

MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017

MANAGEMENT TEAM

We are pleased to announce that our new permanent management team is now in place.

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| Head Teacher | Mrs Suzanne Urquhart |
| Depute Head Teacher | Mrs Christine Firth |
| Principal Teachers | Mrs Jennifer Gordon and Mrs Laura MacDonald |

NATURE GARDEN CLEAN UP

A big thank you to all those who participated in our annual Nature Garden Clean Up on Sunday 17th September. We were delighted to have the Coop staff join us in our endeavours for the third year running. It was great to see everyone working together to tidy up for the winter months and prepare the garden for spring growth.



PATH OPENING

Mount Pleasant School rounded off their 50th Birthday year with the grand opening of their new path around the playing fields. The quarter of a mile long path was the vision of the Head Teacher Suzanne Urquhart who was keen to make the school grounds fully accessible to all pupils. It is used as part of the school's Early Energiser program which aims to start the day with an invigorating healthy activity. The school now has plans further develop the areas around the path as sensory gardens and are in the process of commissioning the installation of a large outdoor xylophone.

This project has been a year in the planning and was completed by GMR Henderson. It was made possible by the generous funding of £10000 from Tesco's Bags of Help, £5000 from The Baillie Windfarm Community Benefit Fund and £3000 from The Raddery Trust. Both Tesco's Bags of Help and Baillie Windfarm Community Benefit Fund are very keen to hear from local groups, clubs or societies who have projects they feel would benefit from their funding.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

What a fabulous turn out we had for our fundraising coffee morning on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support. It was absolutely lovely to see so many of our pupils' family and friends come along to support this event. Huge congratulations to our FLAG pupils who organised and ran our coffee morning and thank you to everyone who donated biscuits, cakes and home baking. We are delighted to tell you that together we made £556.76.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our family and individual photographs were taken on Tuesday 3rd October - the proofs for these will go home with pupils on Monday 23rd October. Orders should be returned to the office by Monday 30th October.

SAFE STRONG AND FREE ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOPS

Shelley Cowie from Safe, Strong and Free has visited P4-7 and delivered Anti-Bullying workshops over the last fortnight. The pupils enjoyed her visits and created their own Anti-Bullying posters to display in their classes and the school.

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2017

Again this year, Primary 2 are organising the sorting and collection of simple gifts to be sent to children, teenagers, adults and the elderly in parts of Eastern Europe and Asia, who will not otherwise receive any gifts this Christmas. Many of the recommended shoebox gifts are things that we consider essentials, such as toothbrush, toothpaste, hat, scarf, gloves and toiletries, but these are luxuries to the grateful recipients, who can't believe that someone on the other side of the world cares enough to send a stranger these precious gifts. If you would like to spread the joy this Christmas, then your child has brought home a shoebox appeal leaflet with instructions on what kind of new items to put into the boxes. **Please return all filled shoeboxes to school by Friday 10th November.** If you are not able to fill a whole shoebox but would still like to contribute to the Appeal, then **please bring loose, new items from the suggested list to school by Friday 3rd November** and we will make them up into shoeboxes. If you have spare, empty shoeboxes then these would also be appreciated. Thank you for your support each year that brings joy to so many! Primary 2

NEW ROAD CROSSING PATROLLER

Audrey Mulgrew is our new Road Crossing Patroller and has recently started in this post. From next term we will be able to have a manned crossing at lunch times again. We are aware that the entrance and exit to the school has started to become quite congested with adults waiting to collect children from school. It would help the pupils greatly if, where possible, you wait across the road in the Castle Terrace Car Park. If you intend to collect your child and remain on this side of the road then please keep to the left of the gate. This will allow the children a safer route out of school. Thank you for your help in maintaining the safety of our school body.

REPORTING ABSENCES - PLEASE DO NOT USE CLASS DOJO

We would be very grateful if you would not use ClassDojo to directly report an absence to the class teacher as this is causing some confusion. 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.

HOUSE CAPTAIN ELECTIONS

Following the selection process we are pleased to announce the House Captains of 2017/18.

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| HARALD | Nadia Murray | Kieran Macgregor |
| SINCLAIR | Louisa Donn | Megan Miller |
| THOR | Kayleigh Henderson | Bernadette Nicol |

Miss Bartholomew and Miss Wood are looking forward to working with you all in this coming year to develop the House Captain role.

