



Mount Pleasant Primary School

Parent Newsletter – Issue 16

16 February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Spring Half-Term Parent Newsletter, as we begin to look forward to slightly longer days and the start of warmer weather.

As you know, I always like to share news of a new exciting development in each newsletter. I previously informed you about the KS2 Library which many parents visited as part of the new school tours. Well, today's announcement is about our brand new KS1 Library which has just been completed and resourced with books by KS1 children's most favourite authors. I know how much our children love to read and I want these libraries to be the most favourite parts of the new school, for every child. I also want parents to come and make use of the libraries. We will soon be sharing further details about how we can make this happen. Our focus through these provisions as well as through steps taken directly with pupils in the classrooms is to further improve reading and writing.



The second piece of good news is about a recent visit by the school's Kirklees Learning Partner, who is a Head Teacher herself as well as an Ofsted Inspector. She carried out a Learning Walk of the school and visited all year groups, observed teaching and learning as well as monitoring the quality of our children's books. She was very impressed with the school and noted particularly the following:

1. Libraries are well thought out and highly engaging learning spaces that will promote reading further,
2. Children have excellent behaviour and a positive attitude to learning,
3. Skilled teachers with excellent subject knowledge question children well to engage them and extend their learning further,
4. Well prepared resources which motivate and engage learning,
5. Well-presented children's books where it is evident they take pride in their learning.

Work on Phase 3 of the school's building site continues as we approach the end of the demolition works. Once completed, Kier (building contractors) will start on preparing the school's vast new playing grounds and sports pitch. I am currently working with the Government's Education Funding Agency, Kier and the Local Council to discuss ways through which we can maximise the use and effectiveness of the play spaces for our children. Phase 3 works are going to schedule and we are confident that the whole site will be ours again before children return from their summer holidays to school in September.

Based on this timetable, I am planning a Grand Opening Ceremony in early September to celebrate the full completion of works. I will share further details of this in due course so that you can make a note in your diary and join in to make these celebrations a whole community event.

Yours faithfully

Mrs N Nazir
Head Teacher



Responsibilities

Although the school gates open at 8:30am and children in Years 5 and 6 (with parental consent) are able to come to school by themselves, the school cannot take responsibility for any child until the school doors open at 8:40am (with the exception of Nursery and children who attend Breakfast Club). Parents are responsible for their children until 8:40am.

We would also like to request that parent dropping and picking children up park safely and appropriately. Parents are parking on the coned areas, which is making it unsafe for children and parents who go home walking.

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: Milk is now 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.

School Council - Our Town Hall Visit

This term the School Council enjoyed an informative visit to the Town Hall to meet the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, During the visit, we had the opportunity to see a replica of the Mayor's robes to assist in the explanation of their purpose.

The visit also included a tour of the Council Chamber and the Main Hall. Many questions were asked by the children and much information was provided by the Deputy Mayor and his Bodyguard. We had a fantastic time and hope to go again next year!

Children in Need

For Children in Need this year our School donated £1.00 for a non uniform day where we wore spots and stripes. We also had bake sales around the school and brought in all our old pound coins to raise more money.

The money this year will be going directly to the Children in Need charity. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported this worthy cause. Together we raised £450.00.



Kirklees Fostering Campaign

Kirklees are always working to recruit foster carers to care for Kirklees children. Their aim is to have enough Kirklees carers so that they no longer need to place children through IFA's. This will ensure children stay in their local areas, own schools and near friends and extended family.

Kirklees urgently need to recruit more foster carers. If you are interested please contact Lucy Kirby on 01484 221000 or email lucy.kirby@kirklees.gov.uk

Memorable Experiences

Nursery

The children enjoyed our Ball. They dressed up in formal clothes and found a partner to dance with. They did different dances and then we had a visit from a very special person.



Reception



Reception had fantastic time learning all about space in our mobile planetarium.

All the children loved watching as we took off in a rocket and zoomed past the moon and bounced around Saturn's ring.

Once back on the moon we sang our solar system song and learnt about Neil Armstrong.

Year 1

Year 1 had a surprise visitor this half term. A man named Mike brought his pet T-Rex into school. We were all very brave! We thought of questions to ask Mike about how he looked after the T-Rex.

Some good examples were - "How tall is he?", "Where are his Mummy and Daddy?" and "What does he eat?" During the next few weeks we will be learning lots about dinosaurs.



Year 2

Year 2 had a MEGA-marvellous 'messy mixtures day' for their memorable experience. They experienced, first-hand, a variety of weird and wonderful mixtures in all kinds of colours, shapes and textures. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring and learning about the properties of different materials; this unforgettable experience engaged and inspired the children for this terms Muck, Mess and Mixtures topic.



