

# MOUNTJOY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Making a difference today, for tomorrow*

Spring 2022

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a fruitful term. Our Ofsted inspection gave some validation of the plans we had to move the school forward. As such, we have continued to refine the curriculum and have done lots of work on reading and writing and now have a new maths scheme in place (see later for information from Natalie and Tracey on these areas).

Whilst we push the children on academically, part of the school ethos is to enable development of self-esteem and positive attitudes towards learning. This is because we believe that in order to learn well, you need to feel good and see yourself as a learner.

One of our mantras is 'every interaction is an intervention' meaning that we smile and listen attentively to every child and young

person in school so they know they are valued. Some of our children need specific work on feeling good and we have had staff training in a new intervention called Hamish and Milo, which will enable us to explore social skills and emotional well-being through glove puppets. Another new resource to school is our counselling service provided by Emily and Helen who also have an article later in the newsletter.

Of course, we couldn't do any of this work without the support of our parents and carers, and I thank you for your efforts to frame school as a positive place so that your children can come in without negative barriers to overcome. It warms my heart when I see how much effort families have gone to for dressing up events like World Book Day and Red Nose Day – it adds to the joy of learning and you are certainly a very creative bunch!

I'm really looking forward to seeing you on 23<sup>rd</sup> April for our Friends of Mountjoy Tractor Run and wish you all the best as we move into sunnier times.

*Gill*



## Deputy & Assistant Head Teachers

Here at Mountjoy there have been lots of exciting curriculum developments. In English we have introduced Read Write Inc. to deliver phonics learning. This is a structured programme designed to ensure that all children learn to read accurately and fluently. Our pupils are making good progress and really enjoying this initiative. Home Reading has been relaunched and we hope that you are all enjoying the opportunity to share books with your children at home! We are going to be purchasing a significant number of new books to enhance our children's reading experience and developing a series of Book Nooks within school - small library breakout spaces where books can be enjoyed at leisure.

In Maths, pupils are accessing White Rose resources. This is a systematic approach to the teaching of Maths aimed at developing happy, confident learners that uses some excellent resources to help engage pupils with their Maths learning.

Off-site learning has been able to begin again with classes accessing a variety of activities, experiences and trips - this has included a trip to the pantomime at Christmas, walks to Abbotsbury Gardens, sessions at Hooke Court and a planned trip to Plymouth Aquarium in the Summer Term.

Also in the Summer Term, there will be a residential trip to the Calvert Trust, a Freshwater residential week, and an NCS residential and volunteering fortnight too. Lots to look forward to ... roll on summer.



Tracey and Richard



## Governors

### **Strong Foundations for the Future**

*“Lovely day today – picnic at the Deer Park, music, dance, shopping lists, meditation and Pilates!”* All in an average day for my son Sebastian at Mountjoy!

Since joining in Year 8, his education has been varied, versatile and practical. Yes, he spends time each day writing and undertaking traditional educational elements, but it is done in a practical and useful way. News is shared, discussed and written up on the computer (easier than writing for him with his appalling fine motor skills) Instructions are researched, calculations made and tasks undertaken and completed with skill and enthusiasm.



The children are part of a warm and loving community, where they are known, valued and understood by everyone. They are individuals with varied and complex needs, but they receive a solid and practical grounding in life skills and are wrapped in a safe and nurturing blanket of care. This extends beyond the gates of Mountjoy and into the local community. Now in the Sixth Form, Sebastian and his friends walk into Beaminster, shop for ingredients, attend the local church on Wednesday (nice cup of tea and a biscuit!), go to the Prout Bridge Youth Centre in Beaminster where they play pool, run the tuck shop, stock take, bake for coffee mornings and are a valued and integral part of this wonderful community.

Days are full, fun and productive, curriculum is tailored to the needs of the individual, staff are engaged, considerate, resourceful and sensitive, allowing children to learn, grow and thrive whilst supporting and encouraging. Through integration, the staff at Mountjoy prepare our children for life beyond – they are sensitive to their needs, yet allow them the right level of independence to be stretched and to feel they are able to succeed.

Sebastian is fortunate to have benefitted from such a rich and diverse education and we are thankful that he can stay on until he is 19. We dread the day he has to move on, but are confident that he has been given the skills and confidence to transfer to another setting and to be happy and comfortable in his ability to interact and integrate.

I am now delighted to be able to give a little bit back to the marvellous school that has gone above and beyond for my son, and have become a parent governor. There are still opportunities for additional co-opted governors, and together, we can ensure the future for the next generation of Sebastians!