INTRODUCING OUR 2017 COMMITTEES

Pupil Council

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|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Darryl Wilson | Brooke Body | James Colquhoun |
| Geena Hossack | Mya Greig | Jed Armitage |
| Ella Shearer | Owen Donn | Liam Mackinnon |

Working alongside the pupil representatives this session will be Mrs Urquhart, Mrs McNicol and Mrs Boulton.

Eco-Committee

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|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Matthew Knapman | Alana Farquhar | Chloe Duffy |
| Bruin Gunn | Lois King | Scott McDonald |
| Maree Ford | Shaw McIntosh | Conor Macgruer |

The staff representatives are Mrs Gordon and Mr Harper.

FLAG - Food for Life Action Group

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|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Matthew Laird | Fern Strachan | John Hooker |
| Chase Allan | Bethan Wood | Jack McNab |
| Emma Cannop | Ross Smith | Nicole Murray |

Mrs Geddes and Miss Munro are the staff representatives.

JRSO - Junior Road Safety Officers

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|-----------------|-------------|
| Kelsey Norquay | Craig Cowie |
| Rebecca Cormack | Rochie Rae |

Mrs Firth will be working alongside the pupils.

PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who kindly supported our recent School Fayre. We are delighted to say that we raised a phenomenal £909!! The next event will be our Christmas Fayre on Friday 1st December at 6.30pm in the main hall.

OLD STYLE POUND COINS

From next term we will be unable to accept old style pound coins. Please ensure that when paying for school meals, uniforms or collections that you do not use these.

HALLOWEEN

Children and staff are invited to dress up for Halloween on **Tuesday 31st October** if they wish. As term 3 is always a busy term for fund raising we have decided that this event will be entirely free and just for fun! We would be grateful if children did not wear morph suits and have any weaponry with them. Please also be mindful that some of the younger children may be scared of masks. Thank you.



ADVERSE WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES

From time to time it may be necessary to close the School and/or Nursery. This would usually only happen if the heating should fail or in severe weather conditions when it may be unsafe for pupils or staff to attend. Three methods of informing parents of school closures are:



- By visiting the Highland Council winter weather website: www.winter.highlandschools.org.uk
- Tuning into Moray Firth Radio (97.4, 96.6, 96.7, 102.5, 102.8FM) who regularly provide updates of school closures.
- Phoning the Schools Information Line 0800 564 2272 and entering the school's pin number 04 2640.
Select "Severe Weather"

The decision as to whether a pupil should attempt to travel to school in adverse weather conditions, whether by transport or by foot, lies with the parent. You are encouraged to read the Education Authority policy guidelines on travelling to school in adverse weather conditions. This policy can be found by visiting www.highland.gov.uk

NURSERY SPONSORED WALK

On 27th September 31 of our nursery pupils set out in the blustery weather to complete their sponsored walk for nursery funds. So far they have raised a phenomenal £1003 - well done ☺

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note that Monday after school football with Mr Harper has now finished and will be replaced by his homework club.

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 23 rd October | Back to school! |
| Monday 23 rd October | After school Homework Club starts with Mr Harper |
| Tuesday 31 st October | Halloween dress up day ☺ |
| Tuesday 7 th November | Parent Council Meeting |
| Thursday 9 th November | Parents' Night |
| Friday 10 th November | Blythswood shoeboxes - last day for collection in school |
| Week of 13 th November | Anti-Bullying Week |
| Tuesday 14 th November | Drumfun workshops for all classes - new xylophone arrives |
| Friday 17 th November | Children in Need fundraiser - more info to follow |
| Friday 1 st December | Christmas Jumper Day for Thurso Town Improvements |
| Friday 1 st December | Santa's Grotto and Craft Fayre - 6.30pm in Main Hall |
| Tuesday 12 th December | Christmas Show - Afternoon and evening performances |
| Thursday 14 th December | Whole School Christmas Lunch |
| Week of 18 th December | PARTY WEEK ☺ |
| Friday 22 nd December | Last day of school before Christmas |
| Monday 8 th January | Back to school! |

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