



# MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMARY

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



September 2016

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Dear Parents,

We have had a very settled start to the new school year; the children look extremely smart and tidy in their school uniforms and our new Reception children have settled extremely quickly, particularly those children who came through our own Nursery.

Could you please make sure that all your child's property is clearly named, we do not hold lost property and it is not the job of staff to spend time at the end of the day searching for a child's uniform, bag, bottle etc.

Thank you to those parents who attended the first general parent meetings and those of new Reception children who attended the Reading Workshops.

### Parent Questionnaires

Thank you to those of you who have returned your questionnaires, I have received over 80 responses. I will be looking at these over the next few days and will share the results with you as soon as possible. Outcomes from the questionnaires are also shared with staff and the Governing Body.

### School Letters and Information

Please encourage your child to be independent; remind them to give you letters that they are given in class and not leave them in their trays. Could you also encourage your child to hand in letters as this again adds to their independence.

### School Crossing

As you may be aware, Dudley Council are currently experiencing some problems funding School Crossing Patrols. When Sue left, we were told that the crossing on Mount Pleasant would be manned on an ad hoc basis. This means that some days there is no-one to cross the children over at both the start and end of the day. Therefore it is vital that you ensure that young children **do not** leave the site until you are by their side. There has been an incident today whereby a child ran straight out of the gates and onto the crossing. Fortunately both lanes of traffic had come to a stand still but this is not always the case. The school gates are very close to the main road and crossing and, if parents are not vigilant, it is very easy for a child to run ahead and into the road. Please take care, we do not want a child to be injured.

### Change to Staffing

In addition to the previous newsletter, Mrs Fletcher got married during the summer holiday and is now Mrs Moore.

Many of you have already noticed that I am back in school. I would like to thank the staff and Governing Body for their wonderful support during what has been a very difficult time for myself and my family. Can I also thank the many families who have sent cards and good luck messages and to last year's Year 6 parents who sent me a beautiful bouquet of flowers on the last day of term.

I am still undergoing some treatment so I am in school part-time during this period. Mrs Capener continues as Acting Head, ably supported by Mrs Derbyshire, Mrs Grinsell and Mrs Woodhall. If however, there is a matter which you would prefer to discuss with me directly, could you please speak to Mrs Geddes, who will arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

Could I also ask that, if you have something that you are concerned about, please call in to the Office. The issue will be dealt with confidentially and sensitively, it is very difficult to effectively respond to anonymous phone calls or letters.

### Early Morning Arrival

Many of you take advantage of being able to drop your child off early. However, could I remind you that it is your responsibility to ensure that your child enters the gate where staff are positioned.

Could I also remind you that parents are **not allowed** to park on either the school or Chapel car park. Your support in this matter would be appreciated.

### School Visits and Trips - Good News!

Yet again this year, the Governors have agreed to provide financial support for some visits. This will definitely be for the Autumn Term and hopefully will continue until the end of the school year.

Mrs J Hartill,  
Headteacher

## Attendance

Our school target is set as 97%

As ever, school attendance remains a high priority, particularly since the Government introduced a new threshold for 'persistent absence' which is now set at 90%.

Headteachers are also expected to be mindful of those children who are, 'disadvantaged by low attendance'.

The Governing Body will be reviewing the Attendance Policy again this term to see if there are any further changes that need to be made—I will keep you informed of any amendments to our current practice. The 2016 Attendance Policy can be found on the school website in the policies section.

Please make sure that you inform us if your child is going to be absent for any reason. Please note that **the school office opens at 8:30am**. If you fail to inform us of the reason for absence, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and may be reported to the EIS.

Please also remember that, if your child has a medical or dental appointment during the school day, you need to provide the Office with a copy of the appointment letter.

## **Well Done To:**

Our Pupil of the Month winners:

Reception	Poppy Rydes
Year 1	Anais Bisseker
Year 2	Betsy Westwood
Year 3	Alfie Embleton
Year 4	Leon Adams
Year 5	Dejan Dixon
Year 6	Zach Hill

Well done to Stuart House for winning this month's trophy

## Dates for your Diary

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THESE IMPORTANT DATES—YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE TEXT REMINDERS FOR EVERY EVENT.**

### Dates for Diary: Autumn Term 2016

Fri 7th Oct—Y2 Harvest Assembly 9:15am  
Thurs 20th Oct—Y5 visit to Baddesley Clinton

### **Half term 24th Oct—28th Oct**

Thurs 3rd/Fri 4th Nov—Y4 Residential Visit  
Thurs 10th/Fri 11th Nov -Y4 Residential Visit

Tues 8th Nov—Y6 visit to Worcester Cathedral  
Wed 9th Nov—Y1 and Y2 Cinema Visit  
Fri 11th Nov—Y6 Remembrance Day Assembly  
10.45am

Mon 14th Nov—Y5 and Y6 Cinema Visit  
Wed 16th Nov—Flu Vaccine Y1,2,3

Mon 21st Nov—Reception Cinema Visit  
Mon 21st Nov—Learning Journey Night 5.00—  
7.00pm

Tues 22nd Nov—Y3 and Y4 Cinema Visit  
Tues 22nd Nov—Parents' Evening 3.15—5.30pm  
Wed 23rd Nov - Parents' Evening 5.00—7.00pm  
Fri 25th Nov—Y6 visit to National Memorial  
Arboretum  
Fri 25th Nov—Y2 and Y3 visit to George's  
Marvellous Medicine

Mon 28th Nov—Book Fair Arrives  
Thurs 1st Dec—Reception Christmas Nativity  
9:30am  
Fri 2nd Dec—Christmas Fayre from 3:00pm

Wed 7th Dec—Christmas Lunch Day  
Thurs 8th/Fri 9th Dec—Y1, Y2 Christmas Play

Mon 12th Dec— Y3, Y4 Carol Service  
Tues 13th Dec—Y5, Y6 Carol Service

### **Break for Christmas Friday 16th December**

Spring Term 2017  
Tues 3rd Jan— Fri 7th April  
Half Term 20th—24th Feb

Summer Term 2017  
Mon 24th April—Friday 21st July  
(Mon 24th & Tue 25th July will be staff INSET  
Days)  
Half Term 29th May—2nd June.

**Break for Half Term: Friday 21st October**