



Mount Pleasant Extra!

Newsletter 12 | 1st December 2017

Thank you...

I have been away from school for a number of days attending meetings at DCYP in Upavon, attending SEN updates and attending the DCYP SEN Forum and I am very sure that all of these activities will bring benefits to Mount Pleasant School over the next few weeks and months.

I have been delighted with the way the teaching staff and all our hard working support staff have ensured the smooth running of the school in my absence. I am sure you will agree that it is very impressive that they have the ability, vision and determination to overcome the challenges of me being away from school, while not only running the school day to day but constantly improving what we have to offer to our pupils.

As examples: while I have been away the teaching staff have worked on improvements to mastery in maths, developed the outdoor area and planned the way we teach swimming for a relaunch in January. On behalf of everyone connected with school, I would like to thank each and every member of school staff, and of course our pupils, for their continued hard work and dedication, especially, over the past few weeks.

Christmas Performances

From Monday, children will be starting to rehearse for the Christmas performances and you may find a note home requesting costumes and other items over the next week. We always try to keep these requests to a minimum and appreciate there usually has to be some creative thinking in order to provide the appropriate outfit. We are very grateful for your support in this matter. We always leave the rehearsal of the production to the final two weeks of school to ensure learning continues across the curriculum for as long as possible and that there is a balance between academic subjects and the arts. The productions include many skills such as singing, reading, public speaking and encourage children to develop their confidence and understanding of self. Our productions are Christian based and tell the Christmas story.

Please join us in the Church at the following times to see the production. You are welcome to bring along any family and friends visiting and also any work colleagues who may be missing their own children's performance but would like to enjoy ours.

- 12th December— EYFS Christmas Production to **parents** 10:00-11:00
- 13th December- KS1 and KS2 Christmas Production to **parents** 10:00-11:00

Many School Governance Committee members will be in attendance at both performances and it would be a good time to chat to them about any comments you would like to make about school and the wonderful opportunities for children at Mount Pleasant.

Safeguarding

As I am now back in Mount Pleasant, from today I am resuming the role of Designated Senior for Safeguarding at Mount Pleasant School. Louise Deane is the Deputy and James Stevens is the responsible SGC member.



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Swimming

Swimming has now finished for the year, there will be no swimming on Tuesday 5th or 12th December and will restart on 16th January 2018. PE will be taught on Monday 4th December as normal and this will be the final PE session of the year.

Open Classrooms, photographs and decorate the tree

On 7th December there will be an opportunity to collect school reports and share learning while taking a look round school for our 'open classrooms' between 14:30-15:30. We will also be asking for your time in completing some positive comment cards which we plan to display round school.

Also on that afternoon, we will be enjoying an opportunity to Decorate the Tree. Please bring a decoration from home for our Christmas Tree — children and parents to place one decoration on the tree. Home made, pre-loved and shop purchased decorations will all be very welcome.

If your child had a photograph taken by the station photographer, I will be selling a print for £1.00. I will also take your email details and send you the original in electronic form.

Events.....

4th December—EYU (Nursery), FS1 and FS2 **parents** Mark Making Morning 08:45-09:30

7th December—Reports home and Open Classrooms for **parents** 14:30-15:30

7th December—Decorate the Tree - during the open classrooms please bring a decoration from home for our Christmas Tree. Children and **parents** to place one decoration on the tree.

12th December— EYFS Christmas Production to **parents** 10:00-11:00

13th December- KS1 and KS2 Christmas Production to **parents** 10:00-11:00

14th December—Close for Christmas at 13:15

9th January—School Opens following the Christmas and New Year Holiday 08:45

9th January—Homework hand in day.

12th January 2018—Launch Pad for **parents** in all classrooms 08:45-10:00

Southern Strikers—this has now finished for the term. There will be no football on 7th December or 14th December.

Goodbye and Hello



Hello there in the beautiful Falkland Islands. My name is Mandy Summers and I am very excited about joining the team at the very special school which is Mount Pleasant.

I came into the profession 16 years ago to make a positive impact on children's learning and was very fortunate to have the privilege of working with military children and their families. I did not anticipate the positive and powerful impact this would have on me personally and professionally: I realised, that my passion for teaching comes from working with the military children and therefore I am incredibly driven to do my best for you all.

To have this opportunity to live and work in the Falkland Islands is a dream come true and something that I value immensely. I am looking forward to meeting the children at Mount Pleasant School and of course seeing you all in the New Year. Until then, I would like to say enjoy the festive season and have a wonderful Christmas wherever you are in the world.

Mandy Summers

The reason we will be saying hello to Ms Summers is as a result of the departure of Mr Ratcliffe, as Ian is moving to SHAPE school in Belgium having been promoted to Phase Leader. Ian has been instrumental in driving further our academic success, particularly in KS2 as well as developing a reading culture across all classes by promoting the availability of high quality text for KS1 and sourcing the new 'Jelly and Bean' books for Foundation Stage. Ian has also taken a lead with the School Council which has given the children a voice in the way we run and develop the school.

We wish him luck in his new school and hope he will always remember his time at Mount Pleasant School with fondness.