



Mount Pleasant Primary School  
Reception Half-Termly Newsletter

Nov-Dec  
2017

Our News

What a busy half term we have had in Reception Class! The children are all now very settled and are wowing us with their enthusiasm for learning - well done everybody! As part of our topic on toys, each family group has been to visit Haden Hill House and have gained real life experience of what it was like to be a child in the Victorian Era. They have been able to compare toys from the past with their own toys and have had a go at making their own. Due to the children's fascination with this theme we are yet to explore 'Nursery Rhymes' and therefore this topic will run into next half term alongside our learning about cultures, traditions and celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Advent and Christmas. Children will be identifying similarities and differences between themselves and others and will be encouraged to share their own experiences of how they celebrate these events in their family. If you have any photos, please send them in!

An ongoing theme throughout the year will be the seasonal changes that occur in the world around us. Our visits to Forest School have allowed us to begin to explore this already and the children have loved noticing the changes that our current season, Autumn has brought. Ask your child what they have been up to at Forest School so far - can they name any of the trees and plants that we have seen there?

**You can support your child this half term by:**

**Reading**

We are reading with the children individually once per week and they also practise their skills daily in English and Phonics lessons. Please ensure that you read regularly with your child at home. Five minutes per day will develop their confidence and skills. So that we know that you have read with your child, please make a record of this in their Reading Record log book 3 times per week.

All children need to be able to identify initial, middle and end sounds in simple CVC words such as:

***bag, kit, leg, hot, nut*** etc.

**Writing**

This half term we will be focusing on correct letter formation of Phase 2 sounds:

*s a t p i n m d*  
*g o c k e u r*  
*h b f l*

Please use the Phase 2 sound mats for letter recognition and the handwriting rhymes when writing the letters. We would like the children to begin to write simple CVC words to support the skills of segmenting and blending. Point to the sounds/letters on the mat to aid writing. Also practise writing the tricky words:

*I n o g o t o t h e*

**Maths**

This half term we will continue to work on 'number sense' ie. understanding what numbers mean. Please support your child to count with 1:1 correspondence and match numbers to groups of objects. Can they recognise groups of up to 5 objects by sight and then count to check? We will still be identifying simple 2D shapes. Encourage your child to name these and count their sides and corners.

Counting skills to practise at home this half term include counting confidently up to 20, and counting on from any number to a maximum of 10.

**Believe it, Achieve it!**

### Thank You!

A big "thank you!" to the 28 families who attended our Phonics and Maths Workshops at the end of September and beginning of October. We hope that you found them enjoyable and that you have been able to use some of the ideas at home to help your child with their phonics, reading and mathematical skills.

#### November Birthdays

We would like say a very happy birthday to...

**Ayaan**  
**Caden**  
**Muhammad**  
**Leighton**



#### December Birthdays

We would like to say a very happy birthday to...

**Laura**  
**Summer**  
**Jack H**  
**Rylie**



#### Colder Weather

We have noticed that lots of children are beginning to come to school in their warm winter coats. Please continue to send your child in a named jumper or cardigan. They are able to take these off and put them in their trays should they get too warm. We will be keeping a special look out for children who can zip up and unzip their own coats. It would be really helpful now that the weather is getting colder for children to be able to do this independently.

Please ensure hats, scarves and gloves are in school on Thursdays ready for Forest School outings.



#### Trainers/Pumps

Most children have trainers or pumps in school now for PE sessions on the astro, thank you! If you have not yet sent these in for your child, please ensure that they are in school (clearly named) no later than Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.



#### Dates For Your Diary

##### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

Learning Journey Night (5pm-7pm)  
Come and look at your child's work in their books and Learning Journey folders.

##### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

Cinema visit  
Parents' Evening 3:15pm-5pm

##### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Parents' Evening 5pm-7pm

##### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Christmas Fayre 3pm-4pm

##### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

Reception Christmas Production 9:30am in the school hall. Bring your hankies!

##### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Break up for Christmas



#### Water Bottles

Just a reminder that your child **must** have a named water bottle in school **every day**.

Please ensure that this contains **water only**. Children are encouraged to drink regularly throughout the day in order to remain hydrated, which aids their learning.

If your child would like squash or juice, this needs to be sent in as a carton or in a separate bottle to be drunk at lunchtime only.



#### Build A Bear

The children were an absolute credit to the school on our recent visit to the Build A Bear Workshop at the Merry Hill Centre. They walked sensibly and it was noticed by both store staff and members of the public how smart and well-behaved they were. Arthur and Martha are delighted to be a part of Reception Class and are looking forward to many happy times with you all at weekends. We would like to say a huge thank you to the staff at Build A Bear Workshop for contributing the bears and to Mrs Capener for buying their clothes. Arthur and Martha will be looking out for the most well-behaved children to go home with each Friday. It is lovely to hear about what they have been up to with your children through photos and writing. These will be shared with the rest of the class on Monday mornings and included in children's Learning Journey Folders.