Year 3

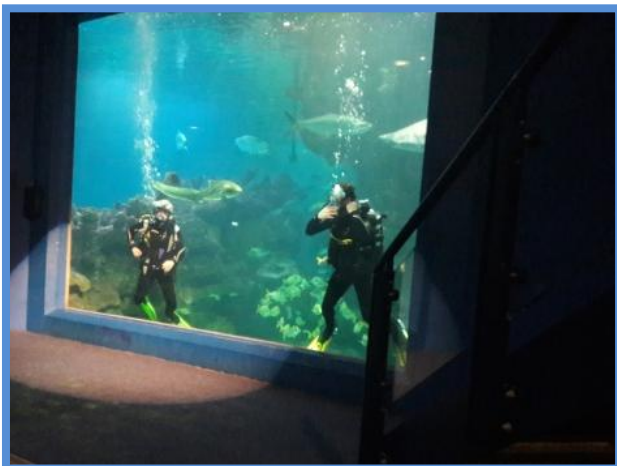
During our topic of 'Mighty Metals' we have explored the world of forces, magnets, metals and materials.

This has lead us on a journey to investigate the different forces which are applied to objects, how magnets attract and repel and which materials cause the most friction!



Year 4

In year 4 enjoyed a visit to Blue Planet Aquarium in Cheshire. There was a huge tank that had lots of fish, including sharks and ray fish. We listened to a talk about them. They all had names and we saw two divers feed the ray fish. One of the most exciting parts of the day was when we went through the tunnel. We travelled along a moving floor. It felt like we were under the water with the animals. The fish were swimming around us and over our heads. We went into different zones where we saw and learnt about all kinds of sea creatures, big and small, plain and colourful. They were all amazing.



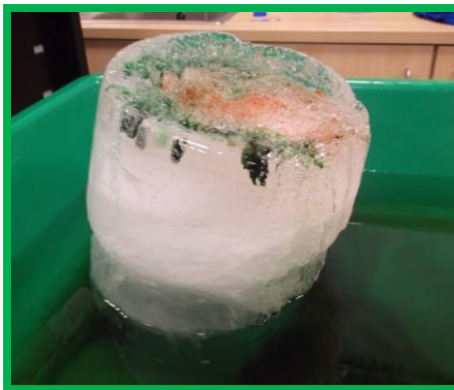
Year 5



For our memorable experience, the year 5 children witnessed the ancient Egyptian mummification process, including the removal of the organs such as the liver and intestines – children particularly enjoyed watching the brain being pulled out through the nose with a hook. After the experience, children wrote their own set of instructions on how to embalm a dead body the Egyptian way.

Year 6

Our topic was Frozen Kingdom. To immerse the children into the topic, we had icebergs for the children to observe. The icebergs were left in water all day to see what happened to them. We used salt and food colouring to see what would happen. During the afternoon, we carried out research to help us write an information leaflet about icebergs.



Lockwood Tots

We are happy to inform you that our Lockwood Tots is running every Wednesday, 9.00-11.00am.

Mrs N Ali and Mrs McLintock set this up every week. We have had a brilliant turnout over the last few weeks.

Parents and toddlers have been fully engaged with early learning for their toddler.

Please pass on the message of this opportunity!



Attendance

Our current overall attendance is 95%.

Extended Leave

We have received an extremely high number of applications for leave of absence since September; we have also noticed an increase in the number of days/weeks families are requesting. Please be aware that any request over 5 days is an automatic fine. This is set by the Government; the school does not benefit from prosecuting families and all the money that is collected from the fines goes directly to the Local Authority (Kirklees Council). We ask you to seriously consider any term time leave of absence very carefully and speak with the Head Teacher before booking any flights. If you have no option but to take your child on an extended leave, we ask that you make any bookings alongside a school holiday and take the least number of days, thereby minimising the risk of your child falling into the category of being Persistent Absence. This is a category set by the Government for any child whose attendance causes concerns and falls below 90%.

Please note: We now have many year groups where we have children on the waiting list for place at our school. Therefore, if you take your child on an extended leave and do not return on your stated date, we will have no option but to remove your child's name from the school register and offer this place to the first child on the waiting list.

Medical Appointments

I have noticed that quite a few absences have been due to all day medical appointments. In order for the school to authorise any medical appointments you will need to provide proof of the appointment. If your child has a routine doctor/dentist appointment, this has to be booked out of school hours. If it is an urgent appointment and has to be arranged during the school day we would request that you book it at the beginning or the end of the day to minimise disruption to your child's learning. If your child has to go out of school for an appointment we would always expect them to return as quickly as possible.

