



Newsletter – January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

It doesn't seem two minutes since we started back in school after the Christmas break and now, we are already into a new month – where did January go?

The children settled back into school routines quickly and there has been some EPIC behaviours and great work completed. I have given many Headteacher stickers out the last few weeks and it is always rewarding to see the pride children have in their achievements. Hopefully you will be able to attend the parent/teacher meetings on 13th & 15th February to look through your child's books and talk to their class teacher. If you need help with booking a time, please contact the school office.

This week it has been noticeable that our daylight hours has increased and gardens and hedgerows are beginning to show signs of new life. Taking time to notice and appreciate these small things can help with our well-being. We will be focussing on this next week when the children take part on activities linked to Children's Mental Health Week (5th – 11th February). This year's focus is My Voice Matter. We will be sending out Top Tips for Parents next week.

Thank you to all parents who have shown consideration when parking around the school site. Travelling to school actively e.g., walking, scooting, biking helps with children's physical activity and also helps to reduce environmental damage. If you do need to drive, please ensure you are not blocking children's crossing points, driveways or in areas that you are not allowed to park in.

Mrs Mock

Diary Dates

Samosa and Uniform Sale
Friday 9th February

*

Parent/Teacher Meetings
13th & 15th February

*

Half-Term Break

Monday 19th February to
Friday 23rd February

*

Thursday 21st March
Year 3 Assembly to Parents

Summer Fete announcement!

This year's Summer Fete will be on **Saturday 15th June** 1pm - 4pm.

Please put the date in your diary!

We are already contacting businesses to ask for raffle prize donations. If you run your own business, or work for an employer that might be able to donate a prize, then please get in touch. We're also keen to hear from any local businesses who might like to sponsor part of the event.

Email:

MountfieldsPSA@hotmail.co.uk,

Message:

Facebook (@MountfieldsPSA)

or leave a message at the school office.

Safer Internet Day Tuesday 6th February

Safer Internet Day takes place in February of each year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people.

Through assemblies and in our classes, we will be focussing on using the internet safely and securely with the children.

Look out of the letter that will be sent home with useful links for how you can support your child at home.

ECO Reps

The Eco-Reps have continued their work this year by ensuring our school grounds remain free of litter. This is an important part of our Eco Code as we want our school to provide safe habitats for animals.

The committee have been spreading awareness of the Eco Code with their classes and leading litter picks by following their safety guidelines.

House Point Totals

January

Beech	1106
Mulberry	1098
Sycamore	1043
Willow	1116

Well done to Willow this month's winners!



School Council

The School Council have been considering ways to help with parking. They have been considering what can we do to help parents. But also, what we can do to encourage parents to park safely and what we can do encourage more people to walk.



After the successful healthy snack campaign and excellent signage put up, the School Council have completed a Snack Audit for each of their classes. We have seen that there has been a slight improvement in healthy snacks but our work is in no way complete! We will need to revisit this in the future. Maybe some tasting and testing to find favourite healthy snacks?

EYFS

Our youngest children have been learning all about transport and transport in the past. Which animal do you think went up in a balloon first? Sheep, duck or chicken? Ask your children and see if they remember. As part of their work on hot air balloons, they thought about where in the world they would like to travel to which inspired our artwork 'World in a box'. We think they look fantastic!

EYFS are also looking forward to parents and carers coming in next week for Chinese New Year take away served by their children!



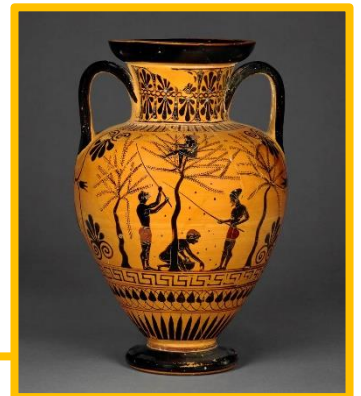
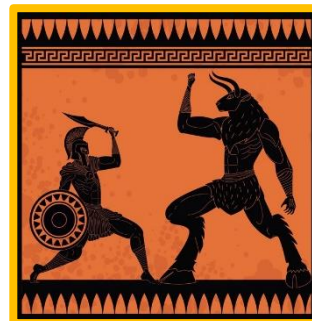
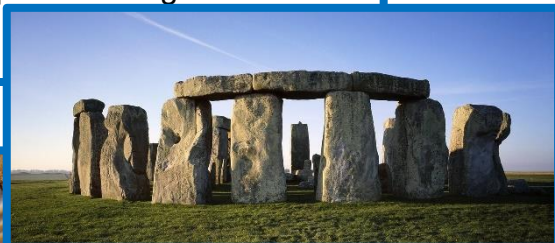
Year 1 & 2

This term Year 1&2 has been on a journey with Amy Johnson the famous female aviator. They have been learning all about the difficulties she had to overcome to become the first female pilot and they have been tracking her treacherous journey to Australia through sandstorms, monsoons and over mountains.

But what happened to her and her flying expeditions? Will we ever work it out?

Year 3 & 4

Have stepped back in time to the Stone Age. Finding out about how they lived and more importantly how do we know? There has been great interest when they have been learning about fossils and maybe we have some future palaeontologists in our school?



Year 5&6

The Year 5 & 6 children started the term with a visit to Greece – ok not an actual visit but with imagination and some Greek foods to taste!

They have been looking at historical artefacts to understand what life was like in Ancient Greek times and if there is any evidence for Greek legends. Theseus and the Minotaur -did they exist?

Young Voices 2024

'This is the moment, that we've been waiting for!'

You couldn't beat this opening line of our first song at Young Voices. After months of practice, it was certainly our moment and the Mountfields Young Voices Choir couldn't wait to be involved and take their moment to shine.

Last week, forty-one of our Year 5 & 6 pupils performed with over six thousand children as part of the Young Voices Choir. Over the Autumn term they had worked hard to learn a variety of songs from Matilda to Arirang, Get on Board to Walking Medley. The result was a spectacular performance; a feast for the eyes as well as the ears. When the lights went down and the twinkling lights from thousands of tiny torches shone, it really was a magical sight, particularly when Natalie Williams sang her heart-warming version of 'What the World Needs Now' . Not only were there the twinkling lights from the choir, but thousands of lights shining back from the audience - it was quite the sight!

There were so many highlights to the evening, dancing with Urban Strides and the rapping along with MC Grammar. We also accompanied the amazing and inspirational drummer, 13-year-old Nandi Bushell, who has performed with Foo Fighters and Lenny Kravitz among others! Naomi Williams wowed with her vocals and we were thrilled to accompany her with the song, 'All You've got to do it be Extraordinary!' a timely reminder that we are all indeed, extraordinary!

The finale of River Deep, Mountain High, including all the performers was an amazing end to a wonderful afternoon of rehearsals and a brilliant evening of performing. It truly was the moment we'd been waiting for!

A huge thank you to the staff who accompanied us; Mrs Harrison, Miss Bailey-Hague, Mrs Derby and Mr Coleman. Our thanks also to the wonderful PSA for their continued support of this event.

All you've got to do is be extraordinary!

Mrs Craggs & Mrs Armitage



Gardening & Growing Plea!

This term and into the Summer term the children with their buddies are going to be growing herb plants for our raised beds and gardens hopefully ready to sell in a School Farmers Market in the Summer Term.

We have the space, some seeds and pots however we have a plea for any contributions towards this project.

Do you have any:

- Herb seed packets?
- Herb cuttings?
- Unwanted bags of compost (even if they are not full)?



We also need to re-fill some of our raised beds with soil – are there any contacts within our community that may be able to support us with this?



A few reminders...

PE Uniform

On PE days the children come to school in their PE uniform which consists of

For indoor PE:

- A pair of PLAIN black shorts, football or cycling-type;
- A PLAIN white T-shirt;

For outdoor PE:

- A PLAIN black, grey or blue sweatshirt;
- A pair of coordinating tracksuit bottoms in black, grey or blue;
- A pair of trainers.

N.B. If, for religious reasons, black shorts for girls cannot be worn, a pair of close-fitting black PE leggings should be worn instead

Attendance & Absences

There is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement.

It is important that children attend school regularly in order for them to make the best possible progress whilst in education.

In real terms:

1 day off per school year = 99.5% attendance

10 days off per school year = 94.7% attendance

20 days off per school year = 90% attendance

90% attendance = 4 whole weeks off school during the school year

90% attendance throughout year's 1 - 6 = half a year off school