

MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2017

WELCOME BACK

A great big "welcome" to all our new pupils and staff. I am delighted to see so many happy smiling faces ready to learn. Our current staffing is as follows:

EP:	Miss Carberry
Nursery:	Mrs Boulton, Mrs McPhee, Ms Malcolm, Miss Farquhar, Miss Thomson, Ms Chambers
Croileagan:	Mrs Smith, Miss Mackay
P1:	Miss Wood
P2:	Mrs Buchan, Mrs Gordon
P3:	Mrs Geddes, Mrs Gulloch
P4:	Mrs Firth, Mrs MacDonald
P5:	Mr Harper
P6:	Mrs McNicol
P7:	Miss Bartholomew
GME(1):	Miss Munro
GME(2):	Vacant - this post continues to be advertised
CCR:	Mrs Buchan
ASNT:	Mr McAlonan
PSAs:	Mrs Elder, Miss Farquhar, Mrs McIntosh, Mrs Page, Mrs O'Kane, Mrs Sinclair, Mrs Wares

UNIFORM

As you are aware, we encourage the wearing of school uniform at Mount Pleasant to promote a positive school ethos. The school colours are black and yellow and the school uniform is as follows:

**School sweatshirt, hooded sweatshirt and polo shirt,
Black/dark grey trousers or skirt**

Please ensure that all clothing and shoes are named to ensure their return to their owners should they become misplaced.

HOUSE CAPTAIN ELECTIONS

This year we are holding interviews along with a whole school election to appoint our House Captains. I am looking forward to announcing the results on Friday 8 September at Hymn Practice.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

We are planning to hold a coffee morning on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support on Thursday 28th September and would be extremely grateful if you would be able to support us by providing some baking. Homemade or shop bought would be absolutely fantastic. A note will go home with children nearer to the date.

SCHOOL FAYRE

Our Parent Council ran our annual School Fayre on Friday 1st September. They made an amazing £800. A massive thank you to everyone who managed along to the fayre and to everyone who donated towards the raffle, tombola, bottle and baking stalls.

We are always looking for new faces to help our Parent Council. It would be fantastic if you would consider giving a little of your time (and of course your fab ideas) to your Parent Council. We discuss matters that affect all the children attending Mount Pleasant Primary School. Recently we have been looking at the Safer Routes to School Project, we raise money towards school trips by running the Bonus Ball Fundraiser, we run the Annual School Fayre and Santa's Grotto which helps toward the cost of resources for the children.

Our next planned meetings are:

Tuesday 12th September

Wednesday 4th October

Tuesday 7th November

Tuesday 9th January

Meetings generally take place in the music room around 7.00pm. It would be great if you would manage along to one or more of these - if you can't manage but have any ideas or feedback please contact any member of our Parent Council.

ABSENCES

All absences should be reported to the school office by 9.30am. The best way of doing telling us that your child will not be in school or nursery is to leave a message noting your child's name, class, date and reason for absence on our

SCHOOL'S ABSENCE MESSAGE LINE 01847 896030

The benefit of using this system is that you do not have to wait until the school opens to leave a message and as the school receives a high volume of incoming calls at the start of each day you will no longer have to keep phoning because the line is busy. We would prefer that Class Dojo is not used for reporting absences.

SCHOOL INSPECTION RESULTS

The Inspection findings have now been published on the Education Scotland Website. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did.

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland/5101425>

HAVE YOU GOT GREEN FINGERS?

We are having our annual Nature Garden Tidy Up on Sunday 17th September from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Many hands make light work so they say so if you would be able to spare a wee bit of time to help with some gardening that would be fantastic. Please bring some gardening gloves and a pair of secateurs if you have them. Refreshments will be provided at half time 😊

CAR PARKING

Parents are requested **not** to use the staff and visitors car park at the front of the school as a drop off point for children. This area is extremely busy during the day with disabled transport and HGV deliveries. Children are not permitted to cross the car park or the turning area used by the Enhanced Provision transport. Parents should use the parking area on the opposite side of Castletown Road in Castle Terrace and the children cross at the Crossing Patrol.

CHANGE OF INSET DAYS

The September Inset days are Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th September - the school will be closed to pupils on these days. This is a change to the original Highland Council calendar and we apologise for any inconvenience that this has caused.

JUNIOR ORCHESTRA

The Caithness Junior Orchestra is a group of musicians aged 8-18 who meet weekly to play together. There are no auditions - all children who take instrumental lessons (either at school or privately) on an orchestral instrument (strings, brass or woodwind) can join in the fun. We are always pleased to see new members, and beginner players on violin, viola and 'cello are particularly welcome at this time. Rehearsals are weekly: 4-5pm on Mondays, at Mount Pleasant Primary School, Thurso. For a membership form and more details, visit www.caithnessmusic.com or ring Katrina on 01847 893517

FREE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE SURVEY

The Scottish Government is planning to nearly double the hours of free early learning and childcare by 2020. The views of parents and carers are crucial for the success of this expansion therefore Government has commissioned independent researchers to undertake a survey of parents of 0-5 year olds in our community. It would be great if as many parents who fall into this category would complete this survey by visiting www.bit.ly/elc-survey All parents taking part will have the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw and have the chance to win one of 10 x £100 cash prizes.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 12 th September	Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm
Sunday 17 th September	Nature Garden Tidy Up from 10.00 am to 12 noon
Mon 18 th & Tue 19 th September	INSET DAYS - School closed to pupils
Thursday 28 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Tuesday 3 rd October	Individual and Family Photographs
Wednesday 4 th October	Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm
Friday 6 th October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 23 rd October	Back to school! 9.00am start
Tue 7 th to Thu 9 th November	Childsmile Tooth Varnishing
Thursday 9 th November	Parents' Night
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need
Friday 1 st December	Christmas Fayre Evening Event
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas Show
Friday 22 nd December	Last day of Term 2
Monday 8 th January	Back to school - 9.00am start

SCHOOL TERM DATES - Highland Council have now published all the school term dates including public holidays and in service dates up to 2018. These can be found by visiting

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates