



MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMARY

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



February 2017

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Dear Parents,

This month has seen many children visit places in our local area; Year 5 have visited the library, Year 1 have been shopping in Tesco and came back and baked bread, and Year 1 and Reception continue to visit Forest School regularly. We have also had visitors in including, RNLI, who have been back to work with Year 4 again and SPLATS (see below) who worked with Years 3 and 4. It is always a proud moment when visitors who have worked with our children ask to see me at the end of their visit to say how much they have enjoyed working with our children; they comment on how receptive and polite they are; a credit to the school and yourselves.

E-Safety

This is an area that we regularly re-visit throughout the year, however, as part of the National Internet Safety Day, we invited a drama group, SPLATS, to come and work with our Years 3 and 4 classes. The children learnt many ways of keeping themselves safe online. Parents of the children were invited to attend a performance, which was well received by those who attended.

Parents' views;

"I found the session extremely useful. It has certainly highlighted how easy it is for children to access inappropriate games on-line."

"This is definitely a topic that every parent should be educated on."

Other classes were also involved in discussions regarding their on-line practice and the rules for keeping safe were once again shared with the children. We know that there are many of our children who 'publish' on-line videos of themselves on You-Tube. The staff shared with children that we are able to access the information which they put on. I would urge any parents whose children publish videos on You-Tube to be aware of any personal information that may be being shared by your child. We have attached a 'Parents' Guide to Online Safety' sheet for your information. This will also be added to our website in the 'Keeping Safe' section.

Lost Property

Could you please ensure that your child's name appears clearly in their clothes, PE kits, hats, etc. Where items are found and names are clear then these items are quickly returned. **It is not the job of staff to be spending time at the end of the day searching for children's lost property,** particularly that which is un-named. Parents should not be insisting to staff that these items are found. Could you please encourage your child to be more independent with their own property, as we do in school. Thank you.

Start of the School Day

Despite mentioning this before on a previous newsletter, we still appear to have a problem with some families leaving their children unsupervised at the beginning of the day well before 8:30 am. Some of these children are continuing to cause some disruption and damage has been caused to our store cupboards.

The fact that we are currently willing to take responsibility for your child from 8:30am has helped to ease traffic congestion outside school and I know also helps some parents to get to work on time. However, we had expected that this facility would not be abused. If there are further concerns by staff regarding unsupervised children's behaviour, then this will result in the bottom gates remaining locked until at least 8:30am in the future.

Bedtime Reading Day

Just a reminder that Bedtime Reading Day takes place this Thursday. This has proved to be a very popular day in the past. During this day children are welcome to attend school in their pyjamas if they wish to. They can bring their favourite bedtime reading book to share with others and a small cuddly toy (both need to be named please). Parents of Year 2 children also have a special invite to come in to school in the afternoon to share a story with Mrs Grinsell.

Mrs J Hartill,
Headteacher

Believe it, Achieve it!

Attendance

Please note that holidays in term time will still be 'unauthorised'. Children taking holidays cause a disruption to learning for others, particularly on their return. Please note that a child who is absent for one week will miss approximately 20 lessons. Staff are not expected to provide school work for a child who is absent due to holidays.

Please make sure that you inform us if your child is going to be absent for any reason, this includes children who attend the Nursery please. Failure to do so will mean that the absence will be unauthorised.

Please note that **the school office opens at 8:30am.**

Our target for attendance for each child remains at 97%. We increasingly have high numbers of pupils who attend for 98%+ of the year and many who strive for 100% attendance, both of which reflect a fantastic attitude to school and learning.

We know that we have some children in school whose attendance is affected by medical appointments and genuine illness. We appreciate that these children still make a wonderful effort to return to school as soon as they can.

Well Done To:

Our Pupil of the Month winners:

Reception	Sonny Foster
Year 1	Matilda-Rose Hickman
Year 2	Olivia Shaw
Year 3	Anais Bastable
Year 4	Ruby Phipps
Year 5	Cavan Marsh
Year 6	Josh Perry

Well done to Stevens 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:

Spring Term 2017

Thurs 2nd March—World Book Day
w/c 13th March—Science Focus week

Fri 24th March—Mother's Day Assembly and Sale (Y3)

Mon 27th March—Learning Journey Night
5:00-7:00pm

Tues 28th March—Open Night 3:15—5:30pm

Wed 29th March—Open Night 5:00-7:00pm

Fri 31st March—Easter Assembly (Y1)

Wed 5th April—Gym Competition Y5/6

Break for Easter - Friday 7th April

Summer Term 2017

Mon 24th April—Friday 21st July

Thurs 4th May—INSET Day (Voting Day)

w/c Mon 8th May—Y6 SATs week

Half Term 29th May—2nd June.

Thurs 8th June—Class Photographs

Mon 19th—Fri 23rd June - Y6 Residential

Thurs 22nd June—Book Fair Arrives

Mon 26th—Thurs 29th June - Bikeability Y3/Y5

Fri 14th July—Y6 Transition Road Safety

END OF YEAR - FRIDAY 21ST JULY

(Mon 24th & Tue 25th July will be staff INSET Days)

Registration for Nursery

Please make sure that you have registered your little one for Nursery, as they will then be eligible to join any other pre-school groups we organise.

A link can be found on the school website.

Break For Easter—Friday 7th April