In the meantime, his newly acquired ability to count to 30 in Turkish will, I am sure, stand him in excellent stead for the future!

**Claire Smith**

# FROM THE CLASSES

## Elm Class



This term has been very busy for our class to say the least! With 'World Book Day' and 'World Maths Day', alongside our everyday learning, we have lots of exciting things to share with you!



Our topic for this term has been 'All kinds of plants' and in Sensology we have been investigating what we need to grow our own plants! We have enjoyed watering some cress as well as planting our magic bean seeds – we can't wait to watch them grow in the sunshine!



In maths this term we have been exploring 'full' and 'empty' by playing with rice, lentils, sand and water to help us understand the concept of this. We have also learnt about different sizes, big, medium and small.



World Math's Day 2022 was a very exciting day for us in Elm Class and we all enjoyed dressing up and taking part in lots of Maths activities throughout the day.

We have been working very hard this term and can't wait for the sun to continue shining as we enter into Spring!



## Maple Class

When trying to think of a word to sum up this term in Maple class, it would be Resilience.



The students never cease to amaze us with how well they manage and cope with the changes and turmoil's that meet them as they travel along their individual pathways. Accepting and adjusting to change is hard for everyone and these guys have had more than their fair share of it lately. Using the

Zones of Regulation to help identify how we are feeling has been hugely successful and many of the students are now doing this



independently on a very regular basis. Perhaps the most useful thing about this is that they are learning that it is ok to feel upset or angry and that these should not be regarded as 'negative' emotions, but what is it important is the way we recognise, process and express these emotions when we feel them. Therapeutic strategies to help students cope with how they are feeling have been a huge part of our curriculum this term, which has really helped the students to manage how they feel, act and react in tricky situations. They have all got incredibly good at recognising these feelings and seeking out strategies that work for them, independently and it

has made a big difference to friendships and learning in class. The kindness they show towards each other is heart-warming and they have some wonderful bonds and friendships with each other that are growing stronger every day. In English this term we have moved into individual groups for Read, Write, Inc. or English lessons. This has provided the students with bespoke learning, tailored to their needs. They have enjoyed

working on improving their reading and writing skills. We have looked



at the poetry of Michael Rosen as a class on Friday's, enjoying Rosen's silly words and funny noises as he reads his poetry aloud. This has inspired us to have a go at writing our own poetry and the students have come up with some brilliant interpretations of Rosen's themes and turned them into their own poems. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from 'The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares' creative writing workshop, enabling the students to come up with their own story and have it made into a book.



Similar to English, we have moved into groups for maths this term. This has been



great for exploring maths through play, using a range of equipment and manipulatives and getting out and about doing practical maths tasks in the field and

garden. Maple class have put these skills to good use in cooking sessions, measuring and weighing ingredients and working out timings.

In Science this term we did Chemistry and Maple class have proved them-selves to be real investigative Scientists! They have used some great scientific language when talking about states of matter and how they change.

We have frozen water and melted ice, made custard, jelly, angel delight, looked at reversible and irreversible changes, lit fires and



watched how things burn. We have learnt the importance of fire safety and how to use fire respectfully to cook some delicious campfire treats.



In PSHE we worked on friendship skills, getting along with each other, different kinds of friendships and relationships and the importance of trust. We focussed on online friendships, sending kind messages and how to recognise fake or harmful profiles and messages. We have begun to look at body changes and what it means to change from a child to an adult. We talked about puberty, body changes and the importance of personal hygiene.



As we move towards the end of this term, we have some exciting projects underway.



The beautiful weather has enabled us to get out into the garden as much as possible and we have been planting seeds, clearing raised beds, making cloches and seed boxes and cleaning equipment

ready for growing season. In forest school we have built a sensory dome up on the back field. This was a big project that took us a couple of days to complete, but the students worked together brilliantly to compete it and are very proud of what they have achieved.



Saying goodbye is never easy and this is one of the hardest goodbyes I have ever had to say.

Having the privilege to work with these incredible, inspiring young people is something I shall be forever grateful for. They have taught me so much and given me so many fantastic memories to take away with me. Although my Mountjoy journey has come to an end, theirs are just beginning and I know that every single one of them will go on to be the absolute best version of themselves that they can be and succeed in achieving their dreams.

I wish every single one of the students at Mountjoy and their families all the very best for the future.

Emma and the Maple team.

