



Mountjoy School Newsletter



Well, despite being an incredibly short term, it has certainly been an eventful one!

Firstly, huge congratulations to pupils, staff, parents and Governors for the excellent recognition they gained from Ofsted. We were fortunate to have highly skilled and experienced inspectors who recognised the outstanding behaviours and attitudes of our pupils. They also valued the work that everyone has put in place and were complimentary about the journey we are all now on towards outstanding.

It would be, I feel, wrong to pick out individual staff for celebration here, but I am aware and grateful to those that went over and above; not for the first time and, therefore, ensuring that the school was seen in the best possible light. I feel really quite humbled that some staff worked through the night to guarantee that the right outcome was gained for Mountjoy. To those staff, a very special thank you.

We have also had fantastic celebrations for Chinese New Year, with staff, Governors and volunteers all contributing to making this event very special. Freshwater Dance Festival has taken place, with our pupils once again confidently strutting their stuff! Horse riding, café visits, Magdalen and work experience has all continued.

Alongside this, some of our older pupils took part in the first of two residential trips to Magdalen Farm, and by all accounts, had an absolute storm there! Residential trips planned for the summer term include the second stay at Magdalen Farm and the festivity that marks the Freshwater experience!

You may have noticed that we are in the process of developing our outside areas. This has been somewhat hampered by the rain and our storyteller's area does resemble a scene from Arthurian legend at this time, but, with the summer on its way and, therefore, the good weather guaranteed (I am nothing if not optimistic), we will soon be in a position to use this area. Plans are also in place for a horticultural area, further playground markings and a sensory trail. Special thanks here to the Friends.

Rumble, our wonder horse, has proved to be very popular and I am glad to report is well exercised on a regular basis. Again, thank you Friends.

The curriculum focus has been on clothes and I have been presented with some lovely work, which includes films about Oak doing fashion in a day, Maple writing about their admiration for the costumes of Charles 2nd and Ash making clothes from recycled materials.

So, once again, thank you for the great support you give to the school. Have a safe and happy holiday, and enjoy the good weather that awaits us!

Kind regards

Jackie - Head Teacher

Acorns

It's been a fun-filled, action packed term in Acorns.

We have been out and about a lot, exploring our local area and having loads of fun at parks and playgrounds. Our topic, 'clothes,' has been a great way to explore what we wear, what we need to put on for different types of weather and how to put on and take off our shoes and welly boots. We have needed our wellies A LOT this term, but the rain hasn't stopped us going outside, squelching in the mud and splashing in the puddles.

We have celebrated some interesting festivals this term too!, with a fun-filled oriental experience for Chinese New Year, lots of green sensory play and shamrocks for St Patrick's Day and a creative packed Easter Eggs-travaganza for the final week of term!

We are very excited about the up-coming summer term! Hopefully, the weather will be kind to us and allow us to explore our beautiful coast as part of the 'Jurassic Coast' topic. We have lots planned from dinosaur egg making to fish and chips on the beach!

Have a wonderful holiday and we will see you next term!

Emma and Acorns Team

Willow

Hello and welcome to Spring; we hope it comes quickly! Some of Willow class have started their weekly visits to Magdalen Farm; it's been a little cold and wet, but this hasn't stopped our busy Mondays. We usually start with pig and chicken feeding, then move on to another activity, which includes nature walks, gardening, horse care, etc. We have enjoyed the farm so far and look forward to some sunny weather.

Many of our pupils have been horse riding this term and they are progressing well in their riding.

In Literacy, we have looked at 'The Smartest Giant in Town' story book, and we have all agreed it is a great story.

Maths has moved on to length this term, so please look at long and short at home and any types of measuring lengths around the house.

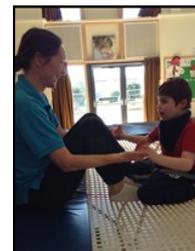
Thursdays is PE day and we have been doing ball skills and rebound therapy. Both groups have enjoyed their lessons. The rebound therapy group are getting a lot from the sessions run by the Action Van .

In D&T, the class have made their own slippers to tie in with the school topic of clothes. This has been led by the new Willow TA, who has joined us this term.

We joined other schools in the Beaminster Pyramid at the annual Dance Festival held at Freshwater. The group made their own masks, and performed a dance to 'The lion sleeps tonight'. It was enjoyed by all.

We hope you have a very Happy Easter.

Sue and Willow Team



Maple

Maple Class have been working hard this term. We have been learning all about Kings and Queens through the ages and have laughed at some of the clothes they wore. Did you know that boys wore dresses until they were about 8? None of the boys in class think it is a very good idea at all!!! They also thought it would be very funny if Bev and Davina came to school wearing what the Victorian ladies had to wear.

In Science, we have been learning all about changing the properties of materials and have just started to test this by cooking. We have made some simple snacks on toast, which we could practise making at home.

Every week, we have been going to Magdalen Farm and this will continue into the new term. We are learning how to look after the animals, collect and count eggs and have been involved in making simple benches out of wood.

This term, we celebrated Chinese New Year and enjoyed sampling Chinese food. We took part in a dragon parade, which was also fun. We were also involved in a variety of activities for Sport Relief.

Next term, we are hoping to start some horticulture, growing different vegetables in pots and trays. We will use whatever is successful so the children can follow the growth from seed to table.

Bev and Maple Team

***Sadly, Kevin will be leaving us at the end of this term.
We wish him all the best in his new job.***

Cedar

What a great term!

