



Mount Pleasant Primary School Parent Newsletter Issue 58 - December 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

What an exciting and joyful half term it has been, especially with the wonderful build-up to Christmas and the end of term festivities!

Firstly, I am delighted to share the success of our very first on-site swimming pop-up pool. Year 6 pupils have been enjoying daily swimming lessons right here at school, working hard to meet the national swimming objectives. Their progress has been outstanding, surpassing the achievements of previous year groups. Additionally, Years 3 and 4 had the opportunity to participate in paid after-school swimming fun sessions, which were met with great enthusiasm.

The children fully engaged with their lessons and were genuinely sad to see the pool leave. I am frequently asked when it will return—so please watch this space!



Our younger pupils were equally, if not more, thrilled by a special visit from real-life reindeer in our Woodland Area—a magical treat for both children and staff alike. Continuing with the festive spirit, Reception performed a truly wonderful Nativity play. Their flawless singing, acting, and memorisation of lines made it a heartwarming and proud moment for all their parents.

The week was further brightened by Christmas dinner, festive parties, a pantomime performance, and a special visit from Kirklees Musica. It has been a delightful and joyous time for everyone.



Amidst all these celebrations, I am very pleased to confirm our official Key Stage 2 SATs results. Our pupils have performed above the national averages in many areas, as detailed in the table below. We are equally proud of Year 1, who achieved an impressive 90% phonics score compared to the national average of 80%. Thank you to all our families for your continued support, which plays a vital role in these outstanding outcomes year after year.

Subject	Standard	School	National
Reading	Expected standard	77%	76%
	High standard	31%	33%
Writing	Expected standard	77%	73%
	High standard	8%	13%
Maths	Expected standard	86%	74%
	High standard	26%	18%
Grammar, spelling and Punctuation	Expected standard	77%	73%
	High standard	32%	30%
Reading, Writing and Maths combined	Expected	65%	62%
	High standard	7%	8%

To those celebrating Christmas, I wish you a wonderful time with your family and friends. For everyone else, I hope you enjoy a restful and happy holiday. We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school on Monday, 5 January 2026.

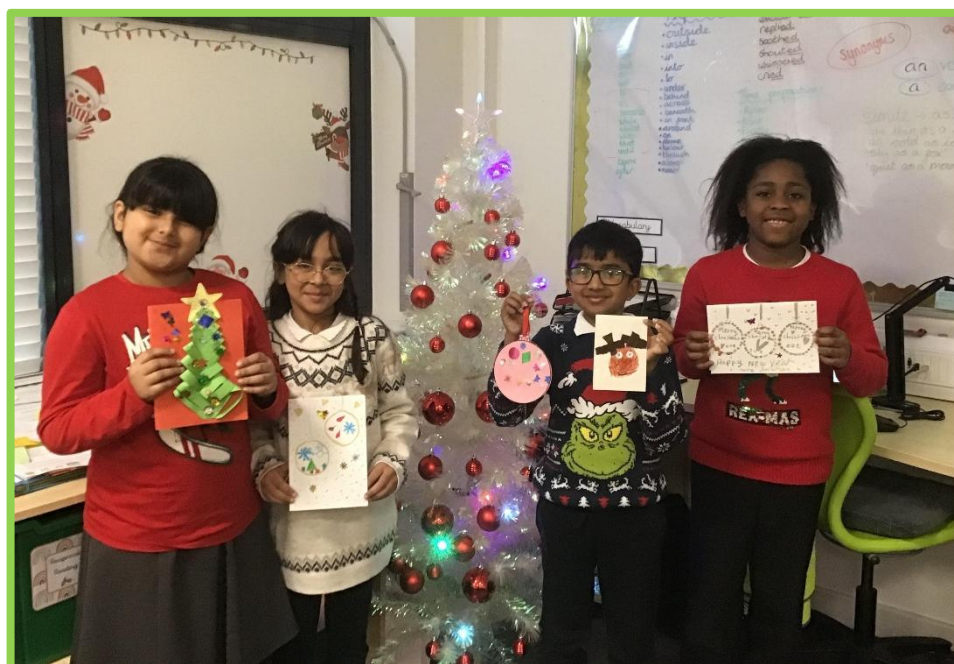
Yours faithfully,
Mrs N Nazir
Headteacher

Spreading Christmas Cheer in RE

This half term in RE, children across KS1 and KS2 truly got into the Christmas spirit by taking part in the 'Be a Santa' campaign. As part of this initiative, pupils created beautiful Christmas cards for elderly members of our community, helping to spread joy and kindness during the festive season.

Each handmade card was paired with a festive activity booklet, kindly put together by *Home Instead*, and delivered to older people who might otherwise feel lonely at Christmas. The idea is simple but powerful — a small act of kindness that can make a big difference.