## Ash Class

Ash have enjoyed a lovely Spring term, bursting into new life and throwing off the sluggish Winter. At the end of this academic year, we will be waving farewell to some of our classmates as they begin the next stage of their education. To help inform their important decisions as to where to study next, we visited three different colleges: Yeovil, Weymouth and Kingston Maurward. Students used their time to tour the campuses, ask questions and even meet some Mountjoy alumni.



We have explored our creativity in numerous ways for example we were visited by the Bank of Dreams and Nightmares Writing Workshop. Voting democratically on aspects of plot, character and description Ash now have published their first story about Bench – a non-binary alien who fears being lost in Space/Time.



We visited the Sou' Sou' West Art Gallery in Symondsburry and using different medium, Ash created beautiful works in a gallery to celebrate the idea of Mothers. They also made their own paper from pulp and experimented with printing.



Ash's toil ends not in artistic creation for they have also been pragmatic and practical in their designs and construction of a new Fitness Trail. Making a series of large wooden

discs, sanded and varnished for safety and weather-proofing, this will be useable alongside a photographic instructional manual for all classes to access some fitness and wellbeing exercises.

Following our successful enterprise Café project, Ash were able to use some of the monies raised to fund a visit to the Greyhound in Bridport. Therein, they partook of breakfasts of varying shapes and sizes. Ordering their own meals and filling their own drinks helped us continue more of the Lifeskills we encounter in everyday life. We are hopeful that having visited once, some of our students might even decide to meet in this venue again and share a hot drink and conversation in their own time.

They are coming to the end of their explorations of Hobbies and have enjoyed the opportunity to sample a diverse range of activities, some of which we hope they will continue in their own lives. Some of Ash have a real knack for capturing light and angle in their photographs while others have treated the raised beds in the sensory gardens to green-fingered maintenance.



Forest schools has continued to invigorate and fill our lungs with clean, fresh air even when challenged to use the fire pit. The toasted marshmallows were a perfect accompaniment to the sounds of wild, woodland creatures. Many budding ornithologists can now recognise British birds by both their plumage and their song.



It would be remiss not to mention our celebration of pancakes; it's a wonder every year how our classroom ceiling remains batter-free yet it's still clean. Using independence and cooking skills, Ash class once more prove they have what it takes to whip up some tasty treats.

## Acorns Class

The spring term is always a really exciting and fun term. The sun begins to seep through the clouds and we are able to explore our outside area more throughout each day.

This term our topic is 'All Kinds of Plants' and in the last few weeks the pupils have been helping to re-plant our garden area,



starting with planting herbs in some tyres as well as growing some beans and sunflowers in the classroom.

We have lots more ideas for things we can grow over the next few weeks. We also have use of the school poly tunnel to grow some vegetables which the pupils will need to water on a regular basis.



We have been incorporating the topic into other areas of learning by exploring and labelling the different parts that make up a plant, creating flowery masterpieces and through



fun and inviting learning through play activities.

Our year 1 pupils have been working really hard during their Read Write Inc. sessions and can now

recognise all the initial sounds and can write some independently. The pupils are able to use these skills to recognise letters and words when sharing books with an adult.



This term has seen the return of 'Toast Fridays'! Every Friday Acorns pupils get the opportunity to practise their independent life skills by making their own toast. Week by week all pupils are furthering their skills in choosing, spreading, cutting and eating (the best bit!).



Acorns have been making great use of the hydro pool this term and all pupils have gained so much water confidence. This is definitely the highlight of the week for us all! Now that the pupils are confident in the water we will be moving on to learning some basic swimming skills.

Earlier on this term, we had a fabulous day celebrating World Book Day. We had a variety of different characters from the adults and pupils and we all enjoyed exploring lots of books together. What really put a massive smile on all of our faces was joining pupils and staff from all across the school, in the hall, for a catwalk to show off our costumes. The pupils absolutely loved the atmosphere of a Mountjoy get together and were singing, dancing and watching the other pupils in awe. After the last 2 years it was amazing to all be celebrating together.



## Willow Class

As we begin to enjoy the milder weather in school, Willow class are continuing with a busy curriculum.

Willow class are continuing to concentrate on Read Write Inc. sessions where great progress has been made. Students are becoming more confident with both their reading and writing across the whole curriculum which is great to see.

