

# Mount Pleasant Primary School

## Parents Newsletter - Issue 26 (Dec 2019)

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Autumn Term has been another busy one, with the final couple of weeks summing up our school's vision – **ACHIEVE** – extremely well. The published final data and the primary school league tables placed our school as one of the highest amongst Kirklees schools. We were 8<sup>th</sup> place for Writing progress and 9<sup>th</sup> place for Maths progress, out of 120 schools. The most difficult measure for all schools is children achieving expected for all three subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths which is known as Combined Measure. For this, we are in the top third of Kirklees schools! These wonderful results show that we do indeed have high aspirations for all our children. Well done to everyone!



Subjects	School 2019	National 2019	School 2018
Reading	78%	73%	62%
Reading Progress	+0.7	0	-2
Writing	80%	78%	77%
Writing Progress	+1.7	0	-0.4
Maths	84%	79%	85%
Maths Progress	+2.7	0	+1.5
SPAG	80%	78%	75%
Combined	71%	65%	58%

Our youngest children from Nursery and Reception (with some children just 3 years old and having only been in school for a few weeks), carried out their nativity performance in front of the whole school, as well as their parents. They showcased our school's values very well, as the demonstrated confidence gained at such a young age. We instil the school values in all our children, which are: to be Aspirational, Connected, Happy, Immersed, Energised, Valued and Empowered. Together, they allow everyone at MPSS to **ACHIEVE!**





This year's Talent Show was remarkable with the display of various talents from our children ranging from Year 1 to Year 6. This event demonstrates how we support children to Connect, be Happy and feel Valued for their range of talents, as we strive to empower all our children to ACHIEVE!

Thank you to Miss Peat for organising such a great event; also, a huge thank you to our wonderful Governors, Mrs Jean Palmer and Bridget Crabtree for taking part in the Talent Show, and having the extremely difficult job of being judges.



Many of our parents will know Mrs House, who has worked in our school for many years. Mrs House will be retiring during these Christmas holidays; we wish her all the very best and a Happy Retirement! Also, many of you will know Miss Peat, who is the SENCO and Assistant Headteacher. Many congratulations to Miss Peat on her marriage. After the holidays she will be using her new surname of Mrs Turner.

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

**Mrs Nazir  
Headteacher**

### More About the Talent Show 2019

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, school pupils and staff were treated to a showcase of different talents in our Talent Show. Acts who had been selected as class and year group winners performed. Some children performed dances in different styles; some sang songs in groups or individually. We had a comedy act and a group of magicians! The audiences were wowed with the talent on show and staff members were really proud of all the children who took part. The judges on both days had a tough job trying to decide the eventual winners.



Winners were: Safa Afzal and Noorain Latif from Year 2

Nusaibah Zaman and Sabah Rehman from Year 4 and

The Magicianeers from Year 6.

A big thank you must go to all the children who were involved – it was clear that a lot of hours of practise had gone into the performances and it really paid off on the day. Thank you also to staff and parents who supported the acts through their preparations. All the children that took part were rewarded with pin badges that they can wear on their jumper with pride! The winners were given star trophies to take home.

The Talent Show is going to be an annual event on the school's calendar so get your children thinking about what talent they can showcase next year!



# Mount Pleasant Talent Show 2019



## Children In Need

Children from the School Council organised events for Children In Need day. Children and staff donated £1 for the privilege of not wearing uniform for the day, and took part in lots of fund raising activities during lunch and break times. We held a mini fun fair in the hall which included a basketball shoot-out and a 'guess the name of the teddy' competition. We also held cake sales and a colouring competition. We are proud that overall the school raised a fantastic £848 for charity. Thank you to parents for supporting this event.



## Remembrance Day Display



On 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00 am the whole school observed a two-minute silence to remember the fallen soldiers from the World War.

Over the course of the previous week the children learnt about the sacrifice the soldiers made for our country.

The photograph on the left shows class 4A children wearing their poppies.

The photograph below shows the wonderful display of children's work which is currently on the wall in the KS1 corridor.



# Memorable Experiences

## Nursery

The Nursery children enjoyed making sandwiches and having a teddy bear's picnic with their special friends from home.



