



Mount Pleasant Extra!

Newsletter 1 | 6th September 2019

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 am sure you will agree we are lucky to be able to provide meals in school each day and the range of choices is very much enjoyed by the children. Please be aware: 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. Select meals your children will eat and enjoy. Please talk to your child about their meal choices.

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

Gary Margerison—Head Teacher

Value of the Month

Respect

Each month we focus on one of our 12 values. Children will discuss these in assemblies, class time and as prompts for recognition of good attitudes and behavior.



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Swimming

Swimming lessons will start on **Tuesday 10th September 2019**. Children in **Key Stage Two** will be taken to the pool for their lesson each week. Lessons follow the STA School Swimming Academy programme; with children progressing through levelled swimming skills and techniques. 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 if a child arrives in school without a swimming kit with an expectation that one is brought to school in time for lessons in the afternoon.

Swimming kit is an all in one costume or fitted swimming shorts/trunks (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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Safeguarding Culture at Mount Pleasant School

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

Educational Visits

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

The 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.

The Safeguarding Team have a Level 3 Safeguarding Qualification.

The Assistant 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—such as 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.....

10th September— First Swimming lesson for Year3 to Year 6
17th October—First Enrichment 15:05-16:00—letter to follow
14th—25th October—Half Term (Two weeks)
6th November—Parents Open Evening: 15:15-17:00

Volunteers

We are pleased to be able to offer fruit, free of charge, for all children throughout the school. 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.

Parent readers

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

