



Mount Pleasant Extra!

Newsletter 1 | 31st August 2018

Welcome

I would like to welcome your children and you to the new academic year at Mount Pleasant School. I am proud to be your Head Teacher and am delighted to be leading this very good school.

This week, pupils will begin the process to develop class rules including behaviour and expectations. This will be undertaken through our Personal, Social and Health Education programme.

I would like to invite you to school on Friday morning, 7th September, between 08:45 and 10:00 for our very first parent hour. This will be a launch pad session for the new school topic, Me and My World, and we would like you to take part in the learning.

Regarding school lunches, I am sure you will agree we are lucky to be able to provide meals each day and the range of choices is very much enjoyed by the children. The kitchens have reminded us that the selections are subject to short notice/on the day changes, so we cannot guarantee the menu or ingredients. Parents should select meals children will eat and enjoy—please talk to your child about their meal choices.

Our current school hours are:

08:45-15:05 for Mrs Eaton-Bell, Mrs Margerison and Ms Summers

08:50-15:00 for Foundation Stage 1

08:50-12:00 or 13:00 for Mrs Deane (we hope to increase these hours once safe staffing levels are in place).

A newsletter is published every Friday and letters are occasionally sent home during the week. If your child is absent please check with the school office if you have missed any newsletters or letters.

I look forward to you joining our learning on Friday and a very productive year at Mount Pleasant.

Gary Margerison—Head Teacher



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Swimming

Swimming lessons will start on **Tuesday 11th September 2018**. Children in FS2 to Y6 will be taken to the pool for their lesson each week. Lessons follow the STA School Swimming Academy programme, as this is part of the school curriculum and not a swimming club we will not be issuing badges and certificates for swimming.

Swimming is part of the Mount Pleasant School curriculum and parents do not have a right to exclude their children from lessons; parents may discuss this with school should they feel there are exceptional circumstances. Please ensure your child has swimming kit in school on Tuesdays. A telephone call home will be made to the parents of any child who arrives in school without a swimming kit with an expectation one is brought to school in time for lessons in the afternoon.

Swimming kit is an all in one costume or the fitted swimming shorts (board shorts are not suitable for swimming lessons). A swimming hat is a personal preference and goggles must be appropriate for swimming lessons and follow the guidelines from the Swimming Teachers Association:

- Only purchase goggles that meet British Standards
- Ensure that the goggles fit the child correctly
- Ensure the child has received adequate instruction, prior to participation, as to the fitting and adjustment of goggles
- Be aware that teachers will not be responsible for the fitting of goggles to the children.

If your child has a verruca, medical sources tell us the use of devices, such as plastic socks, to protect the feet should be discouraged, as the socks have limited value other than of attracting attention. **The use of a waterproof plaster is sufficient.** Most associations and professional bodies believe the exclusion of children with plantar warts (verruca) from barefoot activities - such as swimming, physical education, dancing or communal showering - is no longer justified.

For more information and additional advice head to the NHS website: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/warts/Pages/Prevention.aspx>



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Enrichment

This year we have an exciting and interesting enrichment programme, this is run by teachers and is a well-planned and prepared activity which will run afterschool as listed below. At the start of each half term, we will accept requests to join in the activities and let you know if your child has been successful. On occasion, where there are more expressions of interest than spaces, all the available spaces will be allocated by a raffle.

Activities will take place on the dates indicated, subject to change, between 15:05 and 16:00.

Term 1

First Half

11th, 18th and 25th September and 2nd October

Mrs Deane	Stay and Play for Nursery and	Nursery, FS1 and FS2
Mrs Margerison	Recorder (max 10)	KS1 and KS2
Ms Summers	Dance (max 10)	KS1 and KS2

Please indicate a 1st and 2nd preference for your child and return this slip to the school office by 08:45 on 5th September 2018.

My Child(ren) _____ would like to take part in the following activity.

Mrs Deane	Stay and Play for Nursery and	
Mrs Margerison	Recorder (max 10)	
Ms Summers	Dance (max 10)	

Children must be collected at 16:00.



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School Council—notice for all children in school

Mount Pleasant School Council 2018/19

A note to candidates:

All candidates for Mount Pleasant School Council will be required to give a short speech about themselves during the assembly on 13th September.

This speech should be a maximum of 60 seconds long (but can be less) and should cover such topics as your positive qualities and what you will bring to the role.

What are you like as a person?

How will you help the School Council to be amazing?

You may write down what you wish to say and read it out or choose to speak without any notes.

After the speeches, there will be a vote to elect the candidates for Mount Pleasant School Council 2018/19 who will take an active role in the decision making process for issues which effect all pupils in school..



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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 14:00 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 2018.

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.

Some staff hold a full L3 Paediatric First Aid Certificate.

Some staff hold a L2 First Aid at Work Certificate.

Every member of staff and all volunteers are subject to an 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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Social Media Expectations

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 the more appropriate and effective. It is very much hoped that Mount Pleasant School will never have to resort to the measures outlined in this statement which match those in the published guide for Defence, 'Think before you share'.

The school considers the following examples to be inappropriate uses of social networking sites and chat groups:

- 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.

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, usually as a first step, the school will 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 in writing, giving 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.

As always at MPS, we look forward to an open and positive relationship with all our parents, enabling the best possible education and experience for our pupils.



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Events.....

7th September - Parent Hour and Launch Pad: 08:45 and 10:00

11th September— First Swimming lesson for FS2—Year 6

11th September—Enrichment session 1: 15:05-16:00

22nd—26th October—Half Term

7th November—Parents Open Evening: 15:15-17:15

A request for help

We are looking for a group of parents who will be able to repair our poly tunnel. We had planned that we would not be using it this year but, as we will not be moving to the new school site for some considerable time, we would like to continue to make use of it. If you are able to spare a couple of hours to help repair the covering please let the office know.

Volunteers

To continue to provide fruit at break times to children throughout the school, we require some parents to assist in cutting and preparing fruit. This takes about 15 mins at the start of the school day and any volunteers would only be asked to do this on one morning each week.

Should no new volunteers come forward, we will only be able to provide fruit to FS2 and KS1, which are the year groups entitled to the provision of free fruit.

Parent readers

Any parent who can spare some time each week to hear children read, please call in to the school office. We are looking for some parents to support the school by providing reading assistance to children across the school. We would also like to set up a school Book Club one lunch time each month—would you like to lead this for us?