



MOUNT PLEASANT PRESS

AUGUST 2013

WELCOME

Welcome back to a new school year and an extra special welcome to the children who have joined our School, Nursery and Enhanced Provision. I hope everyone had a lovely summer break and are well rested ready for another school year. I am delighted to see how well the pupils have settled into school life and how smart they all look in their uniforms. Thank you for supporting us with this. I truly believe we have the smartest school in town!

STAFFING

We would like to welcome to the school Miss Lipka and Miss Sutherland our new probationary teachers in P3 and P4, Mrs Bowie our new Gaelic Medium P1 teacher and Mr McAlonan our new Support Teacher. We would also like to welcome Mrs Mackenzie back from her maternity leave. She will be working alongside Mrs Gordon in P2.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As you are aware, we operate a uniform policy within the school and appreciate parents helping us to enforce this. Our school uniform is:

- School sweatshirt/poloshirt/house team t-shirt.
- Black or dark grey trousers or skirt or pinafore (no jeans).
- City shorts (knee length) in black or dark grey but no denim.
- Plain sweatshirt/poloshirt in school colours.
- No clothing items related to football teams.

Teachers have asked me to remind parents that **ALL** children from P1-7 require gym shoes, shorts and painting shirts as part of their day to day school kit.

WATER BOTTLES

Children are encouraged to have water to drink in class as the classes do get very warm. Children should only have plain water in their bottles, **not juice or flavoured water** and sports caps are preferred to avoid any spillages spoiling school books. Bottles of water are available from the school tuck shop (35p).

PARENT COUNCIL SUMMER FAYRE

The Parent Council will be holding their Summer Fayre on Friday 30 August from 1.30-3.30 pm. We would like to ask for donations for:

- Raffle (adult and child gifts)
- Bottle Stall
- Baking Stall
- Sweets (like the bottle staff but with sweets!)
- Lucky Dip - prizes should be wrapped and marked if for a boy or a girl to the value of 50p.

This year we are inviting the children to dress up as film characters if they wish. Pupils may come to school all day dressed in their outfit or may bring it to change into.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Each child in the school will be issued with a Family Update Form for you to check, update as necessary and return to the school. It is important that we have the most up to date information in case of school closure, illness, etc. Thank you for your help with this.

MUSIC CLUB

Music Club with Susie and Katrina begins on Monday 26 August, 3.10-4.15 pm. Pupils from P4-7 are welcome to attend. Each session costs £2.

RUGBY FESTIVAL

Primaries 4 to 7 will be participating in the Caithness RFC Tag Rugby Festival on Thursday, 29 August. This will be held at Millbank Rugby Pitch from 9.30 am - 2.45 pm. Children should bring water and a snack. All games will be held outside so children should dress appropriately for the weather. A school sweatshirt should be worn and jogging bottoms with a pair of shorts underneath would allow for easy changing for games. Spectators are very welcome to come and cheer the teams along.

- Primaries 4 and 5 - tournament is from 9.30-11.45 am, therefore they will be back to school in time for lunch.
- Primaries 6 and 7 - tournament is from 12.30-2.45 pm, **therefore all children are required to bring a packed lunch.**

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Mount Pleasant has an Administration of Medication Policy in place. If we currently hold medication in school for your child, a renewal form will be coming home to you to update. Could you please sign and return it to the school.

For asthmatic pupils in N3-P3 inhalers will be stored in an appropriate container in each classroom. Asthmatic pupils in P4-7 should carry their own inhalers at all times. However, if you wish the school to also have a spare inhaler, please pop in to the school office and fill out the appropriate form.

If your child requires any prescribed medication during the school day we have some members of staff who are willing to administer this. Please contact the school office for further details. Please note this medication should be brought to school by an adult, in its original container and a form filled out at the office.

JEWELLERY

Just a reminder that all jewellery should be removed before participating in any PE activities, including swimming. If children wear jewellery to school they should be able to remove it themselves. **The school will not be held responsible for injury caused by the wearing of jewellery.**

If pupils cannot participate in PE/swimming lessons for any reason, a letter of explanation should be sent to the class teacher.

SWIMMING

Swimming lessons will only be available to Primaries 4 and 5 again this session. **Lessons will commence on Wednesday, 28 August.** Both sessions occur during the school day. Pupils will be escorted to and from the swimming pool by school staff.

ABSENCES

It is Highland Council policy that parents must telephone the school before 9.30 am on their child's first day of absence to inform us of the reason they are not in school and the likely length of the period of absence. This should be followed up with a note on their return. If no phone call is received the school office will try to make contact with you or your emergency contact. Please do not be offended if you receive a call. Should we not make contact with you within 3 days we are legally obliged to refer the absence to social services and the police.

DROPPING OFF CHILDREN

Can I remind parents that **no** pupils should be dropped off on Castletown Road. Parents should use the Castle Terrace car park as a drop off point which then allows children to cross with the crossing patroller.

If you are delivering your child to school following an appointment or if they are late please ensure they are delivered to the office entrance. **Staff must be made aware of their return to school.**

BOX TOPS FOR SCHOOLS

Thank you to everyone who collected the Box Tops from Nestle cereal boxes. We managed to get enough to purchase eight non-fiction books to supplement our library. We will be continuing to collect these this year.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

We have a "Celebrating Success" board in school where we display photographs of children's achievements both in and out of school, e.g. football, dancing trophies, etc. Please encourage your child to bring in their trophies, certificates, etc so a photograph can be taken to display on the Board.

MOUNT PLEASANT WEBSITE

Our school website is fully up and running and we would encourage everyone to access it and see what the children have been doing. All the classes will be putting up a variety of items from photos to newsletters.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 26 August	Music Club starts
Monday, 26 August	6.30pm Parent Council Meeting (to discuss arrangements for the Fayre)
Thursday, 29 August	Tag Rugby Festival P4-7
Friday, 30 August	Summer Fayre
Tuesday, 3 September	P7 to Safe Highlanders, Wick
Wednesday, 18 September 2013	Bible Bus
Friday, 27 September	MacMillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning
Wednesday, 13 November	Parents' Evening
Friday, 15 November	Children In Need
Tuesday, 10 December	Christmas Show

Please see over for holiday dates.

HOLIDAY AND IN-SERVICE DATES

School Closes (at the end of the school day on)

Friday, 4 October 2013
Friday, 20 December 2013
Friday, 14 February 2014
Thursday, 4 April 2014
Friday, 2 May 2014
Friday, 3 July 2014
Wednesday, 24 September 2014
Friday, 10 October 2014
Friday, 19 December 2014
Friday, 13 February 2015
Friday, 2 April 2015
Friday, 1 May 2015
Friday 29 May 2015
Thursday, 2 July 2015

School Opens (9.00 am on)

Tuesday, 22 October 2013
Monday, 6 January 2014
Monday, 24 February 2014
Tuesday, 22 April 2014
Tuesday, 6 May 2014
Tuesday, 19 August 2014
Monday, 29 September 2014
Monday, 27 October 2014
Monday, 5 January 2015
Thursday, 19 February 2015
Monday, 20 April 2015
Tuesday, 5 May 2015
Tuesday, 2 June 2015