



Newsletter

December, 2022

Dear Parent/ Carers,

What a brilliant term this has been.

We started off the year with the OFSTED inspection and were delighted with the result. I am very proud of the children and staff. You can see the final report on the website.

We have welcomed back some staff, Mrs Boston and Miss Geddis who have returned following maternity leave. We have some new members of staff– Mrs Briggs has joined the site staff and Mrs Lee will be the new team member in the office.

It appears that everything has gone back to normal after a few disrupted years. I was delighted to have parents and carers in for the fair and performances. Thank you for your continued support– we can't do it without you.

Have a lovely Christmas holiday and best wishes for 2022. Mrs Blackham

Y4 see stars and beyond.....

On Wednesday 23rd September, the Stem to Stars Science Club went on a visit to Kielder observatory. After a very long journey, the children had a look around the observatory and found out lot of interesting facts about space. They watched the telescopes moving around and had a



turn of moving the roof. It was a very interesting day which hopefully inspired some astronomers of the future!



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday, 20th December 2022: End of Autumn Term 2
Wednesday 4th January 2023: Teacher Training Day (School Closed)
Thursday 5th January 2023: Spring Term 1 Commences
Friday 17th February 2023: End of Spring Term 1
Monday 27th February 2023: Spring Term 2 Commences
Friday 31st March 2023: End of Spring Term 2
Monday 27th April 2023: Summer Term 1 Commences
Monday 1st May 2023: Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 8th May 2023: Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Tuesday 9th May 2023: Y6 SATs Week
Friday 26th May 2023: End of Summer Term 1
Monday 5th June 2023: Summer Term 2 Commences
Monday 12th June 2023: Teacher Training Day (School Closed)
Wednesday 28th June 2023: Year 6 Transition
Thursday 29th June 2023: Year 6 Transition
Thursday 20th July 2023: End of Summer Term 2

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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.



Year 2 started Christmas in November this year with a trip to a local church to experience The Magical Christmas Journey. They then began the hard work of learning lots of songs and how to effectively narrate a Nativity play. After all their hard work they relaxed and partied with gusto. It was great to see them dancing and having lots of fun with their friends.



Year 4 visited Branksome Hall and Windsor Court over the festive period to entertain the residents with their Christmas singing. They sang a selection of different songs beautifully.



James said, "It was fascinating watching all the ladies and gentleman clapping for us and it was fun to see them smiling. Also, everyone enjoyed the sweets and the drinks."

Many thanks to all who donated to the **Christmas raffle** this year. We made some amazing hampers and made £350 for school funds.

The school councillors picked the tickets and they delivered the prizes to the winners.

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

Many thanks to all those who supported our Christmas Fair, the first one since 2019. 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. We raised about £700 altogether which will go towards trips next year. Thank you!



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. They visited the Head of Steam museum to look at historic artefacts and learn more about how people used to live. Also, they made their own locomotive rockets with the help of staff from the Head of Steam museum. The children have enjoyed learning all about our town's history!

Invaders & Settlers

Year 5 have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. To enhance their knowledge, they looked at some artefacts from that era and learnt about life in those times. A local historian came in and enabled them to try on some period clothing and weapons, which the warriors would have used in battle. The class had a wonderful time and learnt lots from the event.



Little Learners learn about Christmas

Little Learners have been developing their independence skills as they dress up in Christmas costumes and take turns to ride in Santa's sleigh. They have been joining in with new Christmas songs and learning new words and vocabulary.





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 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 38 children achieved 100% this term. They received a bronze medal and a voucher for family bowling at the Dolphin Centre.



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?

Well done to the children for a fantastic first term and what a busy term it has been!

The children have been brilliant at adjusting to full days in school and getting used to a busy routine. They have shown a love of books as we have completed many activities about our weekly class stories including The Colour Monster, The Runaway Pea and How to Catch a Star. They went to see a production of 'How to Catch a Star' and even got to make our own star decorations. The children worked very hard to learn songs and words for our Nativity production, 'The Big, Little Nativity' and entertained us all with their amazing dance moves. The children in Reception love to play outdoors and



always look forward to our Welly Wednesdays. They have been on an autumn hunt and made fairy houses and fairy food. After reading 'The Day Louis Got Eaten' they even made some monster traps!



Have a very Happy Christmas from all at Mount Pleasant

