. We went on to find out about the policy of evacuating children to the relative safety of the countryside.

Year 6 Street Party

In Year 6, our topic this half term has been World War II. The children have had the opportunity to study the historical event in lessons. The end of the historical event was celebrated all over Britain through street parties. In year 6 we had a street party to celebrate children's learning and bring together everything they had learnt this half term.



Mount Pleasant Festival Activities

Year 5 Hannukah



This half term Year 5 children performed a wonderful assembly to parents and children all about Hanukkah - the Jewish festival of lights. Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah to remember the Maccabees who fought against the Greek ruler, Antichous, and the miracle of the oil which lasted for 8 days. The children enjoyed learning about Hanukkah and performing using drama, singing and dancing to explain what Hannukah is, when Jewish people celebrate it and why.

Early Years Christmas Nativity Performances

We are so proud of our youngest children, Nursery and Reception who performed amazing Christmas performances for their parents as well as for our other children. Nursery children Ayaan and Afsheen also sang a solo of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.' It was wonderful to see such confidence.

It was also great to see the same confidence in our Reception children who sang so many beautiful songs and learnt so many lines off by heart. Thank you to all the Nursery and Reception staff for working so hard and making these performances so memorable.



Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New
Year