Altogether, we hope our children have helped to bring smiles to **270 people** this Christmas. We are incredibly proud of the compassion, thoughtfulness and generosity they showed through this project.



Memorable Experiences

Nursery & Reception



We finished the year with some exciting visitors. We cooked up some tasty reindeer buns and then went to see some real-life reindeer. We learnt that they grow their antlers back every year and they grow bigger each time. We found out what they like to eat and talked about where they live. The children had a fantastic time.

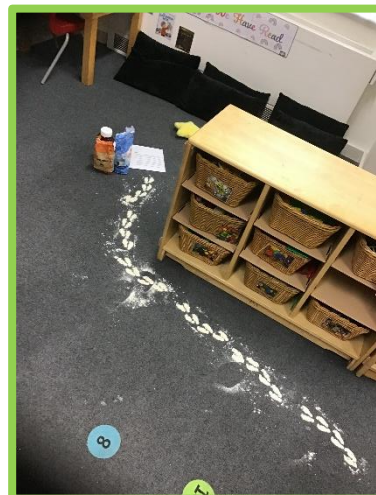


Reception



We have been super busy in reception this term. We started by discovering some mysterious muddy footprints in our playground and followed them to find some clues left by our special visitor. We later discovered that there was a Gruffalo wandering around school looking for his lost woodland friends. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting him on a few occasions that week and then helped him to find his friends and finished our topic with a Gruffalo party.

The Gruffalo must have told his friends about how fun reception is because the next week we found some floury tracks in our classroom and on checking the CCTV we found out that there was a Gingerbread man and a pack



of gingerbread creatures roaming the halls during the night.



He left us his special story book and we learnt all about him.



We finished the term learning all about the Christmas Story and gave an amazing performance to our friends in school and all our families. The children may only be 4 and 5 years old but they made us incredibly proud and worked so hard to learn their lines and 6 songs!



Year 1



All the children in Year 1 are now proud members of Kirklees libraries. Our visitors from the Huddersfield library brought our new library cards and told us all about all the libraries in Kirklees and what we can do when we visit one of them.



They shared a very funny story with us and created a pop-up library in school for us to visit with our grownups. We were able to borrow one of their books.

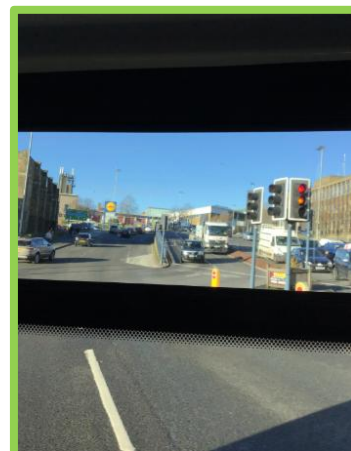


Year 2

Year 2 Geography Adventure

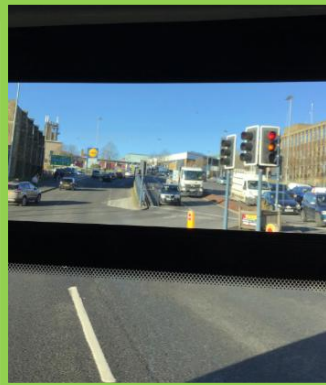
Year 2 had a wonderful time riding on the minibus for our geography trip around Huddersfield. The children took clipboards with them and looked carefully for different human and physical features in our local area.

We spotted lots of houses, shops, schools and places of worship as we travelled through the town. Then we stopped at Castle Hill, where the children were amazed by the beautiful countryside all around us. The views were so wide and clear that some of the children said it would have been the perfect place to fly a kite!





On our way back to school, we also passed Honley train station, the River Holme, and even went under one of the arches of the viaduct. It was a fantastic day of learning and exploring!



Year 2 Christmas Celebrations

Year 2 have been spreading Yuletide cheer this week as they sang Christmas songs and played the hand-chimes to festive pieces for parents and children across the school. They worked very hard with our music teacher from Kirklees, Mr Barrons, to learn all the melodies, actions and hand-chime parts. We are incredibly proud of their wonderful performances. The children also helped to create a fantastic Christmas fair for families to enjoy. Thank you so much for supporting us and sharing in our celebrations!





Year 3

This half term, Year 3 took part in an exciting Interfaith Day alongside more than 80 other classes from our local area. The children explored three different religions through the theme of "Sacred Words." They created their own scrolls inspired by the Torah; designed Islamic-pattern bookmarks influenced by traditional



Islamic art and took part in a calming meditation session on the sound "aum."



Afterwards, they experimented with the glockenspiels to create their own peaceful sound. They even joined a live Zoom Q&A with representatives from each faith and loved waving to the children from all the other schools. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn, create, and connect while celebrating the richness of different faith traditions.



Year 4



Year 4 had a visit from a Viking at the beginning of this half term. We learned all about Viking weapons and how the Vikings invaded England.



Everyone had a brilliant day.

