

Mount Pleasant Primary School

Parent Newsletter – Issue 21 (Dec 2018)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look forward to the end of another very busy term at Mount Pleasant, I wanted to share with you some great news. The Department for Education has released figures for the school's pupil outcomes, and our results are very pleasing and positive, with a huge improvement from last year, in all areas. The Primary School League tables for KS2 have also been released. In comparison with other schools in Kirklees, our Maths and Writing attainment and progress have compared very favourably, (please see link to the webpage as well as the table overleaf). Reading is our school priority for this year and we have already made considerable progress towards meeting our targets.

We also recently had a Teaching and Learning Review day, where a former Head Teacher, HMI Inspector and current Lead Ofsted inspector monitored Teaching, Learning and the Leadership of the school. She was very positive about the school and our outcomes and has agreed with our own judgements that we are a **'Good'** school, **moving closer to an 'Outstanding' grading**. I am sure you will all join me in thanking our wonderful and hard-working staff for all their hard work and commitment to our children's learning.

We have had a wonderful end to the term with a festive Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas assemblies led by our youngest children, who were truly amazing, as well as our annual school visit to the pantomime to watch 'Aladdin' at the Lawrence Batley Theatre. Thank you to all staff and parents who supported the children during the trip to the theatre. The children thoroughly enjoyed it. Christmas parties, non-uniform day and the visit from Father Christmas has ensured a festive end to the 2018.



For all our families and staff celebrating Christmas, I wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to everyone!

Mrs N Nazir (Head Teacher)



Mount Pleasant Pupil Outcomes (July 2018)

Further to the Head Teacher's message on page 1, see our Excellent Pupil Outcomes for 2018, in comparison to 2017, as well as to National averages for 2018. Also, you can visit the website link below to compare to other schools.



Phase	Subject	MPPS Results (2017)	MPPS Results (2018)	National Averages (2018)
KS2	Reading	52%	62%	72%
	Writing	70%	77%	78%
	Maths	72%	85%	76%
	R,W,M	46%	58%	64%
KS1	Reading	75%	71%	76%
	Writing	61%	64%	70%
	Maths	66%	68%	76%
	R,W,M	60%	61%	65%
Year 1	Phonics	81%	79%	81%
EYFS	GLD	54%	64%	72%

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/130925/mount-pleasant-primary-school>

“Why should I send my child to Mount Pleasant, from Nursery age?”

The GLD (Good Level of Development) results in the table above are based on ALL children, and not just those who attended Mount Pleasant Primary School all the way through from Nursery age. The children who's journey at Mount Pleasant started from straight away from Nursery age achieved **82% GLD** which is much higher than National Average of 72%. This is the main reason why we urge all our families to recognise the importance of attending Mount Pleasant Nursery, and the huge positive impact of doing so on your child's education. For further information on Nursery places, contact the School Office now, on 01484223198.

Staff Changes

At the end of this term we say goodbye to two members of staff, Teaching Assistants; Mrs Stevie Kennedy and Mr Neil Moorhouse. Also Ms Hilary Clarkson (Lunchtime Supervisor) is leaving us too. We will miss them very much and wish them both the very best for the future.

At the same time, we would like to welcome Mrs Hafsa Gul who has joined our School's amazing Team of Supervisors. Also Mr Losher Latif and Mr Kyle Keyworth are joining as Teaching Assistants in January 2019.

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Tuesday 8 th January 2019	Children return to school
Thursday 10 th January 2019	Year 1 Memorable Experience
Thursday 17 th January 2019	Year 4 trip to Blue Planet Aquarium
Tuesday 22 nd January 2019	School Photographs Year 6 Movie Night
Friday 15 th February 2019	Last day in school for children – break up for half term holidays

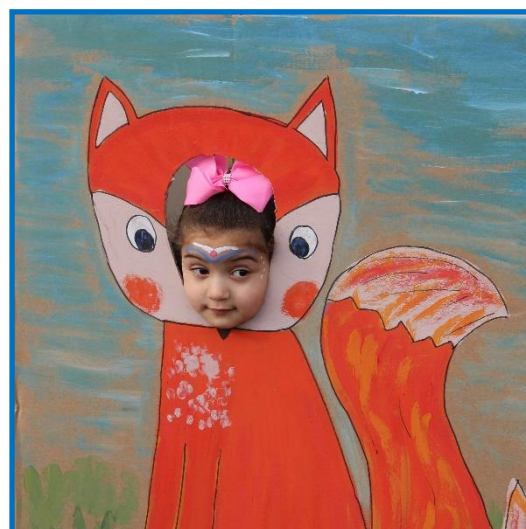


Grand Opening Party

As parents all know, in October we held our Grand Opening Party, which was a wonderfully exciting event to celebrate our new building. Parents, children and friends from the local community enjoyed a talent show, a treasure hunt, fun run bouncy castle obstacle course and a party bouncy castle. Staff and parents organised lots of stalls with food, face painting, mendhi, arts and crafts, bric-a-brac, and Project Sport organised sports on our MUGA. We also had our very own Mount Pleasant Olympics event.