## Reception

Reception children and their parents were invited to our 'Once upon a time' Friday Fairy-tale in November. Children dressed up as their favourite fairy-tale characters. Here you can see children making porridge for Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Also, building houses for the Three Little Pigs.





Year 1 were visited this half term by some real-life superheroes from the emergency services; fire, police and ambulance. We asked them lots of questions and they told us all about how they care, serve and protect us every day.

“We enjoyed dressing up in the different uniforms and hats.”



## Year 2

Year 2 children visited Conisbrough Castle for their memorable experience. The children took part in medieval activities as well as exploring and finding out about the castle. This tied in with our topic this half term of 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets'.

## Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about how our digestive system works. They began by doing some research on how our bodies digest food and then went on to label the organs the food passed through and how each organ plays a part in the digestive process.

Once they understood how the digestive system worked, they imagined everyday objects were the organs and used them to build a model that showed this. They were given materials and equipment which they had to put together to allow a piece of food to travel through and come out at the other end like 'poop'!



## Year 5

The inflatable planetarium came to school for our Year 5 memorable experience, and the children explored our solar system in the full 360 degrees.



## Year 6



During the morning session of this term's memorable experience day, the children had the opportunity to observe an ice berg in the Holodeck room. As the iceberg was submerging in water, dye was dropped on the iceberg to highlight the cracks forming within the iceberg.



The Holodeck room was also used for the children to learn about the formation of icebergs and the different vocabulary which would be required to comprehend this half term's topic. After lunch, the children made collages of icebergs using tissue paper and paint.

## School Council Visit to the Town Hall

The School Council had an amazing opportunity to meet the Mayor, Mayoress and Deputy Mayor at the Town Hall. We attended with various other schools and found out lots of information such as what the Mayor does, his obligations, and how issues around Kirklees are handled. We also found out about traditions from hundreds of years ago that they still follow today! Did you know that on the Mayor's traditional outfit, there are long sleeves just for wiping his nose on in the cold weather? Yuck! Thankfully, it's not used for that any more.





## BRAVE – Building Resilience Against Violence and Extremism.

In September, Years 5 and 6 children took part in a Home Office funded workshop - Building Resilience Against Violence and Extremism (BRAVE). The children had an assembly which looked at issues such as tackling gang exploitation, violence and extremism. Valuable interactions and discussions took place between the facilitators and the children and the children felt comfortable in talking about their worries and concerns.

Feedback from both staff and children was very positive. They said the training was informative yet also allowed valuable discussion time which meant children were able to air worries and concerns in a non- threatening and supportive environment.

## Famous Artists Art Project

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, pupils in Years 3 and 4 had a special visit from artist Peter Swidrak. During this exciting workshop, children explored art work created by famous artists, displayed in an exhibition. This was followed by an art “treasure hunt” activity based around the pictures in the exhibition which gave children a chance to interact with and enjoy the pictures.



Inspired by the artist Paul Klee, children created their own art work:

“I really enjoyed making the repeated pattern with the coloured paper,” Sarya Hassan (Class 3A).

Children from Years 5 and 6 also made a creative piece of art work based on a sculptural idea, in the style of artist Barbara Hepworth.



## Famous Artists Art Project

Another busy and productive half term at Mount Pleasant Primary School. After a successful harvest in the garden with more cabbages, kale, carrots, leeks and onions, the children from all year groups cleared the beds, composted old plants, dug in some soil improver and planted the new autumn crops. In the chilly late autumn sunshine the children worked hard identifying the autumn leaves. They also started to plant young trees around the school grounds. The trees have been provided by the Woodland Trust and will go towards creating small pockets of woodland which the children and local wildlife can enjoy for generations to come.



### Vegetable families

Onion family: As part of the autumn crops the children planted spring onions and garlic.

Cabbage family: Kale and mizuna (a winter salad) were planted.

Pea, Bean and Beet family: Broad beans were sown and these should produce an early crop next spring. We also planted rainbow chard.