We have followed school's topic this term of 'growth' by planting radishes, sage and sunflower seeds both in class and in the poly tunnel. We are eager to see how they grow, and are taking it in turns to water them daily. In Science, Willow students have used this topic opportunity to grow mould. We conducted an experiment by adding water to bread and then sealing the slices inside plastic bags. Students then examined the bread daily with a magnifying glass for traces of mould. There was much excitement when some appeared on day 5, and is continuing to grow.



This experiment gave students the opportunity to work scientifically, making sure we performed a fair test, and considering external factors that may have altered the results.

Willow class have also enjoyed the new challenges that Maths and number work have brought this term. Working across classes on the White Rose curriculum has allowed students to work with peers of a similar ability, and also get used to moving around classrooms for different lessons. This has encouraged independence skills amongst our learners which is important for Willow as they mature. Students have also enjoyed Maths Day where all of the learning had a Maths focus. We made Numicon biscuits, played Bingo and joined our friends on Teams to showcase our Maths dressing up outfits and our talent skills.



Willow have eagerly welcomed other students into class for inclusion. This allows for positive social interaction, and alternative environments for learnt skills to be transferred. In Functional Science we melted and tasted orange flavour ice cubes, and we melted chocolate using the heat from our hands.



These practical sessions help to reinforce the theory of Science in a concrete manner. This learning style is useful for Willow class learners.

In D&T we have been focussed on making slippers and practicing our sewing skills. Some of the class have displayed excellent fine motor control with a practice running stitch. This project has taken longer than originally anticipated but we are hopeful to have some completed in the next few weeks. We are not sure if the slippers will be hardy enough to wear or best used for display purposes, nevertheless we have enjoyed the challenge.

Willow class are hoping to collaborate with Beaminster School in the summer term to arrange some sessions in their Design and Technology workshop. We aim to focus on Health and Safety and basic functional skills using different tools and equipment.

## Laurel Class

Spring term is a time of growth and development: for both the world around us and the children themselves. It has been so lovely to see each child grow in confidence and ability as the year progresses and to see their friendships blossom. Those early learning seeds sown in Autumn are developing and

the class are becoming increasingly independent. We have worked hard on our self-care skills and are reaping the



benefit of this when we change and dress independently for hydro; allowing us to now move to two sessions a week! Our first topic this Spring term was: 'All Around the World': we thoroughly enjoyed learning about new countries, cultures and cuisine. Each Tuesday afternoon with Donna, we learnt about a new country we then chopped, mixed and followed

Willow class are looking forward to the Summer Term when we intend to access the local community as much as possible to reinforce our learning. We hope to visit West Bay for Beach School, and Beaminster to focus on Road safety. We are hopeful for good weather and a summer of fun with our learning.

instructions to create a traditional dish of that country. Tasting a new dish each week really expanded our experience of foods that we like (or dislike!)



This half of Spring term sees us exploring the topic 'All Kinds of Plants': The slightly better weather has meant we have been able to get outdoors and onto the field to find plants and flowers. We have been dissecting and labelling a range of flowers; sorting and describing leaves and will be planting seeds to observe them grow. Our seedlings will be planted in our planting bed in the school's horticultural area- we will be growing a range of herbs and edibles so

that we can smell, taste and even cook with the results of our hard work!



Laurel Class have continued to stay focussed and engaged in our Read Write Inc. phonics sessions; all of the children can write a range of letters/ sounds and use these to make short words and even sentences! A huge focus for us in laurel Class is our pencil/pen grip and forming shapes, lines, letters and numbers correctly; we have also enjoyed a range of colouring and cutting activities to hone our dexterity – many of which you will find their way home to you 😊



## Hazel Class

Hazel Class have enjoyed another busy term with many exciting learning opportunities. We have been lucky enough to have James working with us- a trainee teacher! It has been great to show him all the wonderful things we do in Hazel, along with him showing us a few things too! This has been very successful placement for him and the children: we have all enjoyed our daily activities and lessons with him!

In English, we have been reading lots of stories linking to our topics of 'Around the World' and 'All kinds of plants'. This half term we have also looked at non-fiction texts and stories about plants. We particularly enjoyed the Tiny Seed and books which taught us facts about plants. We have been having daily phonics (RWI) lessons, where we have continued to

increase our knowledge of sounds and this has helped us in both our reading and writing. The children really enjoy Read Write Inc. and enjoy bringing books home to share with you. These books link closely to the sounds and words we have been learning in class. Thank you for your continued support with your child's leaning.



