

Dear Parents,

Wow, where did that half-term disappear to? Time really does fly when you're busy learning so much! There have been so many highlights to mention ... Launchpad event, educational visits to SAR, 1435 Flight Typhoons and to HMS Forth. Cooking and baking sessions with the Four Seasons chefs, a bake sale, parent volunteers reading in school, Office Orcas working in the school office. We've also extended our FS1 morning provision and launched Stay and Play sessions. And today's final treat, our incredible Linda Cruse motivational assemblies!

I think children, parents and staff all deserve a well-earned break so I hope you all have a restful week and are ready to come back after the holidays to start again.

Golden Assembly

A big thank you to all parents who joined us today for our first Golden Assembly, to celebrate all of our wonderful children.

Orca and Commerson classes have been working really hard to learn the new skill of playing a ukulele, demonstrating our school values of perseverance when faced with a challenge and achievement when they have succeeded. The children also showed us today that they have the courage to perform to a live audience, not something that everyone finds easy. So 'well done' to all our ukulele players, it was a fantastic treat for everyone to listen to you play your music and sing your songs! Thank you also to Mrs Hill, Mrs Painter and the Cyprus music team for making this happen.

We must also say a big 'well done' to Bella and Crisha in Orca class and to William, Enya-Rose and George in Commerson class, who were awarded our first golden certificates for their special efforts and achievements this half-term. You have demonstrated our school values and have set a great example for everyone to follow, keep it up, you are all amazing!

We are already wondering who will be the next outstanding pupils to show that they deserve to receive a golden certificate too!



HMS Forth

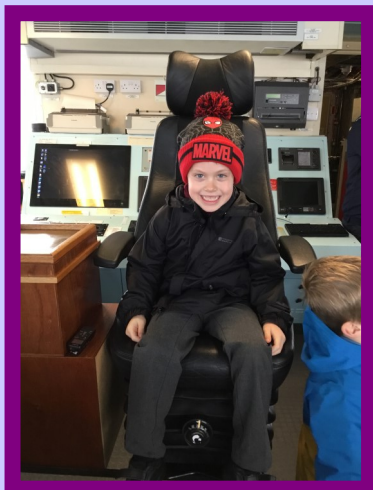
Tuesday morning started a little wet and grey, but the weather was just kind enough for our visit to HMS Forth to go ahead as planned. And what a fabulous morning it turned out to be! It is such a privilege to be allowed a glimpse of what daily life is like for the crew whilst at sea. As the children arrived back at school they were still full of excitement, chatting about the amazing things they had seen, the facts they'd discovered and what a great time they'd had. It was clear that everyone had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our thanks go to Lt Cdr Robey for supporting the visit and to all the crew members who took time out of their busy days to look after us.

We also have to thank our parent supporters, who helped make everything run so smoothly, we hope you all managed to have a wonderful time too.

Afterwards I was struck by the comments of one of our parents who said, '...it was a great trip! The kids are very lucky to have such amazing opportunities - I can't imagine many UK schools going on a deployable battle ship on a Tuesday morning!'

It really made me stop and take a moment to remind myself just how lucky we are to live in such a special and unique place, even on the wet, grey days.



Mount Pleasant Extra!

Newsletter
21st February 2025

It was clear from the writing the children completed, that all MPS pupils had a super morning out on HMS Forth. Please see below for extracts from work completed by children in KS1 and KS2 and 'Thank You' cards from our EYFS children.

I enjoyed this trip so much and I am very thankful for the crew showing us around. I especially liked the part where we all went into the wardroom where we asked questions and they would answer. It was quite funny when the second in command said that the chefs were surprisingly good for the Navy! This day was very fun and I found it so interesting looking around "HMS the Forth."

Yesterday was a very eventful day! We got on a bus and I was super excited. When we were there we met the Captain and his respectful crew. First we had a go at the horse, it was super fun. Next we looked at blocking holes in a boat. We learned that if you don't have wood you wouldn't be able to block the holes.

Finally, we climbed up multiple stairs that are more like ladders. It was very, very steep. I got some binoculars and looked out miles and miles onto the Atlantic Ocean. I got to sit on the Captain's chair.

I would highly recommend visiting the island only HMS Forth. I had an amazing time.

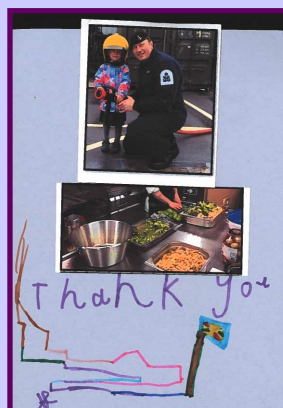
Finally, the second in command told us that 'I can punish my crew if they don't listen to what I say and do something wrong'. I learnt and enjoyed this trip a lot. I was so happy to be here. My favourite part was the sick bay because we got to see our CO2 and our heart rate.