Cedar class have enjoyed our "clothes" topic, particularly our serialised story "Alice in Wonderland", and all the sensory opportunities it gave us.

We have also enjoyed exploring different materials (fabric, wood, metal, plastic, liquids) and their properties. We tried hammering nails into wood with Harry and playing with metals and magnets.

Next term, we are hoping for good weather to explore the "Jurassic Coast". We will be concentrating on dinosaurs within this topic and hope to explore the local area and its history. Let's see what we can find!

Cedar class wishes everyone a great Easter break!

Tracey and Cedar Team

Ash

At last some sunshine! Well, it's been a very busy and productive Spring Term.

In English, we have been following instructions and directions, learning about signs in our environment and writing instruction books on how to get dressed.

We continue to practise our maths skills and have focused on shape and money this term.

We have enjoyed learning about changes and properties of materials. We did a great experiment, testing the strength of paper, and visited a potter to see how clay changes from a malleable to a hard material through the process of firing.

Wonderful accomplishments for all our horse riding students, who grow in confidence and personal development.

In PE, we have been perfecting our gymnastic skills, and our 'arabesque' balances are truly amazing!

Richard and Ash Team

Oak

This term, has been just as busy as usual. Back in January we had a residential stay at Magdalen Farm along with Ash class. Apart from the animal care work there, we also went on a night walk and reprised the Bollywood dance around the campfire. Everyone also helped to put on little plays about the environment too. We had a great time.

Lots of work experience has taken place, including using the Ferne Animal Sanctuary shop in Bridport, Groves Garden Centre, Magdalen, school reception, Acorns class and working with Harry, the caretaker. We've also made Bee Hotels that will be sold at the Melplash Show later this year.

We've done some excellent fashion work and built in learning more about the size clothes we need. We had a great trip to Matalan to choose clothes and try them on.

We've tried to get out and about as much as possible, including using the 1022 from Beaminster to try bus passes.

Other activities include cycling, the leisure suite, shopping, cooking and ICT.

I think everyone is ready for a holiday now!

As you know, I'm off to pastures new(ish) at the end of term. Thanks for all the support you've given me while here, and I'll be sure to keep in touch with Mountjoy to see what everyone is getting up to.

Kevin and Oak Team

Family Liaison



Spring is coming..... I have called, visited and talked to many parents and met with some of you at coffee mornings. Of course, it's not compulsory, although it has proved to be a real chance to get to know some of you better and help me to understand what you need and offer support and advice when you need it. I am happy to come in the evening if you do not have time in the day.

I have also moved offices and am now in the centre of the school where I get to see more of the children who sometimes pop in on their way past. Please do come down and say hello if you are in school, I will try and get a kettle installed by Easter!!

CHANGE OF VENUE AND TIME - Coffee Morning - Friday, 15 April 2016

Please note there is a change of venue for the next coffee morning. As previously suggested by a parent and discussed, the next coffee morning will be at Furzeleigh Down Dairy, Furzeleigh Down Farm, Cooks Lane, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5SQ. The coffee morning will be from 11.00 am – 1.00 pm. There is a tea room and farm shop as well as homemade ice cream straight from the dairy. There is lots of outdoor space so come and try it, or visit during Easter.

Have a great holiday 

Sandra - (FLO) Family Liaison Officer

We still have a Parent Governor vacancy. If you are interested, please contact Vicky Reed (Clerk to Governors) for more information on 01935 891654 or clerk@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk

Friends of Mountjoy School (FOMS)

On Saturday, 19 March we held a Table Top Sale at St Mary's Church House in Bridport. It was a very successful morning and we made £165 profit.

Our Annual Summer Bonanza will be held on Saturday, 18 June and will take place at our school. More information will be available nearer the time.

We will be serving cream teas again at the Salt House, West Bay, on Sunday, 31 July. Time to be confirmed.

Jackie is currently running 50 half marathons in 50 days, raising money for Cancer Research and Friends of Mountjoy.

Cheryl – Chair of Friends of Mountjoy School (FOMS)

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Dates to Remember - 2016

Thursday, 24 March	Last day of term
Friday, 25 March - Friday, 8 April	Easter holidays
Monday, 11 April	Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils
Tuesday, 12 April	Pupils return to school
Friday, 15 April	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning - 11.00—1.00 pm Furzeleigh Down Farm, Axminster
Tuesday, 19 April	Parent/Carer Afternoon
Monday, 2 May	Bank Holiday - school closed
Tuesday, 3 May	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning - 9.30 am -12.00 pm Poundbury, Dorchester
Monday, 30 May - Friday, 3 June	Half term week
Monday, 6 June	Pupils return to school
Monday, 6 June - Friday, 10 June	Freshwater Residential Week classes to be confirmed
Friday, 10 June	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning - 9.30 am - 12.00 pm Mountjoy School - Community Room
Saturday, 18 June	FOMS Summer Fayre
Monday, 20 June	Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils
Monday, 27 June - Wednesday, 29 June	Magdalen Farm Residential Trip - classes to be confirmed
Tuesday, 5 July	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning - 9.30 am - 12.00 pm at Bridport Children's Centre
Wednesday, 20 July	Last day of term
Thursday, 1 September and Friday, 2 September	Staff Training Days
Monday, 5 September	Pupils return to school

Can we also politely request that wherever possible, dinner monies are paid in advance- it all becomes a bit tricky for us if there are several families that owe for the term.