



Newsletter

December, 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

I say this every year but I cannot believe how quickly the term has passed.

There have been lots of great things happening since September and there are many more planned for 2025.

We had a visit from the Right Honorable, Bridgette Phillipson, Minister for Education. We were chosen because of the huge success we have with SEND children. I cannot reiterate how hard the staff work to consistently achieve what they do. I am so proud of the whole school community!

We are saying goodbye to Miss Collinson and Mrs Woods, who are moving on to pastures new. I want to thank them for the contribution they have made to school life. And, congratulations to Mrs Blueman who is retiring. Have a lovely Christmas holiday and best wishes for 2025. Mrs Blackham

Y1: What a busy term!

The children have transitioned really well from Reception to Y1 and are settling in to more formal learning. They have had visits from Captain Chemistry and student dieticians from Teesside University who taught them about the importance of eating a balanced diet. They were very lucky to have a visit from Animal Encounters. This was part of the Dear Zoo English topic. The children were very good and brave especially when touching the animals. Zara said, "The frog was a bit slimy but I loved holding it!"

Thomas agreed and said, "The owl was so fluffy and soft when I touched the feathers." Lots of children wanted to have a pet snake or skunk. We hope Santa doesn't find that out!



Dates for your Diary

Friday 20th December 24 – End of Autumn Term 2

Monday 6th January 25 - Teacher Training Day (School Closed)

Tuesday 7th January 25 – Spring Term 1 Commences

Friday 21st February 25 – End of Spring Term 1

Monday 3rd March 25 – Spring Term 2 Commences

Friday 11th April 25 – End of Spring Term 2

Monday 28th April 25 – Summer Term 1 Commences

Monday 5th May 25 – Bank Holiday (**School Closed**)

Friday 23rd May 25 – End of Summer Term 1

Monday 2nd June 25 – Summer Term 2 Commences

Friday 18th: End of term

Monday 21st July 25 – Teacher Training (School Closed)

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Festive Fun



The children and staff have been enjoying some festive fun in the run up to the end of term.

Perfect Performances



Nursery & Reception performed their own Christmas play. The children all looked fabulous.



Key Stage 1 starred in 'Baubles' for their parents and friends. They were so brilliant. They also went to the Glow church to see a magical Christmas show.

Mrs Lees directed a production of Fleece Force– a really enjoyable re-telling of the nativity story with children across KS2. Year 4 visited Branksome Hall and Darlington Memorial Hospital over the festive period to



entertain the residents with their Christmas singing. They sang a selection of different songs, beautifully. Dahli said, "I was really happy because they were all listening and at the end they all clapped really loud." Well done, Year 4!



Finally, the whole school were treated to an end of term concert by The Academics. Many thanks to all who donated to the Christmas raffle this year and all those who



visited our Christmas Fair. The children had been so creative with their craft making and there was a brilliant turn out. The biggest queue by far was to see Father Christmas, who was amazing and the grotto was fabulous– thanks to



Mrs Briggs. We raised about £1000. Thank you!



The kitchen staff won an award for their Christmas dinner this year. They catered for the Y6 parents this year– we hope to continue this again.

Merry Christmas, everyone.

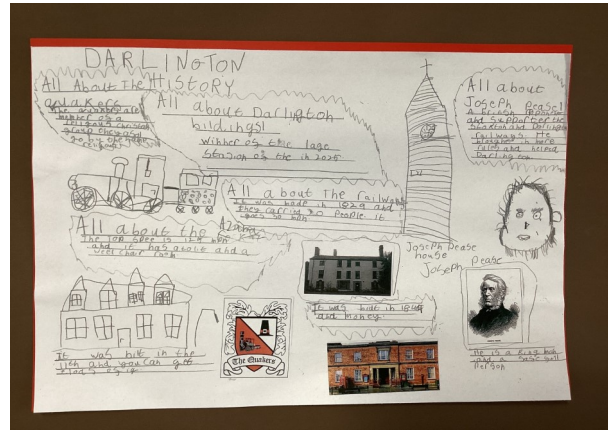
We have learnt about...

Y3 Darlington Explorers



This term, Year 3 have been learning about the history of Darlington and the railways. They learnt about key figures of Darlington's development such as Joseph Pease, George Stephenson and the Quakers. When learning about Darlington, the children were flabbergasted at Darlington's past role in the development of trading, railways and employment in the United Kingdom. The children also learnt about the historical buildings in the town centre and how the railways improved quality of life. They particularly enjoyed learning about the Pease family house and the Quaker house, as they had never noticed the buildings in the town centre before! Now all of the children in Year 3 are experts of Darlington's history!

Did you know that the Stockton and Darlington Railway was opened on September 27th 1825 with the prime purpose of transporting coal?



Wonderful Woodland Workers

The children in Woodland have been learning about pirates this term as part of the history curriculum. The children visited the Hartlepool Marina to climb aboard the HMS Trincomalee— a real pirate ship. It's actually Europe's oldest floating warship.

What a great day they had. The topic continued with The Polar Express. The children read the story, watched the film, completed narrative writing and instructions



and learnt life skills through baking biscuits and making delicious hot chocolate. They completed the topic by designing and building their own Christmas train to go on an expedition to the North Pole.

Well done, Woodlands.



Other News



Thank you to Mr & Mrs Lee

We would like to give a huge 'thank you' to the Heighington Community for the donation of presents. For the last few years, Mr Gerald Lee, local councillor has delivered a huge pile of gifts to Mount Pleasant and a number of other schools. So kind and generous!

100% Attenders this Term

Attendance is always one of our priorities and we are pleased to see that 25 children achieved 100% this term. They received a bronze medal. Attendance has been really low this term so we are hoping for a healthier 2025!



Virtues Medal winners

Each term, six children are chosen who demonstrate our virtues for fairness, resilience, calmness, respect, justice and kindness. And here they are – very worthy winners. Well done.



Super Science in Y5

Year Five children had the opportunity to visit UTC College and take part in several Science workshops. Students from the college led the activities. They investigated different chemical reactions with some materials. Using salt, hair gel and sugar the children made 'fake snow'. They have been told them not to try this at home as we had trained scientists leading these experiments! They also looked at the effects of air resistance. Abbie said, "I loved this experiment – it was really hard keeping the paper pieces floating in the air." Olivia also enjoyed this activity but her favourite was using blasts of air to knock over the paper cups. "That was really good fun but I didn't manage to knock them all over." The final group of children will be visiting in January 2025, to take part in this workshop.



Have a very Happy Christmas from all at Mount Pleasant

