

# Newsletter

December, 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

I cannot believe how quickly the term has passed.

Our new members of staff– Miss Liddle, Miss Allen and Mrs Woods have settled really well into EYFS and Mrs Bradwell joined the site team. We are working closely with the Trust and are part of the North region along with Corporation Road, Hurworth, Vane Road and Woodham Burn. We will work closely with them to share good practice and support each other. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming back two student teachers, Miss Atkinson in Y5 and Miss Rapley in Y1.

There have been lots of great things happening since September and there are many more planned for 2024.

Have a lovely Christmas holiday and best wishes for 2024. Mrs Blackham



## Terrific Toys

Over this term the children in Year 1 have been learning through the topic of Toys. They were very lucky to visit Bowes museum where they looked at and played with toys from the past. Some of the dolls were hundreds of years old and one was made of wax!

The knowledge they gained from this visit supported the children with their learning in history, English and science. The children have had a fabulous first term in Year 1 and have been really well supported by Miss Rapley, who has loved working with the



children and will return to Mount Pleasant in the summer term.



## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 23 – End of Autumn Term 2  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 24 – Teacher Training Day (School Closed)**  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 24 – Spring Term 1 Commences  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 24 – Teacher Training Day (School Closed)**  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 24 – End of Spring Term 1  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 24 – Spring Term 2 Commences  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 24 – End of Spring Term 2  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 24 – Summer Term 1 Commences  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 24 – Bank Holiday (School Closed)  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 24 – End of Summer Term 1  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 24– Summer Term 2 Commences  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 24 – Teacher Training (School Closed)  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 24 – Summer Term 2 ends

## Contact information:

Mount Pleasant Primary School  
Newton Lane,  
Darlington,  
County Durham,  
DL3 9HE

Telephone: 01325 244950

Email: [admin@mountpleasant.darlington.sch.uk](mailto:admin@mountpleasant.darlington.sch.uk)

**Please visit our website:**

[www.mountpleasantschool.com](http://www.mountpleasantschool.com)

Mobile: 07594 633907

# 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 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel', and Key Stage 1 starred in 'Barmy Bethlehem'. They played to parents and friends over two performances

They were so brilliant. Well done to all children and staff.



Year 4 visited Branksome Hall, Darlington Memorial Hospital and Windsor Court

over the festive period to entertain the residents with their Christmas singing. They sang a selection of different songs, beautifully.

Finally, they visited Age Concern and Willow Green Care Home. One resident said, "They've made my Christmas!"



Many thanks to all who donated to the Christmas raffle this year. The school councillors picked the tickets and they delivered the prizes to the winners.

Many thanks to all those who supported 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.

The kitchen staff won an award for their Christmas dinner this year. It was delicious.

We raised about £1000. Thank you! **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. The children have looked at topics such as George Stephenson locomotives and historic buildings located in Darlington town centre. Sarah from Head of Steam Museum visited and brought some historic artefacts to learn more about how people used to live. The children have enjoyed learning all about our town's history and realised how important the locomotive was, not only in the development of Britain but also in the world.

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

## The Gingerbread Man visits Little Learners

Little Learners focused traditional tale this half term was "The Gingerbread Man". The children were encouraged to retell the story using a variety of props and puppets. They used ginger scented dough to make features for the gingerbread man shapes.

In January, we will have space for new children to come to our provision so if you know anyone, please let hem know.



## Working hard in Nursery

This term nursery have been working really hard sharing lots of books such as Owl Babies, Day Monkey Night Monkey and The Tiger Who



Came To Tea. The children are encouraged to retell the stories, listen to each other and make up stories of their own.







# 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. This year, Carl Blackburn, from the local fire



service had the honour of delivery. So kind and generous!



## **100% Attenders this Term**

Attendance is always one of our priorities and we are pleased to see that 37 children achieved 100% this term. They received a bronze medal and a selection box.

## **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.



## **What's been happening in Reception?**

Every Monday, the children enjoy reading their 'book of the week' and complete lots of activities throughout the week. During the Forest Friday session, the



children are given challenges related to the book and their learning. They have made shapes, a bed for a giant, fairy houses and food and even gone on a monster hunt with

the monster spotters.

The children have shown how creative and resilient they are in these sessions and how they can work well as a team.

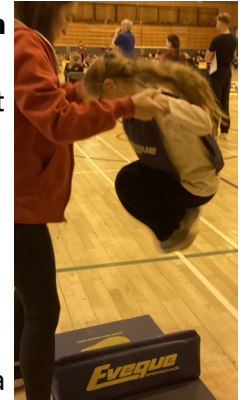


What a fantastic start to Reception!



## **Super Sports in Y5**

Year 5 took part in an inclusive sports hall event at the Dolphin Centre, this term. The children participated in a



variety of sports and activities such as: obstacle races, sprinting events, long jump, javelin, relay races and the triple jump. The children all tried their best and did the school proud, displaying our school virtues of resilience and

respect in each event.



**Have a very Happy Christmas from all at Mount Pleasant**

