



# Our Newsletter

## December 2014



**Vision: Making a difference today, for tomorrow**

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, what a term; we have all been incredibly busy at Mountjoy! Not only have pupils been working hard in lessons and progressing well, but they have also been out and about celebrating Christmas in the community. That is without Halloween discos and charity fundraising events that happened earlier this term.

We have attended and taken part in carol concerts, alongside St Mary's and Beaminster School, played our bells across the county, had Christmas meals and parties, been visited by someone very special and performed Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - Gene Wilder has nothing on us!

We have another very busy term ahead of us with Maple visiting Magdalen Farm, Acorns continuing with riding and visiting the donkey sanctuary, Cedar learning in the community, and Willow and Maple having some horse riding taster sessions. Also, we have our Health Week, which, this year, will include a pedal power smoothie maker...

Unfortunately, this term has seemed to bring its fair share of bugs, coughs and sneezes, and other unpleasant conditions. With that in mind, please all - pupils and staff - have a lovely rest over the festive period, coming back revitalised to face all the challenges that 2015 will bring.

I hope you have a truly wonderful Christmas and a peaceful and harmonious new year.

Happy Christmas.

*Jackie Shanks, Head Teacher*

### Curriculum

A fantastic and exciting topic this term - 'CHOCOLATE'. All pupils and staff have enjoyed exploring, learning about and tasting chocolate throughout the term. We all enjoyed a fabulous finale of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. A huge well done to everyone involved, and a huge thank you to the hard work and dedication of the staff. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas. We are all looking forward to our new topic of 'SPACE' in the spring term.

*Helen Farnell, Deputy Headteacher*

### Mountjoy's Got Talent

*Date: 11 November 2014*  
*Time: 1.45 pm*  
*Venue: Mountjoy School Hall*  
*Activity: Mountjoy Talent Show & Auditions*  
*Expectation: High*  
*The Judges: Helen, Harry and Jackie*

There are simply not enough wows to sum up this utterly extraordinary afternoon!

As judges, we were amazed by the sheer breadth and variety of talent on show. Judging this was almost an impossibility. However, parts had to be chosen and the play re-written to incorporate the flair and skill our pupils have.

I definitely cannot do justice to all participants in this afternoon extravaganza, but I am compelled to mention a few ...

**Phoenix:** for his wiggling, wriggling and jiggling dance.

**Jack:** for his clear distinct pronunciation.

**Henry:** for his beautiful song.

**Elliot:** for his puzzling riddles.

## Willow

**Jake W:** for his hilarious jokes.  
**Corey and Megan:** for their confidence.  
**Bart and Ashley:** for their impromptu comedy sketch.  
**Connor:** for his stamping.  
**All of the Oompah Loompas** for their great dancing.

As judges, we congratulate everyone who took part. You were all brilliant and we have to admit to having enjoyed ourselves immensely and have not laughed so much or so hard for a long time - to the point where Helen was actually asked why she had turned so red!

Thanks to everyone who made this afternoon so special.

*The Judges*

## Acorns

Acorns have had a fantastic term, settling in really quickly to the new set up and welcoming all the new children to the group. We have had lots of fun and made lots of mess.

Two weeks ago, we went to the Donkey Sanctuary, where we were very lucky to have a cart ride and saw Father Christmas. The Christmas decorations were fantastic, and the children loved it.

Thank you all for a great term and I hope you all have a great Christmas

*Natalie and Acorns Team*



This term, Willow class have enjoyed the chocolate topic. We have been looking at Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in literacy, and in drama and dance for the school production, which we hope you all enjoyed. In science, we have looked at hot and cold and the difference temperature makes to different materials, and we all have enjoyed exploring the materials.

In History, we split the class for War of the Roses and re-enacted the war of the House of Lancaster and the House of York to win the rights to the castle. Also, we learnt a Tudor dance and made a Tudor pudding for snack. As you can see, we have had a busy term in Willow.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you all in 2015 for another year of fun learning.

*Sue and Willow Team*



## Maple

We have settled well into our new classroom and it's looking very festive at the moment. All the children are very proud of their Christmas contributions.

We have enjoyed our topic on Chocolate this term and have made a Christmas spectacular as our

finale. I hope they manage to take them home in one piece!

Next term's topic will be Space and we are hoping a local artist will visit us with some good ideas and leave us with many displays around the school.

Inclusion continues and will be developed for next term. It is a great opportunity for our pupils to socialise with their mainstream peers and provides a platform for confidence building and independence.