Winter salads: In spare areas of the beds we planted winter lettuce and winter purslane – a salad leaf known also as miner's lettuce or claytonia. To keep the salads warm they were covered over with fleece tunnels made using the bendy stems of willow.

### Tree Planting

Planting trees has become a political issue as climate change moves further up the agenda. Planting a tree requires hard digging but Year 6 children came out for the day and enjoyed the challenge. 'Better than Minecraft' one child said! Now there's a compliment!

They may take some time to grow but the trees will absorb the pollution from the busy road and attract more wildlife to the school grounds. They will also help with science learning inside the classroom. All very good reasons to keep planting trees.



During the 'grow to learn' garden project, classes took part in a variety of activities including removing weeds from the raised beds, classifying different types of leaves and preparing soil ready to plant these new trees.



## Diversity Conference

The children from Year 2 and Year 3 took part in a 'Diversity Conference' during Interfaith Week, 2019. The event took place at Beaumont Primary Academy on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

This was a wonderful opportunity where the children met representatives from different faith communities. They learnt about different religions such as Christianity, Islam and Hinduism and the importance of celebrating similarities and differences between each other.

The children also took part in crafts and other activities to show what they have learnt. It was a fantastic day!



## Sport



On the 14<sup>th</sup> November Mount Pleasant Primary School hosted a Boccia tournament when other schools came and took part in the event.

We had two teams of children representing our school, as well as some of our older pupils who did an amazing job of helping co-ordinate the event.

The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and one of our teams took an overall 1<sup>st</sup> prize!



## Emotions Sessions for Parents

On 14<sup>th</sup> November, we held a session for parents in school on Emotions. The session was delivered by Salma Mahmood, the Family Emotional Health Worker from Northorpe Hall. The parents who attended gave positive feedback about the session and took away ideas and resources to support their children. We are planning to deliver further sessions in the new year. A session on Behaviour as Communication will be delivered on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January so look out for more information nearer the time.



## Notices

**Parentpay:** The vast majority of parents have now activated their Parentpay account. If you have not yet done this and you have lost your log in details and/or you need help to set Parentpay up on your phone, please contact the school office for assistance. It is important that you activate your account. All trips, visits, events and dinner money payments have to be paid via Parentpay online. We no longer give parents the barcoded letters for paypoint in shops.

**Auto Top up:** One of the new things happening with Parentpay is Auto Top Up. Based on parental preference this system will add money to your child's meal account as soon as the balance falls low. Funds are drawn directly from parent's bank accounts via Bank Transfer. Parents have peace of mind and schools benefit from decreased meal debt. If you would like further information about how to set this up please visit <https://www.parentpay.com/parents/>

## Family Support over Christmas



The Crosland Moor and Lockwood Hub and the Castle Hub has sent us details about the Family Support available from Kirklees over the Christmas period. Struggling families can telephone the Family Support Team for support, information, advice and guidance on **01484 456823 9am 4pm any day** (excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day).

## Thornton Lodge Community Centre

Over the Christmas holidays the Kirklees Youth Alliance are hosting Christmas clubs for children at the Thornton Lodge Community Centre. Children can get involved in sports, arts and crafts, and each day there is a free healthy meal provided. Parents will need to book places for their children beforehand by telephoning 07871 938174. Please see flyer also attached with this School Ping message.

## Notice from Kirklees Council

### Infection Control

We have been asked by Kirklees Council to pass on this important information to parents.

As you know, schools are the perfect breeding ground for many common winter infections. These infections then spread rapidly, causing disruption to pupils, staff and parents. The following simple actions and infection prevention and control guidance will help to keep us all healthy.



There are simple actions you can take to help keep antibiotics working:

- Don't ask for antibiotics if you have a cough or cold. Antibiotics should only be taken for bacterial infections. Many infections get better on their own, without the need for antibiotics.
- Go to your pharmacist for advice first and they may be able to help with your symptoms.
- If the doctor does prescribe you with antibiotics, take them exactly as prescribed, never save them for later and never share them with others.
- Spread the word. Tell your friends and family about antibiotic resistance.

