

## Dear Parents

I can't believe it is now December and the end of term is fast approaching. The count down has certainly begun in school, with our first Christmas event occurring this afternoon where we decorate the Christmas tree. The children have been working hard throughout the school in designing, making and evaluating their decorations. Furthermore, it is great to see the progression of skills through the classes. The children will bring these home nearer the end of term, when they can be proudly hung on your own trees.

### In Albatross:

In Albatross this week, our highlights have been making our decorations for the Christmas tree event today. We had to draw upon our ever increasing fine motor skills, for one activity where we had to carefully wrap wool around our template to make a beautiful hanging decoration. Some children thought it looked like a snowflake, while others thought it was like a star - although one suggestion was also a spider web! We made our own salt dough and used the cutters to cut them out. It took 6 hours for them to cook in the oven! Once cooked, we were then able to decorate them further adding a festive touch. We also enjoyed using the stomp rocket, thinking about the forces in action. We had to 'push' on the airbag to make the rocket fly and tested doing it with more or less force, to see how this changed the result. Our favourite was jumping on the airbag as this made the rocket go so high! Outdoors, we have been creating lots of obstacle courses with anything and everything we could get our hands on! We enjoyed making them and then testing them out - it also tested our balance and coordination!



## In Caracara:

In Caracara class we've been busy making our Christmas decorations for the school tree. The children have been learning to sew and decorate their baubles and they've all done a brilliant job! In English the children have been describing a setting, and have been working on addition and subtraction in maths.



## In Falcon Class:

What a busy but fun week it has been! Play practices, singing carols and making decorations for the Christmas tree has taken most of the afternoons and the children are getting very excited to show their parents their creations this afternoon. The mornings have been busy too, with Year 4 learning all about measuring and calculating perimeters of rectangles and rectilinear shapes and Year 3 multiplying and dividing by 3. Three members of year 3 have gained their tackling tables blue multiplication and division certificates this week too, so a big well done and keep practising 😊 Our outsider narrative stories have been completed and the class are moving onto their second piece of writing, an information text all about polar bears.

Can I remind all parents that homework is due on Wednesdays, thank you.



## In Meadowlark:

Our final piece of English work, which focusses on Charles Darwin and his 'Theory of Evolution' has been very successful. The amazing work the Meadowlarks have achieved shows real progress and a determination to do well.

Finally maths, fractions have had their day (for now) and 'measures' have taken their place! The children are definitely relieved to wave fractions off for the time being and have a refresh on perimeter and area, looking forward to next week where we can begin to solve problems.

Our tree decorations, as you can see are spectacular. The blanket stitch was a little tricky but with perseverance, we got there in the end and are very proud of our work.



## Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 7th December - Christingle in the school hall at 1415
- Wednesday 13th December - School Production at 1400
- Thursday 14th December - School finishes at 1300
- Tuesday 9th January 2024 - School starts for children
- Friday 12th January - Join your child in Learning/Launchpad at 1415
- Friday 2nd February - Sports Afternoon for FS2 - Year 6 - 1330
- Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February - Half Term
- Monday 26th February - 2nd Half term starts for children
- Thursday 7th March - World Book Day - details TBC
- Wednesday 27th March - Parents Evening 1515-1730
- Thursday 28th March - School finishes at 1300
- Tuesday 16th April - School starts for children
- Monday 6th May-May Bank Holiday-No School
- Monday 27th May- May Bank Holiday- No school
- Monday 3rd June- Friday 7th June- Half Term
- Wednesday 24th July- Last Day of Term- School Finishes at 1515

*Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend, preparing for Christmas,*





# Mount Pleasant Extra!

Newsletter  
1st December 2023

## Message from the Education Welfare Officer:

A message from your Education Welfare Officer, Jane Kelly from Defence Children's Services...

By attending school daily and on time, children learn the importance of commitment and being punctual, a life skill which will serve them well as they grow into the next generation of working citizens.

Many people think that the odd day off here and there does not matter, but even these odd days can have an impact on children's learning. Learning about any topic doesn't happen all in one day; therefore, when a child returns to school the class may be continuing their learning from the day before which will put your child at an immediate disadvantage. At the time of school assessments, it will be hard for children to achieve their best results if there are gaps in their learning.

Not being at school regularly also has a negative effect on the social aspects of school. It is hard for children to build and maintain good friendships if they are not in school regularly.

Your child has a right to an education and to be safe and happy at school. But sometimes children and young people can be anxious about going to school. This can happen for lots of reasons but can happen when they have a worry about something such as homework or a class test, or if they have had a fall out with other children.

Sometimes parents let their child stay off school because they think the school isn't handling these kinds of things well enough. Unfortunately, this will not help find a solution. It is important to talk to the school if this kind of problem happens.

If you would like any support or advice on attendance or punctuality, please speak to your class teacher in the first instance or alternatively your Headteacher. You may also like to seek advice from The MOD Education Welfare Team at [RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk)

## Table of impact

Attendance %	Impact on Learning	Impact on Learner
96% - 100%	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity
90% - 96%	At least 2 weeks of learning missed	Your child will need to spend time at home catching up on missed learning.
85% - 90%	A least 4 weeks of learning missed	Your child is at risk of under achieving and will need extra support from you to catch up on missed learning
80% - 85%	At least 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks of learning missed	Your child's poor attendance is having a significant impact on learning
Below 80%	At least 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks of learning missed	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education.