We mentioned this event in the previous newsletter and now that it is all over, we wanted to send a special thank you message to all our parents and friends from the local community for the support in making the day such a huge success. You will be pleased to know that the event raised £1402 which we plan to spend on new outdoor equipment for the children. Here are some more photos from the day.



Safeguarding

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE – response from the questionnaire and discussions with parents:

With the questionnaire, parents have shared lots of information with school relating to how you feel children are kept safe on a daily basis. You were asked to consider many safety aspects of their daily routines - homes, roads, strangers and good communications.



Parents identified many dangers children face each day and considered how, as parents, you were supported in dealing with them by the school. Our school newsletter, and organised meetings were identified as ways parents become better informed about safeguarding – often articles and websites are included for your information.

When discussing who should help to keep children safe, parents quite rightly decided that this is **EVERYONE's responsibility!**

E-Safety

Every term children are taught about E-Safety so they know how to stay safe online. Whilst many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) offer filtering systems to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for your child to access inappropriate material, including unsuitable texts, pictures and movies. Parents are advised to set the security levels within internet browsers with this in mind. Locating the computer or tablet in a family area of the house rather than a child's bedroom will enable you to supervise children as they use the internet.

We carried out a survey on our VLE for parents, and recognise the unique contribution e-learning makes to the motivation and effectiveness of learners in our school. Results are still coming in, but a huge thank you to those of you who have already replied and completed the survey. We are hoping to introduce a computing newsletter to help our parents help their children to stay safe online.

Attendance

Please see listed below our latest Attendance figures:

95.5% - current attendance

2.5% is authorised absence, (illness)

2% is unauthorised absence (including unauthorised leave of absence)

We fully understand that in the coming months our families like to go abroad for religious reasons and to visit relatives, however, can we please ask that you keep the amount of days you request to the minimum. Always be very mindful when booking term-time leave in order to ensure the least impact on your child's education and attendance. Following Government policies, parents are fined for taking term-time holidays.



Please note that due to the popularity of our school, most year groups are now full. If your child is taken off roll due to extended leave, it may be difficult for your child to be given their school place back.

Gentle reminder - if your child is too ill to come to school please inform the office or leave a message on the absence line. Please also notify us if you change your telephone number/address so we can update our records accordingly.



Notices

First Aid Training

Numerous parents enjoyed attending the First Aid Training sessions this last month, run by Helen from the Purple Dog Company. Parents say they would now feel far more able to deal with an emergency within the home or community should they need to.



If you are interested in completing training of some kind, please let the office know and we will try to follow up any interests.

Dinner Money: Once again we would like to bring your attention to the fact that dinner money should be in your parent pay account before your child has a school dinner. School dinners are £11.00 per week (£ 2.20 per day) so you should make sure there is at least £11.00 in their account every Monday morning. If your child's account is persistently in debt after a reminder from school, you may be asked to send your child to school with a packed lunch instead until the debt has been paid off and the account is in credit

Fantastic Friday - Notice for KS2 parents only: If you would like your child to have a Fantastic Friday meal each Friday next term you need to pay £28.60. This will start on Friday 12th January and run until Friday 12th April 2019. The Catering Service requires numbers in advance so you need to make sure you have paid for this by **Monday 7th January 2019 at the very latest. There will be no opportunity after this date to order.**

Nut Allergies: We have an increasing number of children in school who have severe allergies to nuts. Therefore we have updated our Medical Needs Policy to include a section about this, and ways in which we are trying to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens. **We are asking children not to bring nuts into school and not to share their food with others.** The Medical Needs Policy can be found on our website and you can request a hard copy from the main office.

Democracy workshop



As part of the Huddersfield Borough 150th anniversary celebrations, a group of 30 Year 5 and 6 children had the opportunity to visit the Town Hall. They took part in a drama workshop where they explored what life was like for people of Huddersfield 150 years ago. We also met Huddersfield historian and author Cyril Pearce, who shared information on how Huddersfield has developed as a town over the years. The highlight of the visit was meeting the Lord Mayor of Huddersfield, Cllr. Gwen Lowe. The children debated the issue of homelessness, in the Council Chamber, with the Lord Mayor chairing!