This is me watching the person showing us when he puts the wood in the metal box when he turns the hose the water will explode from the metal.



Next I spraid the hose and put the helmet on it was so heavy and I felt excited. Then I sat on the pilots chair.

Finally, we went to the wardroom to have a drink and we got on the bus back to school. It was so interesting and just I hope I go somewhere like that again.



I wrote it
the bec
5 rom
Naomi



I saw
the
food
from
William



Month of the Military Child

I happened to be chatting to one of our parents yesterday about the impact that military life has upon children. We shared an emotional moment which emphasised just how important it is, that, as a school, we make all of our children feel safe, special and part of a community which places them at the centre of everything we do. So, it is the perfect time to let you know that, during April we will celebrate the 'Month of the Military Child', acknowledging the important role that military children play in the Armed Forces family. It is a time to recognise the daily sacrifices military children make and the challenges they overcome.



Purple was chosen as the colour of the military child as it combines the various colours associated with different branches of the military.

The **Dandelion** is known as the flower of the military child:

'Dandelions put down roots almost anywhere they grow, and it's almost impossible to destroy. It's a survivor in a broad range of climates. Military children bloom everywhere the wind carries them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely. They're ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands, and new friends.'

www.neversuchinnocence.com

April 25th is 'Purple-Up' day, and even though school will be closed for the Easter break, we hope you will all still join in and wear something purple.

To help you celebrate this year's 'Purple-Up' day, we will be running a special art project in school at the beginning of April (date TBC), when we will be painting Dandelions onto purple shirts.

All children will be able to paint a Dandelion onto their own purple polo shirt, ready to bring home at the end of term so that they can wear it on April 25th, wherever they may be.

As April is a special month for military families and their children, we would like you to join your child in school and help them to paint their dandelion shirt.

We will provide more details as plans fall into place, so keep checking the newsletter for more details to follow.



Mount Pleasant Extra!

Newsletter
21st February 2025

Launchpad & Parent Coffee Morning

We are looking forward to the launchpad event on Monday 3rd March 08:45 to 09:30 hours, when we hope all parents will join their child/ren in school to begin their learning journey on a new topic.

Afterwards, please find the time in your busy day to join us for a coffee morning and refreshments 09:30 to 10am. As well as this being an opportunity to socialise, we hope to get your ideas and input as we begin another journey, looking closely at our school vision and values and thinking about how we may like to see those evolve as we go forward together.

End-Of-School-Year Fete ~ Get Involved

Time for a shout-out for help!

We want to start planning for a celebratory fete at the end of the school year and would like parents to get involved with planning, organising and running the event.

Can you run a stall? Paint faces? Provide entertainment?

Mrs Hill will hold a meeting on Tuesday 11th March at 7 p.m. in the school hall. If you would like to be involved, come along with your ideas and help to make it happen.

Farewell

Sadly (for us) we have to say goodbye to one of our brilliant LSA's, as the time has come for Mrs K to begin a new chapter and move on to new adventures. School will certainly not be the same without Mel around, we will all miss her energy, enthusiasm, support and commitment. Mel, we wish you all the success and happiness you deserve, good luck in all that lies ahead, have a great time!

Bake Sale Success

We hope you enjoyed the cakes at our Monday bake sale, as there were none left over, we think that you probably did. Thank you for supporting the event, it was a lovely way to celebrate all of the learning that our children have done over the previous weeks together with the support of the chefs from the Four Seasons. We also raised an incredible £102 for our school funds.

Linda Cruse — Humanitarian Visitor

We enjoyed the privilege of a visit from Linda Cruse today.

If you were present this afternoon, I am sure you will agree that Linda is an exceptional human being, who has achieved the extraordinary! Linda left behind a sense of empowerment and inspiration and suggested that we all do something kind and positive to help others on daily basis.



EYFS—Six Dinner Sid

Please take a look at this wonderful writing which the children read to Linda this afternoon!

Sid went to
six howzis. He
had six dinners
Joanna

Sid goes too
howzis too had
dinners.
Alfred

Sid livz in six
howziz. He ait
fish. Sid went too
the vet.

LSA Vacancy

The advert for our vacant LSA position was in last week's Penguin News. If you know of anyone who would like to join our super team, let them know that we would like to hear from them.

The vacancy is for a Learning Support Assistant to work up to 29.5 hrs per week and a level 3 qualification in childcare is desirable - not essential.