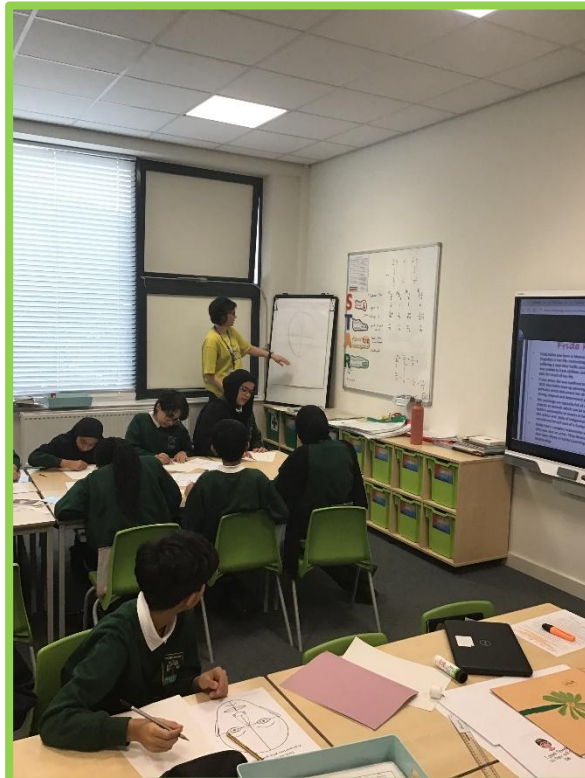
Year 5

Year 5 were exploring why our diets are different by looking at foods that are eaten in Mediterranean countries. So far, we have made flatbreads with garlic butter and Smorre bread which is an open sandwich!



Year 6

We were thrilled to welcome artist Jane Middleton to our school this week! The children spent the day researching Frida Kahlo's life and work, creating a timeline to understand her artistic journey and the influences behind her unique style. During Jane's workshop, the students used this knowledge to design their own self-portraits inspired by Kahlo's vibrant colours and symbolic elements. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to combine research, creativity, and self-expression, resulting in some truly stunning artwork.



KS1 and KS2 Cinema trips



Both KS1 and KS2 were really lucky to receive free cinema tickets for the films Kensuke's Kingdom; Harold and the Purple Crayon; The Bad Guys 2, and The Sloth Lane. It was very difficult to decide which children to take, therefore teachers nominated children who were demonstrating exceptional behaviour or who had 100% attendance. There were obviously more children than places available, so we made a random draw. These children had a wonderful time.



For some it was their first visit to the cinema. They represented our school

impeccably and were a credit to themselves and their parents and carers. We hope to get more tickets in the future so we can take more well-deserving children on this exciting experience.



School Council

Our new School Councillors have officially been selected and have begun their new roles brilliantly. The School Council meet weekly to discuss important issues within school, such as changes to the lunch menu and ideas for future clubs. They have been busy so far this year with various tasks:



Remembrance Day: They sold poppies and slap-bands for the Huddersfield Poppy Appeal 2025 and raised an amazing **£191.46** for veteran's charities.



The Huddersfield Lions Club very kindly donated a Christmas Hamper to the school so that we could raffle it off to pupils, parents and staff to raise money for the school fund so that we can afford extra treats for the children.

The School Councillors have been selling the raffle tickets and have raised **£132**

The winner of the raffle was Mrs Dyson. She shared it with all the children in 1A.

The councillors were also excited to be invited to the Town Hall to meet the Mayor of Kirklees, Elizabeth Smaje. The pupils were brilliant ambassadors for the school, displaying excellent behaviour and asking the Mayor some very thoughtful questions. We learned all about how to become a mayor, more about what the job entails and Menudi (6A) even got the chance to wear some mayoral robes!





Notes from the Office

- The vast majority of parents have activated their Parentpay account, but there are still a few parents who haven't. Parentpay is not only used to pay for school dinners, but also to pay for school trips and visits. If you need your Parentpay log in details or if you need help to activate your account, please call into the School Office and we will help you to get this set up.
- If you are not receiving Ping messages from school, please contact the school office so we can help you get this set up on your phone. We don't want any parent to miss out on information about school events and important notices.
- **Please see the term dates on the next page.**



Term Dates Academic Year 2025 - 2026

Can parents please take note of the term times below and only book holidays in the school holiday periods.

Monday 5th January	Children return to school for Spring Term.
Friday 13th February	Last day in school. School closes for half term holiday.
Monday 23rd February	Children return to school.
Friday 20th March	INSET Day.
Friday 27th March	Last day in school. School closes for Easter holidays.
Monday 13th April	Children return to school.
Monday 4th May	May Day Bank Holiday.
Friday 22nd May	Last day in school. School closes for May half term holidays.
Monday 1st June	Children return to school.
Friday 17th July	Last day in school. School closes for Summer holidays.