As well as daily English and phonics lessons, we also have maths four times a week in Hazel. Within these lessons, we have had a focus on number work, place value, and the four operations. We follow the White Rose maths scheme. The key principle of the scheme is that 'Everyone can learn maths'.



through concrete objects before they move onto pictorial and abstract representations.

The scheme follows a mastery approach; this means helping children to understand concepts



The children really enjoy these sessions and we aim to make it accessible, fun and interactive. Our topic of 'All kinds of plants' has been enhanced by our weekly visit to Hooke Court. This has been an exceptional experience and we thank Chris for the wonderful work he has done with the children.

Over the weeks, the children have built up their skills of den building, starting a fire, map reading, camp fire cooking, orienteering and shelter building! The children have loved being outside (whatever the weather!) and have learnt a lot! It's been simply wonderful to be offsite again! The children always come back into school with lots of exciting things to tell their friends! Thank you for Waitrose 'Give a little love' scheme and Friends of Mountjoy who supported with funds so this could go ahead!

The children enjoy exploring resources before using them in a systematic way to work out problems. We also like making the problems 'come to life' by using real objects or even acting out the problem!



Our English and maths lessons take up most of our mornings. During the afternoons we have a less structured timetable with many activities going on. During these sessions we enjoy a cross-curricular approach, where we study many subjects in a variety of ways. Each week we aim to cover: PSHCE, PE, ICT, fine motor skills, play and leisure, art, RE, science, history and geography.



It has been a very exciting term with lots going on! We look forward to seeing everyone back for the summer term where our topic will be 'All sorts of shops'. We wish you all a happy and healthy Easter break.

Natalie and Hazel Team

## Oak Class

Oak class all enjoyed a 'coffee morning' at Prout Bridge with the group based there having catered, making scones to share and serving tea and coffee to peers and staff. Some of us enjoyed walking back up to school whilst others had a ride on the minibus.



The group based in school has been enjoying the better weather and we have begun to tend our raised bed, attempting to grow herbs, spinach, kale and radishes – we are hoping for some tasty salads come the summer!

We cleared the weeds, quite a job! Then we sowed the seeds, now comes the tricky bit – remembering to check on them and water them, hoping the weather helps us out with some nice sunny warm days soon.



Clearing the weeds.



Planting seeds.

We have been practising making our own meals – so far the repertoire includes beans on toast and cheese toasties – hardest part is waiting whilst things cook but we are getting there.



We have also been working hard individually on our targets and thinking about the places we could be moving to next, looking to get some visits in come the summer to local places to check out our options beyond school.  
The group based off site have been busy making their own meals, choosing and using correct equipment to make them.



Working hard on maths work and some amazing project work using lots of DT skills.



Everyone is looking forward to the summer term, hopefully being able to enjoy learning outside more too.

## Rowan Class

Rowan class have had a busy spring term where we have all been taking part in some fun and exciting learning experiences.



In PE we have been focusing, practicing and perfecting skills such as jumping, throwing and catching, hopping, and using these skills with mini obstacles. We have most recently been focusing on football and perfecting the skills around stopping the ball, passing it and kicking it before we incorporate these in to mini games. All pupils thoroughly love their weekly sessions in the soft play and sensory room.

We have enjoyed our DT this spring term – the pupils loved taking part in cooking foods from around the world and tasting them in class. I think the favourite amongst the group



was either the Pancakes or pizzas!! After half term we have been doing some DT outside which has involved weeding the Rowan flower bed and getting it ready for planting, cleaning all our tools, planting some seeds and making bird feeder pine cones and bird feeder cheerio necklaces. Pupils enjoyed hanging these on the trees and generally being outside in warmer conditions.

In science we have been focusing on habitats and identifying differences between animals found in different habitats. After half term we have been looking at how to plant seeds, what plants need to grow and observing growth over time. We have also been exploring melting. Pupils most recently enjoyed watching what happened when they put a hair dryer on some crayons.

Some of the comments we got were “oh no” and “melting”! We plan to explore ice, what temperature hot chocolate melts best at and making plastic from milk and vinegar. Hopefully in the last week before Easter the weather will be on our side and we will get together with Willow class and explore melting and making smores on an open fire in our Forest School area!



On Wednesdays the pupils enjoy their music session where they have been focusing on body percussion and singing and signing. Pupils really enjoy the choice of music and some have great rhythm!



In PSHE we have been looking at what makes a good friend and friendships. One focus has been on sharing toys and asking/letting friends play. Pupils are beginning to transfer these skills throughout the day.