Parent Book Share

The parent book share sessions have been up and running this half term with parents having the opportunity to come and enjoy books with their children in our splendid new libraries.

See details below of book share sessions after the Christmas holidays.

Spring 1 (KS1 Thurs)	
1A	10.1.19
1B	24.1.19
1C	7.2.19
2A	17.1.19
2B	31.1.19
2C	14.2.15
Spring 1 (KS2 Tues)	
3C	15.1.19
4C	22.1.19
5C	29.1.19
6B	11.1.19
6C	5.2.18



A big thank you to all parents for supporting these sessions.

Children In Need

On Children In Need day this year the School Council decided to raise money for the Forget-me-not Trust in Huddersfield instead of joining the national event. Children donated £1 for a non uniform day and came to school wearing something spotty. Thank you to everyone who supported us with this.



We raised a whopping £500 for the local charity!

Jolly Jingle Jumper Day

Mrs Saddiq and the School Council organised the Jolly Jingle Jumper Day so that pupils across the school could celebrate the Christmas Season with a non-uniform, traditional festive jumper day. Staff and pupils paid £1 each to come to school in their fun tops. The event raised a fabulous £340 which will be used to purchase a special technology resource for the pupils.

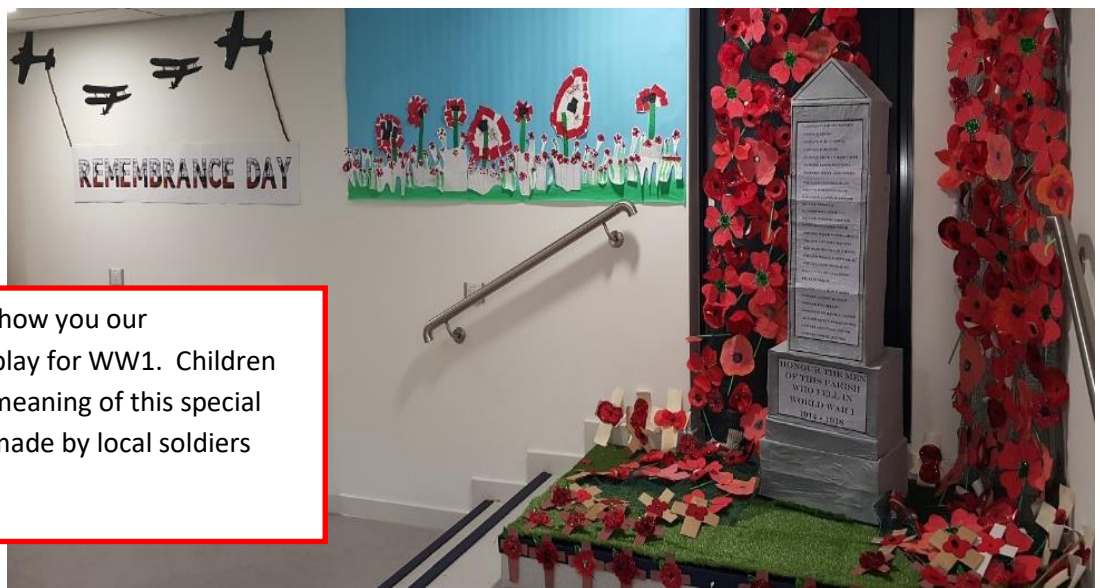


Carol For Yorkshire

The newly formed KS2 Choir took part in the Carol For Yorkshire, joining with the Greenhead College choir and other children from Spring Grove and Reinwood Primary Schools to record a brand new carol, raising money for the 'Make a Wish' charity. Everyone worked so hard on this project and had such a good time being filmed and recorded. The finished song is available to watch and share on YouTube – visit www.carolforyorkshire.com for more information. **The Carol is available to buy as an MP3 download from Amazon and iTunes.**



Remembrance Day Display



We are very proud to show you our Remembrance Day display for WW1. Children have learnt about the meaning of this special day and the sacrifices made by local soldiers that during WWI.