Next term we are returning to Magdalen Farm, which is a great experience. Those who have not been before will enjoy looking after the animals, collecting and sorting eggs, looking at the environment and being outside in all weathers. We have also been invited to use the facilities of a new riding school every week in Crewkerne. We have lots to look forward to next term. Old clothes, wellies and waterproofs will come in very useful.

Maple Class would like to wish everyone a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Bev and Maple Team*

## Cedar

We have all really enjoyed our learning about Chocolate this term through our sensory story - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We found out about each character and what happens to them in the story.

We made Wonka Bars in Art, lollipops and chocolate cakes out of papier mache. Unfortunately, we couldn't eat any of it - but it still looked good! We loved making and decorating our own chocolates when the Bridport Chocolatier visited and they tasted great.

We've had lots of fun in PE using hand held apparatus and following instructions.

In music, we listen to different kinds of music and can show what we like or dislike. We play instruments together and can play loudly and quietly (mostly loudly!).

We all work hard in our maths lessons, through a sensory approach where needed, and some of us are working with numbers up to 100.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

*Richard, Tracey and Cedar Team*

***We sadly say goodbye to Rob, who leaves us at the end of term, and wish him all the best for the future.***

## Oak

Hello everyone. Well, it's nearly Christmas and this half-term seems to have shot by. The boys have been very busy as usual, really developing their independent skills and those that help them work together.

We've come to the end of our current work placement at the Magdalen Project and have waved off some of the pigs we've been looking after to the butchers. It's been very important to understand just why the pigs are raised there. We also made a couple of great benches that are now out on the farm. It's lovely to think that many people will rest upon the benches we made. We are lucky to be going there again for a wintry residential in January.

As we've approached Christmas, much of our time has been geared towards the production of Charlie and the Chocolate factory. Rehearsals have gone well and everyone has joined in, either on stage or helping to make props and scenery.

We've also made some decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival at the United Reform Church in Bridport. We continued our Fair Trade theme for this.

We hope you all have a great holiday break and wish the season's greetings to all.

*Hillie, Julie and Kevin - Oak Team*





## Family Liaison

Sandra.Hutchings @mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk

## School Council

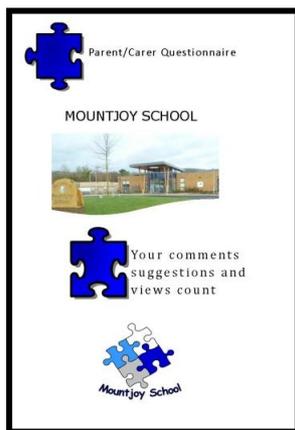
The School Council have had a busy start to this academic year. They are starting to look at the school outside area development, and have decided on the first stage being the play ground markings. They have got all the classes to include what they would like to add to the project, and will now look at formalising the final plan for the tarmacked areas.

We have also been asked to help on the next stage of the West Bay park and a few council members attended a meeting with the town council group who are working on a new stage of the park.

A few members also decorated the tree at the United Church Tree Festival, which looked stunning.

We look forward to helping the school improve and move forward in 2015.

*Ashley Poole (Chair) and Taryn (Co-ordinator)*



I know most of you are really busy this time of year so thank you to all of you who have filled in the parent/carer questionnaire I sent out. This really is your chance to have your say so please could you fill them in and return to the school. If you need a copy, please contact

the school and we can send another one out to you. I need them returned by the middle of January, and I will remind you again when we return next term. So, if you haven't done so already, please please fill them in.

The first coffee morning will be on Monday, 12 January 2014 at the Bridport Children's Centre, so please come along.

I hope you all have a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

*Sandra Hutchings (FLO)*

## Dates to Remember

Tuesday, 6 January 2015	Pupils return to school
Monday, 12 January	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning at Bridport Children's Centre 9.30 am - 12.00 pm
Monday, 19 January - Wednesday, 21 January	Oak Class Residential Visit to Magdalen Farm
Thursday, 22 January	Friends of Mountjoy Special School (FOMSS) Annual General Meeting at Mountjoy School at 9.30 am
Tuesday, 3 February	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning at Poundbury Dorchester 9.30 am - 12.00 pm
Thursday, 5 February	School Photographer coming to Mountjoy
Friday, 13 February	Last day of term
Monday, 16 February - Friday 20 February	Half term week
Monday, 23 February	Pupils return to school
Thursday, 5 March	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning at Mountjoy School 9.30 am - 12.00 pm