We have had some special days this term such as World Book Day. Some of the pupils dressed up for this day. We had characters such as Harry Potter, Henry Hoover, Mr Bean, Super Mario and a dragon. The staff dressed up as Room on the Broom characters which is a favourite of most of Rowan class pupils. We enjoyed a day full of sensory stories and acting. Another day was World Maths Day. Pupils enjoyed making Numicon biscuits followed by a talent show on Teams in the afternoon. We have been learning in a very sensory way about the Egyptians in history. So far we have made Lego pyramids and Egyptian head dresses.

We have an exciting trip planned to Plymouth Aquarium on the last week of term which we are all looking forward to and will be a great day out for all the pupils in the 4 classes going.

Happy Easter from us all in Rowan class 😊

## Juniper Class

Juniper class have had a great half term travelling the world and have looked at different countries, made and coloured in flags and found out about different habitats and what animals live in them. In cooking we have cooked and tried different foods from around the world including pizzas from Italy and samosas from India.



In science we have been focussing on hard and soft and exploring everyday objects to decide if they are hard or soft. In maths we have been concentrating on numbers 0-5 and using counting songs such as 5 currant buns and 5 speckled frogs to help with our counting and the boys have loved using the buttons to say 'all gone'.

We have been lucky enough to go on walks in the local area of Beaminster where we have been able to visit the park and post letters that we have written in class and been able to meet people who live in the area.



This half term we will be concentrating on the topic of plants and will be looking at all types of flowers, herbs and seeds and how they grow. We all also be looking at hot and cold objects in science exploring items such as hot water bottles and ice cubes. We are looking forward to the brighter weather so we can get outside and explore more of our new forest and beach school which all of Juniper love to do and going on some more walks around the local area.

## Open Orchestra



Since September last year, eleven students from across the school have had the opportunity to take part in the Open Orchestra, which meets once a week on a Tuesday morning. It is supported by Gary, a musician from the Dorset Music Service.



Open Orchestra is designed to enable students of different abilities to play music together. Some students are making great progress on traditional keyboard instruments or the bass guitar, others prefer playing a mix of percussion instruments or an iPad based instrument, and one student plays the Soundbeam, which responds with sound as he moves his body.



The choice of music is led by the students, so we have a mixture of a soundscape based on weather sounds, interspersed by three different pop songs of different styles. The sessions are a huge amount of fun and the students really enjoy them. Gary plans to make a recording before the end of the school year so a CD will be available.

## Louise Heatley



## White Rose Maths

At Mountjoy School, we believe that mathematics is an incredibly important and valuable part of a young person's development throughout school right from an early age. We also



recognise that mathematics underpins much of our daily lives within the 21st century, and as such our maths curriculum (which is underpinned by engagement, creativity and challenge) is designed to provide extensive learning opportunities for all pupils so they can achieve their full potential and develop a life-long love of learning for the subject. I personally love maths and I strive to ensure our pupils see just how wonderful maths is!

In January, we implemented The White Rose Maths scheme.

White Rose is a mastery approach to teaching maths, which means we teach in a way so that pupils will develop a deep, long-term, secure and adaptable understanding of the subject.



This mastery approach allows us to:

- Provide stimulating, exciting and engaging maths lessons which cater for the needs of all individuals by following a multi- sensory approach.
- Support all learners, regardless of their previous learning opportunities and experiences, to explore and achieve their full potential and set them up with the necessary skills and knowledge for them to be successful in the future and within the real world.
- Support pupils to make rich connections across mathematical ideas to develop fluency, mathematical reasoning and competence in solving increasingly sophisticated problems, as well as give all children the confidence and resilience to achieve this.
- Provide equal and varied opportunities for our pupils to be able to apply their mathematical knowledge to science and across other subjects, as well as to real-world experiences and wider opportunities within the community
- Give each young person a chance to believe in themselves as mathematicians!



This mastery maths curriculum is delivered through the following ways:

- Daily maths lessons delivered through quality-first teaching, which are engaging, fast-paced and challenging for all pupils as well as built upon prior learning. These lessons follow the White Rose Scheme but in an adapted way- usually following a mastery approach of concrete, pictorial, abstract to help build on prior knowledge.
- Learning tasks are clearly differentiated using our consistent school-wide system to ensure there is appropriate challenge for all learners.