Lates

Children are still arriving late into school via the office. Please remember that our school gates open at 8.30am with the school doors opening at 8:40am (Nursery 8:30am) and close at 8:50am promptly. Registration closes at 8:55am. Please make every effort to ensure your child comes to school on time.

Attendance Rewards

In our last newsletter we advised parents that we would be holding a draw for all the children with 100% attendance to win Waterstone's Book Store gift tokens. We are pleased to announce that this was very successful and all the lucky children are listed below;

There will be another draw at the end of the Spring Term for children to win book token prizes again, so please encourage your child to come to school every day.

*Our School Motto - "Think Big, Aim High & Achieve!"
"Attendance Matters - Give School Attendance 100%"*



Year 4 Dance in P.E

The Year 4 children have been taking part in dance lessons this half term as part of P.E. They have been focussing on Bollywood dancing and learning about the different techniques involved in dance. The children from all Year 4 classes took part in a performance to show off their dancing skills and what they have learnt this half term. They all dressed up in beautiful clothes and had an amazing time. Well done to everyone in Year 4!



British Red Cross Workshops



British Red Cross will be delivering sessions to Year 5 and Year 6 classes during February and March. These sessions are about refugee awareness and stigmatising behaviour. These sessions will also enable children how to challenge stereotypes and media influence.

Reading Friends

Reading Friends training will be taking place in school after the half-term holiday. Numerous parents have already responded to class teacher's enquiries, so there are just a few places remaining. If you are interested either speak to your class teacher, or leave a message for Mrs. House at the office.

The training will be delivered by a Kirklees Authority qualified trainer. Applicants must attend 4 sessions – Mondays 9.00am – 12.00noon – 5th / 12th / 19th 26th March 2018. Following this each of the trainees will voluntarily work within school – 1 hour per week (Tuesday morning 9.00am – 12.00noon) and will spend time reading with two children. This reading support would then be expected to take place until the end of the Summer term.

This is a really good opportunity to build your own confidence and find out about working in a school environment. It will also prove to be an extremely beneficial scheme for some of our children.

Thank you, in anticipation of your support.

Training

We have an external provider offering some training after the half-term holidays. This training, for community members, will include – some basic First Aid Awareness / Behaviour Management strategies / Healthy eating and other elements. This training will take place over 5 x 2 ½ hour sessions.

Please ask your class teacher or the Office to pass your name and telephone number to Mrs. House, then further information will be supplied. Book a place and come along with a friend.

Diary Dates

| Date | Activity |
|--|--|
| Friday 16 th February 2018 | Key Stage 2 Special Assembly (invited parents only) 9.00am |
| | Key Stage 1 Special Assembly (invited parents only) 2.30pm |
| | Children break up for Half Term holidays |
| Monday 26 th February 2018 | Children return to school |
| Wednesday 28 th February 2018 | Lockwood Tots 9.00-11.00am (every Wednesday) |
| Thursday 1 st March 2018 | Year 3 Zoolab visit |
| Friday 2 nd March 2018 | World Book Day (children dress up as a book character) |
| Wednesday 7 th March 2018 | Year 4 Viking Day |
| | Book Fair in school until 13 th March 2018 |
| Wednesday 14 th March 2018 | Reception visit to Kirklees Light Railway |
| Thursday 15 th March 2018 | Standards Committee Meeting 5.00pm |
| | Full Governing Body Meeting 6.00pm |
| Thursday 22 nd March 2018 | Resources Committee Meeting 6.00pm |
| Thursday 29 th March 2018 | Children Break up for Easter Holidays |
| Monday 16 th April 2018 | Children return to school |

School Competition Winners!

KS1 WINNERS OF £5.00 BOOK TOKENS

Shoab Ali – 2A, Hadiqa Imran – 2C, Miraj Rahman – 2B, Joshua Adonoo – Holly, Sarya Hassan – 1A, Zaynab Pandor – 1B, Farnaz Gilvaei Esmailzadeh – 1C, Musa Muhammad – NAM

KS2 WINNERS OF £5.00 BOOK TOKENS

Aesha Asaghiar – 3A, Dani Atodiresei – 3B, Musaa Ghani – 3C, Sahar Nadeem – 4A, Safa Hussain – 4B, Angel Sibanda – 5A, Safa Fadhel – 5B, Tolani Adeboyejo – 5C, Chloe Bywater – 6A, Furqaan Iqbal – 6B, Alaa Melad – 6C

WINNERS OF £20.00 BOOK TOKENS

Xiang & Xinyi Chen – 1B/3B, Molorshagai Ganbat – 2B, Mary Queen & Mary Ann Ogunsowo – 4C/3C

At Mount Pleasant Primary School, we Think Big, Aim High & Achieve!