



Mount Pleasant Extra!

Newsletter 6 | 6th October 2017

British Values

We had such a lovely morning in school this week when Manpreet Lally gave his own time to come into school, to talk to the children about his Sikh belief, to tie a Turban for each child and present them with a Kara. This has greatly enhanced the children's learning about Sikhism as well as raising awareness of different faiths and cultures, thus fostering tolerance.

We were delighted to welcome COS and other Officers into assembly to share in this experience.

Mr Ratcliffe was very impressed with the presentations children gave as part of the democratic process to gain a place on the school council. Children had thought about their own qualities and how they could represent the views of others, if they were elected to take up the role. I am pleased to announce the names of those who have been elected below.

British Values are central to our school and are defined as promoting the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. Turban Day and the School Council are a clear demonstration of our commitment to British Values at MPS.

School Council Members for 2017-18

- Year 1 Oliver and Edward
- Year 2 Thomas and Maddy
- Year 3 Susannah and Lila
- Year 4 George and Amelia
- Year 5 Holly and Libby
- Year 6 Rukhsang and William



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Newsletter 6 | 6th October 2017

Stay and Play

Stay and Play is open on Tuesday afternoon (15:15–16:00) to any child in EYU or FS1 but parents must accompany their children. If you have a friend or neighbour who has a child from birth to 4 who would like to join in with Stay and Play please feel free to bring them along. Stay and Play last session for this half term will be 10th October and will reopen 31st October for the next half term.

Events....

9th October—EYU (Nursery), FS1 and FS2 parents interactive outdoor activities 08:45-09:30

10th October—Enrichment session 4 15:15-16:00 **FINAL SESSION**

10th October —Stay and Play 15:15-16:00 **FINAL SESSION**

11th October - MT Road Safety Day

11th October—School Choir 12:30-13:00

23rd—27th October—Half Term

27th October—BFSAI Open Day

31st October—Enrichment session 1— New Pupil Choices

31st October —Stay and Play 15:15-16:00

1st November—Parents Open Evening 15:15-17:00

1st November—Choir 12:30-13:00

7th November—Enrichment session 2

7th November —Stay and Play 15:15-16:00

8th November—Choir 12:30-13:00

14th November—Enrichment session 3

14th November —Stay and Play 15:15-16:00

15th November—Choir 12:30-13:00

21st November—Enrichment session 4 **FINAL SESSION**

21st November —Stay and Play 15:15-16:00 **FINAL SESSION**

22nd November—Choir 12:30-13:00

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

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

13th December- KS1 and KS2 Christmas Production 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

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



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Newsletter 6 | 6th October 2017

Safeguarding Culture at Mount Pleasant School

The safety and security of your children is our main concern at Mount Pleasant School.

Information

The DCYP Policy on school visits explains that as visits are part of the school curriculum there is no option for parents to opt children out of curriculum visits.

Visits considered to be a greater risk will require a reply slip—an example at Mount Pleasant would be a Battlefield tour or a helicopter trip.

We hold information of allergies where it applies.

We hold risk assessments in school for all in school activities and out of school visits.

End of day routine

No child will be released at the end of the school day to an adult other than their parent unless school has been informed by the parent.

Parents must inform the school office before 15:00 if a child is to be taken home with anyone other than them.

The school day will always end at school. If children are being taught away from the school site, they will always be returned to school.

Site safety

School site is protected with a locked gate.

All visitors to school must sign in at the school, parents wishing to drop in before or after school must do so via the school office.

The main school entrance door is for children and school staff only.

Accidents in school are always reported via a completed form to the Head Teacher and added to the accident database.

Safeguarding

All staff and volunteers hold a Level 1 Safeguarding Qualification on induction to school.

All staff and volunteers will hold a Level 2 Safeguarding Qualification by the end of October 2017.

Some school staff have a Level 3 Safeguarding Qualification.

The Head Teacher is the designated Safeguarding Lead for Mount Pleasant School. The Deputy is Mrs Louise Deane.

The school holds concern records for children and will report statutory social work concerns to the SSAFA Social Worker.

Most staff hold a full L3 Paediatric First Aid Certificate.

Office Staff hold a L2 First Aid at Work Certificate.

Every member of staff and all volunteers are subject to a current enhanced DBS check. All staff have been checked against the barred list, in addition, teachers are checked against the prohibition from teaching list.



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Newsletter 6 | 6th October 2017

School PTA

The idea has been floated by some parents about establishing a PTA. The objectives, taken from the PTA UK association, of a PTA are:

- Develop effective relationships between the staff; parents and others associated with the school
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of pupils.