You can also help prevent infections spreading by:

- Using tissues and disposing of them when you sneeze.
- Washing hands thoroughly with soap, especially after you have used a tissue or sneezed into your hand.
- Get the flu vaccine if you or your child are eligible.



## Welcome Mentors

Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are often vulnerable when placed in our communities, as they lack the language and support networks to help them access services and integrate into the community. The Welcome Mentor programme has been developed to offer a volunteer support / befriending service to help alleviate some of the barriers and reduce the feeling of isolation.

The Welcome Mentors project is delivered on behalf of the Third Sector Leaders, Kirklees. They are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please complete a short application at Volunteering Kirklees: <https://volunteeringkirklees.org.uk/job/third-sector-leaders-kirklees/> All volunteers are subject to DBS checks.

If you would like to refer a person for support you can access a referral form from Steffi Rogers who is the Project Coordinator. [steffi@tslkirklees.org.uk](mailto:steffi@tslkirklees.org.uk) or telephone 07425 444566

## Talk English

Also managed by the Third Sector Leaders Kirklees, is the Talk English service, which is available to anyone who wants to improve their English skills, whatever their situation. No booking is necessary, just drop in and meet a member of the team. Weekly locations are as follows:

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| - Batley Library                 | Monday 10am – 12pm  |
| - Dewsbury Library               | Tuesday 1pm – 5pm   |
| - Huddersfield Library           | Wednesday 9am – 1pm |
| - Greenwood Centre, Ravensthorpe | Thursday 1pm – 5pm  |

The service is free and confidential. Text 07425 444080 or email [ThisWay4English@tslkirklees.org.uk](mailto:ThisWay4English@tslkirklees.org.uk)

## Asthma in cold weather



Have you noticed that a sudden change in weather can trigger asthma symptoms? If so, you are not the only one. Cold weather, thunderstorms, hot weather, or sudden changes in temperature all trigger asthma symptoms for some people.

It might be the season for scenic frosty mornings, but if your child has asthma, cold weather can really catch them out. Help to stop cold air triggering asthma symptoms by checking out the tips from Asthma UK – please see their website <https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/weather/> for more information.

However, top tips are shown below:

- ❖ Keep taking your regular **preventer inhaler** so you are less likely to get symptoms.
- ❖ Carry your **reliever inhaler** with you at all times so you are ready if symptoms do come on.
- ❖ Use a **written asthma action plan** so you know what to do if cold weather sets off your asthma symptoms.
- ❖ Go for regular **asthma reviews** to check you are on the right meds for you and that you are taking your inhalers in the best way to get the benefits during the winter months. If you are using your reliever inhaler 3 or more times a week, or you've noticed the cold is making your symptoms worse, book an extra catch up with your doctor or asthma nurse.
- ❖ **Wear a scarf** loosely over your nose and mouth before you go out. This stops your airways getting a shock of cold air when you go from a warm house out into the cold. Loads of people use a scarf to warm



the air up before it hits their lungs. Breathing in through your nose instead of your mouth also warms the air as you breathe it in.

- ❖ **Talk to your child's teachers** about your child's asthma triggers and make sure school has a spare reliever and spacer for your child to use.

The service is free and confidential. Text 07425 444080 or email [ThisWay4English@tslkirklees.org.uk](mailto:ThisWay4English@tslkirklees.org.uk)

### Attendance

Attendance is currently averaging out at an impressive 96%. We are very pleased that so many children take their attendance as seriously as we do, and with this in mind we are very happy to announce that all children with 100% attendance for the whole of last term received a reward and a certificate.

Gentle reminder - if you are thinking about taking extended leave during term time, please come and speak to the Headteacher; try to minimise the number of days you request, for example 5 days, by attaching them to a holiday. We believe your child's education is more important than going abroad in term time.

### *Father Christmas visits Mount Pleasant!*

All the Nursery, Reception and KS1 children were very excited on the last week of term as Father Christmas visited them to say a huge well done for all their hard work. As a well done, the children all received a present and some even got to have their photo taken with him!

The message from Father Christmas to all the children he met was, *"If you are good, work hard at school and do as your teachers and parents say... then I will see you again next year!"*



*We wish all our children and parents a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!*

