



## Mount Pleasant Primary School

April – May  
2018

### Year 6 Half-Termly Newsletter

So our second term in Year 6 is coming to an end and the children are about to begin their final term at Mount Pleasant. It's unbelievable how quickly the time has flown! Everyone continues to work incredibly hard as we prepare for the SATs in May but we still manage to find plenty of time for fun too. Our study of World War One has come to an end and the children are beginning to find out about the events that led to World War Two. During the coming weeks, our key text (*Goodnight Mr Tom*) will provide the inspiration for us to learn about key events that occurred during the war as well as the impact that the war had on people left at home. This will give us an opportunity to develop our garden area, linked to the Dig for Victory campaign, so that we can grow lots of fruit and vegetables that we will be able to cook and eat once they have been harvested – a fantastic way to address our design and technology for the term. Science will be inspired by the sights and sounds of the war as will our art work. In music we will listen to and reproduce the songs that inspired and motivated those at war and on the home front. It's going to be a busy half term but your children are ready for the challenge and we know they will work as hard as they can to achieve everything they are capable of – that's all any of us can expect of them!

You can support your child this half term by:

#### Reading

We have spoken to the children about the importance of reading regularly in order to build their vocabulary. **It is estimated that a child who reads for 20 minutes a day has around 1,800,000 words in their vocabulary compared to 8,000 words from those who only read for a minute a day.** Vocabulary is always an area for development, as the children are now moving towards more mature reading choices. You could support your child in reading by helping them find a book or author that they love – if a child says that they don't like reading, then they haven't found the right book!

Visit the library and spend time with your child discussing genres, authors and themes that interest your child.

Share a book and spend time reading that book together, just for pleasure.

Look for books linked to WW2. Alongside *Goodnight Mr Tom*, we are reading *The Emergency Zoo*, which the children are loving. Michael Morpurgo has written some great novels linked to the World War; Judith Kerr has written a fabulous trilogy based on the story of a refugee fleeing Germany.

If you have access to the internet, log onto [lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://lovereadings4kids.co.uk) where you can download extracts from brand-new children's books.

Please support your child by encouraging them to read regularly.

#### Writing

The children have recently been writing stories based on their recent exploration of WW2 fiction. These stories are fantastic – so creative and exciting!

After the Easter holidays, we shall be evaluating the skills that we have learned in writing and considering how we can show our understanding in the upcoming grammar assessments.

Practise questions have been set of your child on [spag.com](http://spag.com) so that they can build up familiarity with the style of these test questions. Please encourage your child to visit this site over the Easter break.

Another effective way to help consolidate their learning is using mind maps. Select a 'topic' and get your child to create a mind map, presenting all the information that they know about that particular area. Children could use colourful crayons, felt tips or gel pens to make this look colourful and then they could explain it all to you!

Useful topic to revisit could be any of the following:

Word classes – nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns and determiners.

Complex sentences

Advanced punctuation

Prefixes and suffixes

#### Mathematics

Clearly the focus of our maths lessons will now be our final preparation for the SATs which will be taking place in May. This means that children will be revisiting the mental strategies and written methods that they have been taught, not just in Year 6 but throughout their time in Key Stage 2. They will also need to consolidate their understanding of time, measures and shape. During lessons, we will be looking at questions from past papers and discussing HOW to answer them. The best way to support your child at the moment is to encourage them to visit My Maths where tasks have been set which will allow them to revisit areas of the curriculum where they need specific practise. The other site which is perfect to polish their skills is RM Easimaths. This presents children with tasks from all areas of the curriculum but also readjusts them to suit your child's individual ability and needs.

**Believe it, Achieve it!**

## Book Quiz Competitors!

Children from Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6 recently took part in the Dudley Schools' Book Quiz. We are delighted that three members of Year 6 were part of the team which won a silver medal in the quiz! Well done Izzy, Zainab and Maira!



Please could you check with your child that they are able to spell any middle names that they have accurately. Furthermore, please check that they know their date of birth in numerical format accurately. These are details they will have to write on each of their SATs papers.

## Super Singers!

Well done to our choir members Nick, Amy and Sydney who performed at Dudley Town Hall as part of Dudley Performing Arts Festival of Song.

## Maths Challenge

Congratulations to the following children, who have been making fantastic progress with their Maths Challenges. Each of them has moved up at least one challenge and most of them have moved up more! Summer, Jack, Callum, Charlie, Grace, Ben W, Danny, Jess P, Sydney, Jamie, Ellie, Nick, Sienna, Ben L, Amy, Russell, Ruby, Keona, Balraj, Harvey, Olivia, Charlie A, Cavan, Jake, Charlotte, Amelia, Cameron, Kajus, Zainab, Evie, Jess G, Shannon, Amber, Corey, Ruby, Izzy, Keira, Chloe, Dejan.

A special mention for Maira and Taybah who have both completed all the challenges! A fantastic achievement!

## Important dates for diaries

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to school
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Y6 SATS Meeting, 6pm
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Voting Day
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET DAY
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET DAY
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to school

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
(inclusive) Year 6 SATs Week

1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> July - Primary Liaison Week - visits  
to secondary school.

## Outstanding Learners

The children in Year 6 all work so hard that we are proud of all of them however each term we have to select 'Outstanding Learners'. We thought it might be useful for you to see the criteria we use.

- I am always ready to learn
- I always try my best
- I always complete Home-Learning tasks.
- I show pride in my work and appearance
- I collaborate well and help others
- I demonstrate independence using '3 Before Me'
- I demonstrate a positive attitude to all learning
- I am a good role model and inspire others

It is always a difficult choice as so many children fulfil many but not all of the criteria.

Well done to this term's outstanding learners:

Taybah, Keona, Olivia, Evie, Dejan, Kajus, Jessica, Ruby, Maira, Zainab, Amelia, Sydney, Chloe, Jessica, Lewis, Keira, Charlotte, Jake, Isabelle and Amber.

## SATS Meeting for Parents

We did hold a SATS meeting back in the Autumn Term so that parents were fully informed regarding the children's summer assessments. Following some of our discussions with you at Parent's Evening, we have decided to hold a short meeting for parents on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm** so that we can focus on the timetable for the week and inform parents of access arrangements that will be taking place throughout the week. Staff will be able to explain how each day will be structured. It will also be an opportunity for you to look at sample papers more closely and for staff to answer any questions that you may have regarding your child.

## Happy Birthday this half term to:

Jess P and Amelia