After School Clubs

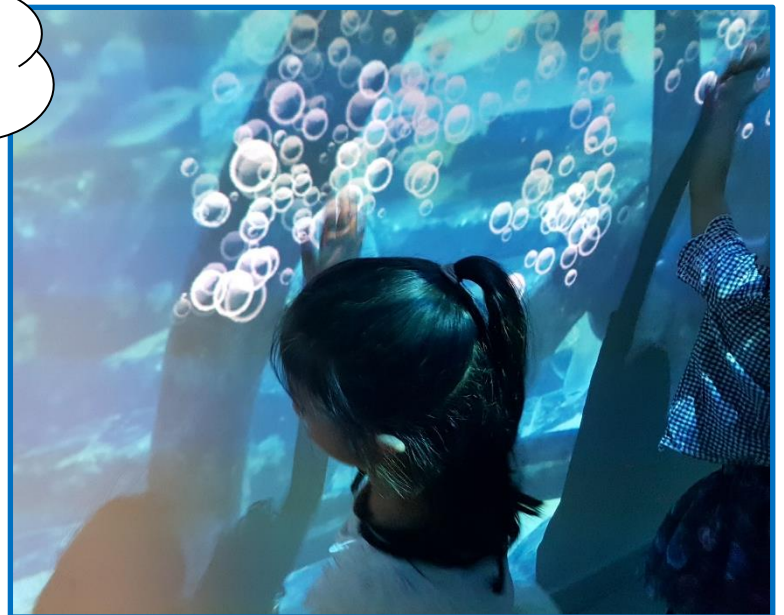
Children from across the school have had the opportunity to attend a variety of exciting after school clubs this half term. We have had Yoga Club and Story Club in Reception; Baking Club for Years 1 and 2, Year 1 Movie Club, Year 3 Running Club; Holodeck Clubs for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6; Year 4 PE Club and Ball Games for Year 5. The children have really enjoyed learning and developing new skills. Look out for more exciting after school clubs in the Spring Term.



"Our Holodeck is cool! We can jump through volcanoes, visit the jungles of Africa and even swim in the deep oceans!"



"I enjoyed it because you could bake different things and it was fun"



Sport

This half term children from various year groups have participated in out of school sports events. Our KS1 children participated in the Change4Life Festival and learnt about healthy life choices and the importance of daily physical activity.



Our KS2 children have participated in various sporting activities, including a netball festival, an athletics event, and various football tournaments. They all thoroughly enjoyed the experiences. Thank you to our parents for your continued support of these events.

Over this last half term we have created our own School Sports Organising Crew. This comprises of eight Year 6 children who have already organised and carried out a Basketball Shoot Out competition. Each child was given five shots at the basket and the eventual winner was Abu Furreira from Year 5 with 5 out of 5 successful shots!

The Crew will continue to organise sporting events involving every year group for the rest of this academic year.

Anti-bullying Week

Anti-bullying Week got off to an impressive start on Monday 12th November with a visit from professional boxer Fes 'The Terrier' Batista. Fes, who is native of Huddersfield (hence the nickname), and a former pupil of Mount Pleasant, enthralled the children in assemblies talking about his own experiences with bullying and how it made him feel when he was just 11 years old. Through his discussions with children, Fes encouraged them to speak up and tell someone if they are being bullied. He also helped to launch the Kindness Award in school where the kindest class in school will be presented with the trophy in a Celebration Assembly. We were delighted to have Fes come in and work with the school. Our children were excited to meet with him and learn from his experiences.



Poetry Competition Winners

We are pleased to announce that all seven children, whose poems were entered for the Young Writers Poetry Wonderland competition in October, have won! This means their poems will be published in a book which will be available to buy in spring next year.

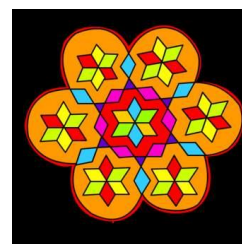
The children are extremely excited about seeing their work in a book which the school will receive copies of.

The winners are:

- Samia Ahmed 5C
- Aysha Bismillah 5C
- Ibrahim Khan 5C
- Sarosh Kausar 6A
- Matan Hejaji 6B
- Eshaal Kaysher 6B
- Rabia Kausar 6C

Diwali

Year 3 have been learning about the festival of Diwali and performed an assembly to show its importance. They told the story of Diwali, explaining why so many people celebrate the festival of lights. They also learnt a Diwali celebration song, looked at traditional Rangoli patterns and even performed a dance.



Hanukkah



Hanukkah is a Jewish festival which celebrates the miracle of the oil. This year, Hanukkah began on Sunday 2nd December and ended on Monday 10th December. To celebrate this festival, the children in Year 5 performed an assembly, and, through the use of drama and music, explained what Hanukkah is and how Jewish people celebrate it and when.

School Office would like to hear your ideas!

As you know the Office Team work very hard to ensure that visitors feel welcomed and that queries are answered to everyone's satisfaction. Despite the busy function of the Team, we are always keen to find ways to improve and feel this can be best done by seeking suggestions from the school community.

If you would like to make a suggestion for consideration then this can be done by emailing the School Office Manager, Mrs Haley, on office.mountpleasant@kirkleeseducation.uk

Alternatively, feel free to share your ideas in person with the Team (when the Office is not busy), or even directly to Mrs Nazir.

Happy New Year from the Team!

Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New
Year