- Learners work at their own pace; with the aim that they will select their level of challenge depending on their current knowledge and confidence (with adult guidance if appropriate), however learners are encouraged to move forwards to a more challenging task if they are secure with their learning or back to a more appropriate task if they need to consolidate the learning focus.
- In Key Stage 4, we build on our maths knowledge and work towards Functional Skills mathematics which should enable students to gain confidence, fluency and a positive attitude towards maths, and to develop behaviours such as persistence and logical thinking as they apply mathematical tools and approaches.



As well as the above and daily lessons, we also celebrated World Maths Day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March! Some of the costumes were amazing and we had a great day throughout the day with songs, activities, cooking and much more. This really showcased this year's theme that Maths really is everywhere.

## Soccer Aid

Mountjoy last held a Schools Soccer Aid Challenge in June 2019. Shortly after the Easter holidays we will start preparing for our Schools Soccer Aid Challenge 2022 on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> June. This will give our pupils plenty of time to design a fantastic course in the playground, where they can kick, dribble, throw, push, shove or carry a ball around. They will set a fundraising target and discuss how they are helping children everywhere

have the childhoods they deserve. We hope we can invite parents again to watch and cheer on the pupils as they navigate the course.

Look out for the hashtag #SoccerAidSchools on social media!



Soccer Aid for UNICEF helps protect every child's right to play. Playing when we're young affects how we think, learn, share and explore the world as we grow older.

The money Mountjoy School raises could help UNICEF protect children worldwide from conflicts, fight diseases and malnutrition and help get children back to school. So just by taking part in the Soccer Aid Schools Challenge, Mountjoy is making a difference to the lives of children all over the world.

## New Mountjoy Logo

We have been going through a process to design a new school logo and the designer has now whittled it down to 3 options. We would like everyone to vote on their favourite, so a link to vote has been sent to all our families. In case you didn't receive a link, please click on the link, or enter the address in your browser search bar:

<https://forms.office.com/r/qS0cKBMrNa>

Here are the choices that you can vote on

- A
- 
- B
- 
- C
- 

# MOVE programme – Movement for learning and life

## Our Achievements so far 2022



**GOALS**



**Rebound**



**H  
Y  
D  
R  
O**



**Therapy**



**Targets**



## World Book Day

Pupils enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book character for World Book Day. Here is a selection of photos



## The Friends of Mountjoy (FOMS)

The Friends of Mountjoy are once again planning and carrying out active fund raising! Our Christmas Crafts and Raffle raised an amazing amount, almost £1000!



### Tractor & Vintage Vehicle Road Run In Aid of Mountjoy School



Friends of Mountjoy School are holding a Charity Tractor & Vintage Vehicle Road Run in & around The West Dorset area in aid of Mountjoy School.

**On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022.**

**We will be at Mountjoy 9am onwards to Leave at 10.30am.**  
**Stopping for lunch at The Lodgers Arms EST arrival 1/1:30pm.**  
**Returning to Mountjoy for the raffle EST arrival 4.30.**

If you are unable to participate, we would love to have as many children and young adults as possible from the school there to wave us off in the morning and again in the afternoon to welcome us back to Mountjoy.

There will be raffle tickets on sale £1 per strip, which will be drawn when we return to Mountjoy.

There will also be tea, coffee, squash & cake available in the afternoon.

All Money that is Received will be going to Friends of Mountjoy School with the money going towards getting new outdoor play and educational equipment for the children and young adults.



**Special Guest**  
**Ducati Trioptions Cup Rider**  
**David Shoubridge**  
**DUCATI**  
**TRIOPTIONS**  
**CUP**  
**Sponsored by Rich Energy**



We are keenly anticipating our next event - the Tractor Run on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. It would be great to see as many people there as possible to cheer the tractors off! All funds go towards supporting SEN equipment or special activities within school. We have agreed funding already this year for every class to take a class trip and we have paid a significant amount towards the cost of the Calvert Trust Residential that takes place in the Summer term.

We are confident that the Summer Fayre and Social planned for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July will be able to take place this year so put this date in your diary and come along and have some fun  
\* ...hopefully in the

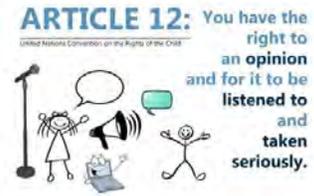
sunshine. More details will follow soon as we get nearer the event.

Many thanks for all your support keeping this charity going and we look forward to seeing you all at future events.

Chair - Tracey Page

## School Council & Pupil Voice

At Mountjoy we believe that every child and young person has a voice, whether it is verbal or another means of communication. We help children to communicate because we respect their right to be heard by adults (Article 12 of the UNCRC).