Both these objectives are very worthwhile and an active PTA could take responsibility for events such as the Sports Day BBQ, Craft Fayre, BFSAI Open Day and hosting parents and visitors post Golden Assembly.

To establish a PTA we would need to be sure there was sufficient interest, hold a steering group meeting, develop a constitution and hold a general meeting. There would have to be an election of a chair, treasurer and secretary. The PTA would need to decide on the best way to bank money and how it would be self-funding. Please let the school office know of your interest regarding informing and running an association.

As an indication of how these groups work in other MoD Schools, Hornbill Helping Hands supports the school in many ways including funding resources for theme Launch and Landing Pads, prizes for Maths Challenges, school trips and Christmas books for children. This year alone HHH contributed more than B\$1000 towards children's Christmas books. It gets its funding mainly from various fund raising events such as Tihar and Christmas Fayres, Mufti Days and Food Sales. The Episkopi Parents' Group have undertaken similar such activities over the academic year.

SGC

Thank you to parents and friends of the school who have been in contact about SGC membership. CO FISU and I are planning to meet very soon to finalise this. More information about the SGC will be published once membership has been finalised, however for more information on the work of the SGC and the difference between a SGC and England School Governors please see my previous SGC letter to parents.



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Newsletter 6 | 6th October 2017

School Photographs

On Thursday morning, the station photographer came to school to take photos of the children.

There will be three options for the photographs:

- Donation for a digital copy of the photograph
- Donation for a printed copy of the photograph
- Donation for both options

I will give more details on dates the photographs will be available in a future newsletter.

School Tombola

The BFSAI Open Day is on 27th October and school will be having a tombola. Please send your tombola prizes to the school office and don't forget to come and support the stall at the open day.

Tinned goods, soaps, shower gels, biscuits, chocolates all make for excellent prizes but don't forget that in keeping with BFSAI rules alcohol is not permitted as a tombola prize.

School Choir

There is a plan for the school choir to perform at the BFSAI Open Day. We will let you know the time of this performance very soon.

Keep the date free!

Golden Assembly

On Monday we had our first Golden Assembly of the year. Children were selected from each class to receive the Golden Certificate. We had examples of outstanding learning, behaviour and keeping the school values and I am looking forward to next month to see how we can build on the great start to the school year. If your child is awarded a certificate the school office will call you in advance with an invitation to attend the assembly.



Mount Pleasant Extra!

Newsletter 6 | 6th October 2017

Have your say...

We have an 'open door' policy in school where parents are welcome to call in and chat to teachers and the Head Teacher each day; we just ask you register with the school office on your way in so we can account for who is in the building. We also have Golden Assembly, 'Launch Pads', parents mornings in EYFS, open afternoons, music performances and many more opportunities for parents to engage with school. Some parents may not have time to call in or stay in the morning or afternoon, so from time to time we have run a 'Have your say...' opportunity.

Below you will see a speech bubble, simply write your comment or question on the bubble and send it into school. You must include your name on the bubble as anonymous comments will not be responded to. There is no time limit to 'Have your say...' keep this bubble or make one of your own.

Name:



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Newsletter 6 | 6th October 2017

Social Media Statement

Although social networking sites may appear to be the quickest and easiest ways to express frustrations or concerns, it is rarely appropriate to do so. Other channels, such as private and confidential discussion are most appropriate. It is very much hoped that Mount Pleasant School will never have to resort to the measures outlined in this statement.

The school considers the following examples to be inappropriate uses of social networking sites.

- Making allegations about pupils at the School/cyber bullying;
- Making complaints about the School/staff at the School;
- Posting negative/offensive comments about specific pupils/staff at the School;
- Posting racist comments;
- Posting comments which threaten violence.
- Direct contact of staff on school related matters

The School will always try to deal with concerns raised by parents in a professional and appropriate manner and understands that parents may not always realise when they have used social networking sites inappropriately. Therefore, as a first step, the School will usually discuss the matter with the parent to try and resolve the matter and to ask that the relevant information be removed from the social networking site in question. If the parent refuses to do this and continues to use social networking sites in a manner the School considers inappropriate, the School will consider taking the following action:

- Take legal advice and/or legal action where the information posted is defamatory in any way or if the circumstance warrant this;
- Set out the School's concerns to you in writing, giving you a warning and requesting that the material in question is removed;
- Contact the Police where the school feels it appropriate – for example, if it considers a crime (such as harassment) has been committed; or in cases where the posting has a racial element, is considered to be grossly obscene or is threatening violence;
- Take other action against the individual or pass a complaint to the Defence Chain of Command.

These guidelines match those in the published guide for Defence, 'Think before you share'. A copy of the MOD Leaflet is published at the end of this newsletter.