Further details are available from the BFAI Business Support Officer - vanessa.sartorel100@mod.gov.uk

Stay and Play

Our Stay and Play sessions have been popular, well attended and parents have enjoyed bringing their children to spend time in a school environment. So, as we move forward with Stay and Play, next half-term we intend to continue our weekly session each Wednesday, with the intention that our parents increasingly self-manage the sessions. We will provide updated session dates and times to all participating parents for next half-term.

Orcas

We have enjoyed a very busy final week before half term in Orca Class finishing off all of our learning across different subjects and topics. In history, we learned more about the Egyptian beliefs on the afterlife and compared the Ancient Egyptian civilisation to others around the same time. We finished a unit on measurements and perimeter in Maths. We wrote some fantastic letters in our English unit - complete with some amazing handwriting too! Many a team-point was awarded for this brilliant effort! We enjoyed our visit to HMS Forth, hosted brilliantly by the service personnel on-board giving us an insight into their daily work - our highlight being the bridge, looking out using binoculars and even sneaking a sit-down in the captain's chair!

Our science unit of 'forces' was complete after 2 practical hands-on lessons. The first one focussing on pulleys and the second on gears. In both sessions, we were provided with various resources and challenged to make our own 'working' mechanisms. There was lots of problem solving and discussion as we reflected on how well our systems worked and how we could have done things differently if we did it again.

Finally, a big well done to those children who have achieved their 'Spring 1 Reading Prize' for ensuring their green reading record was signed for every home read they did!



Sun Cream Reminder

The sunshine was incredibly strong on the playground today, please remember to apply sun cream to children before school. Please also send in a bottle of sun-cream with your child's name on, for them to keep in their bag/locker in case they should need to reapply during the school day.

Thank you for your support.

WORLD BOOK DAY!

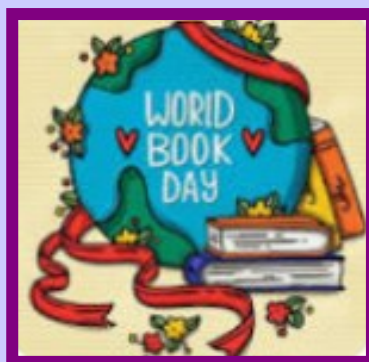
On Thursday 6th March, we will be celebrating **World Book Day 2025**. It will be a non-uniform day for the children who will enjoy arriving at school as their favourite character! As well as in-class reading activities we will end the day with an after school reading celebration, 15:15 to 16:15. Children will be able to enjoy a carousel of stories read to them, a hot (warm) chocolate drink and a home-baked muffin.

If you would like to volunteer, join the fun and read a story, please contact the school office, lauren.bailey@modschoools.org, thank you.

*Reading to children is so powerful, so simple and yet
so misunderstood!*

Reading to their infant is one of the greatest gifts parents can give. By starting the journey of building a lifelong love of reading for pleasure, parents are giving their child the opportunity to be the best they can be: children who read for pleasure do better in a wide range of subjects at school and it also positively impacts children's wellbeing.

The National Literacy Trust





Mount Pleasant Extra!

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21st February 2025

Term Dates School Year 2025 - 2026	
Autumn Term 2025	
First day of term	Monday 01 st September
Half term	Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th October
Last day of term	Thursday 11 th December 13:00 - Finish
Spring Term 2026	
First day of term	Wednesday 07 th January
Half term	Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th February
Last day of term	Thursday 09 th April 13:00 - Finish
Summer Term 2026	
First day of term	Tuesday 28 th April
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 25 th May
Half term	Monday 08 th to Friday 12 th June
Last day of term	Thursday 23 rd July 13:00 - Finish



Further dates will be added to the newsletter as events are arranged.

- **February 24th to 28th - School closed half-term break.**
- **Monday 3rd March - School re-opens.**
- **Monday 3rd March - 08:45 to 09:30 Launchpad - all parents join your child in school.**
- **Monday 3rd March - 09:30 to 10:00 - Coffee morning, all parents welcome.**
- **Monday 3rd March - DCS visit from our Rest of the World (ROW) Early Years Advisor - Tricia Wood**
- **Thursday 6th March - World Book Day - 15:15 to 16:15 after-school reading carousel for all children.**
- **Monday 10th March - Dr Jess Lovett (DCS Senior Educational Psychologist).**
- **Tuesday 11th March - 7p.m. Planning meeting for school fete, for all interested parents.**

Term time and holiday dates for the academic year 2024-25 can be found on the school website.

~ Have a fantastic half-term ~