Pupils are involved in teacher interviews. They think of questions which they would like to ask someone who might be teaching them, then they get to ask the candidates the questions. After asking their questions, they are asked for their opinion on who they would most like to teach them, and why.

An enthusiastic and committed group of pupils at Mountjoy have formed a School Council. The School Council is an important way to let pupils' opinions be heard and let them know their views have been considered.

The School Council meets half termly. Two representatives from each class bring to the meeting matters which their class have chosen that they would like the Senior Management Team to look at. These are things which pupils feel are going well, things which they think could be better and suggestions for improvement.

For example: our pupils think big! They asked for a second floor to be added to Mountjoy School to make more room. Unfortunately, the Dorset County planning department have already rejected this idea due to local area planning permissions. Another question the School Council raised was about school dinners. We are able to act on this and questionnaires will be going out after Easter to pupils and parents for their views on school lunches, so please look out for that survey.

School Council members							
Tiana		Abigail		Aidan		Frank	
Phoebe		Ryan		Joshua			
Ryan		Josh		Jade			

## Online Safety

We've been busy learning about Online Safety these past few months and all the classes participated in activities on our Online Safety Day in February. We had some great work from our students.

Many classes looked at what they can share online and what is private. Some made posters.



One student told us *"I don't want a stranger to know my pet's name"*. We were really pleased that they could differentiate between strangers and people they can trust and what could and could not be shared online.



Our Sixth form had discussions and made choices using the Whiteboard about what can or cannot be shared with strangers.

The #OnlineSafetyAtHome 'home activity packs' created to support parents and carers during school closures from the CEOP Education Team are no longer available.

They have recommend that parents and carers start conversations about online safety using [familyactivitysheets](#) and [#AskTheAwkward](#) resources. These are great resources for parents to do with their families to ensure there is consistency between school and home.

Anyone can still click on the CEOP button  on our website if you have any concerns.

Clicking on the button takes you to an internet page where you can find advice on what to do <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

## Pastoral Support Team



### School counselling service

Hello parents and carers,  
We are excited to let you know that Mountjoy is launching a school counselling service for our children and young people, which will be starting in the summer term. This is part of Mountjoy's commitment to supporting good mental health and well-being.

The service will provide group and individual sessions to help our children identify and

understand their thoughts and emotions, build their confidence and feel better able to manage life's challenges and opportunities. The child or young person will lead the focus of the counselling - what matters to them, matters to us.

We will only offer sessions to children with your full knowledge and consent, and welcome the involvement of parents and carers, to make the counselling service as valuable as possible. Requests for the service will be agreed between you and the school, usually through our SENCO Kate or our Mental Health lead, Richard.

We will be sending a leaflet with more information, which we hope you will find useful. We look forward to beginning this new venture to help support our children and young people.

Emily and Helen.

### [Family Liaison Officers | Mountjoy School](#)



Kate, Ali & Sandra

### News from the office

The cut off day for meal orders is now Monday to give our chef time to order in the food to make meals for the following week. Please ensure you have placed your order for meals by midnight on a Monday night for the following week. This is also the case for students eligible for Free School Meals. For any meals not ordered in time, we may ask for a packed lunch to be sent in with your child.

Students are now enjoying offsite visits again, please send consent slips or an email to the office well in advance of any trips.

Any questions you have, please email [office@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk)

or tel: 01308 861155

Wishing you all a lovely Easter Break.

Best wishes, Karen



## SAFEGUARDING

Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

Gill Howard



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Tracey Page



Sandra Hutchings



Richard Bowskill



Emma Lambourne



Anyone can make a referral to Dorset Children's Advice and Duty Service Tel:  
01305228866

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Last day of Spring term	Thursday, 7 April
Staff training day (school closed to pupils)	Friday, 8 April
Friends of Mountjoy Tractor Run	Saturday, 23 April
First day of Summer term	Monday, 25 April
Soccer Aid	Friday, 17 June
Staff training day (school closed to pupils)	Friday, 24 June
Jubilee holiday (school closed to pupils)	Monday, 27 June
Summer half term	Monday, 30 May to Friday, 3 June
Summer Fayre and Social	Saturday, 9 July
Last day of Summer term	Friday, 22 July

MOUNTJOY SCHOOL, TUNNEL ROAD, BEAMINSTER, DORSET DT8 3HB

T: 01308 861155 W: [mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk](http://mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk) E: [office@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk)