

MOUNTJOY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Making a difference today, for tomorrow

Summer 2023

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Dear Parents and Carers,

... and there goes another year! I remember when my own children were at school (I have four all in their twenties now); you hardly noticed them getting older and then suddenly they would do something you weren't expecting, which made you realise they were growing up. I hope you will have some of those 'wow moments' this holiday.

Sometimes children make progress by just absorbing what is going on around them. This isn't always the case when you have a learning difference where the adult needs to be more explicit. At Mountjoy, we don't only focus on teaching knowledge and skills, but also being able to make your own choices, recognizing how your feelings affect you and what is important to you in life. These things are hard to quantify, but frequently I'm surprised by the maturity shown, kindness given and resilience I see around school.

We push children out of their comfort zone, and they succeed! Recent examples include doing a performance even though nerves have kicked in, doing an overnight stay even though they've never been apart from a parent, or going on two days of hiking for an expedition even though they usually don't walk far. I never underestimate what is achievable, because our children are there to amaze us. They respond to being challenged, not just at school but at home too, so thank you for being such an important part of the education process.

I really hope you have a good summer and can enjoy time in your child's company; it is so true when they say those days fly by, so relish this time with your wonderful young person and enjoy being amazed by them!

Gill



Governors

I am writing as the school year comes to a close and looking back on all that has happened. A well-deserved judgement of good from OfSTED; validating the hard work of Gill Howard and her team. Many new or updated outside areas, enhanced technology and actions from a very active and enthusiastic School Council. Support in so many ways from our local community, which we are proud to be part of and in particular I need to mention Bridport Golf Club who have so generously raised funds for the school.

Our young people who are leaving us this year to move on into further education having successfully gained qualifications and maturity enabling them to continue into a well-deserved future of possibilities.

The school is full, in fact every space is being used to best support the increasing numbers of children in our care. Despite this I know and have seen first-hand the commitment and drive of the all the staff to provide pupils at Mountjoy a place to belong, to grow and enjoy.

I wish all our wonderful families and staff a lovely summer holiday and well-deserved break and look forward to working with you all again in the new school year

Helen Farmer, Chair of Governors



I am delighted to be joining the staff team here at Mountjoy as the new Clerk to the governing board. After spending a couple of years away from education, I'm really pleased to be returning and to have the opportunity to work with incredible team here. My primary role is to organise and support the governors so that they can take the important decisions needed to secure the best outcome for the community,

We have a couple of vacancies on the board at the moment that I will be looking to fill in the coming months, so if you'd like to learn more about please all the role of the governing board in general please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Tom Easterbrook, Clerk to Governors



Governor vacancies

'The child is at the centre of everything the school does'

Our vibrant and fabulously unique school is seeking new governors to make a difference to the lives of our 100+ amazing children.

We have vacancies for co-opted governors to help support the fantastic work of the Head, staff and existing Board of Governors to make decisions on the day-to day running of Mountjoy and plans for the years ahead.

It is incredibly rewarding being a Governor – especially if you have a child in the school and want to be able to give something back to this supportive environment.

Governors set the strategic vision for their school. This involves constructively challenging current processes, using your unique skills to support senior leaders, and overseeing school finances. As well as putting your expertise to good use, you'll have the opportunity to develop your professional skills. Ultimately, you'll work towards facilitating the delivery of a broad and exciting curriculum and oversee new initiatives. Governance represents a fantastic opportunity to develop yourself while making a real impact on the education of children and young people.

Governors work collaboratively with the Head Teacher and other members of the board, including parents and school staff. Full board meetings are held half termly and governors also sit on a committee linked to their expertise or interests, such as teaching and learning or finance and resources.

The most important part of being a governor is the ability to ask questions, provide support and have the best interests of the school at heart. You don't have to be a parent or have experience in education - we seek a wide range of skills including finance, HR, and data analysis and a diversity of backgrounds and lived experiences to ensure a range of perspectives are considered during meetings.

We welcome professional experience, as well as community insight and experience of working collaboratively and, after the recent Good Ofsted report, we are looking forward to building on the future of this excellent school and moving ahead with exciting new challenges.

For further information, please contact the Clerk to the Governors, Tom Easterbrook on 01308 861925 or via email t.easterbrook@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk

Deputy & Assistant Head Teachers

On Friday the 9th June we welcomed back to Mountjoy, our 'alumni' of past students to tell us about what they've been doing since leaving school and to show them how much Mountjoy has developed and changed since they were at school. For some this was 7 years ago and such a lot has changed! The school population has grown, new classrooms have appeared both in the main school building and on our site grounds and we have a lot of new faces to say 'Hello' to.

The ex-students loved looking around and reminiscing about their time at school and bumping into those of us who have been here a long time.

It is always interesting to find out what our students go on to do and what life is like for them beyond Mountjoy.

Here is a flavour of the varied things they are doing;

Jamie is successfully breeding Maine Coon cats!

Tomasz is a full-time artist, check his art out, tomartguy.com. He regularly shows work in London Galleries.

Bart attends Dorset Abilities Group <https://www.dorsetabilitiesgroup.co.uk/> He really enjoys meeting up with his friends there and taking part in all the activities they offer.

Many ex-students attend local Further Education Colleges; Bicton, Weymouth or Yeovil depending on where they live. They continue to study for their Functional Skills Qualifications as well as pursuing a personalised learning pathway, for example, Joseph has completed his first year of Foundation Learning at Bicton College and is now planning to do a course in Plant Operations as he's hoping to get a job driving a digger. A number of ex-students also enjoy volunteering in Charity Shops and Day centres, whilst also at College.

For some students a personalised Care package is more appropriate, which allows them to access the community, with continued support meeting medical and therapy needs, at a pace that's right for them.

It's not compulsory for them to come back! So, it's great that they all look forward to this yearly event so much and return to Mountjoy, a school that remains a special place for them.

Tracey and Richard



News from the office

Hot School Meals

We have managed to keep the cost of hot school meals down over the last 3 years, however from 5th September 2023; the price will increase to £2.70 per meal.

We are also streamlining the hot school meal menu, making it easier to order and to support your child when making their meal choices.

Our cook adheres to the National Food Standards for Schools and offers two main meal options and a pudding each day. All meals are home cooked and prepared using local produce. Bread, salad and fresh fruit will be available each day.

If your child is eligible for benefit related Free School Meals, although this meal is free of charge, your child's meal must be ordered through ParentPay. Please remember to order your child's meals by the midnight on a Monday, one week in advance.

Telephone System Upgrade

Over the Summer break, we are having a new telephone system installed. Please bear with us while we learn how the new system works.

Keep up to date with news from Mountjoy School on our website

<https://mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk/> and our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/mountjoyschool/>

Any questions you have, please email

office@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk

or tel: 01308 861155

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer break.

Best wishes, Karen



What parents/carers need to know about attendance

At Mountjoy School, we believe that education is essential for all. Punctual and regular school attendance promotes social inclusion and effective learning. We believe that children should attend school regularly and punctually because school plays a vital part in their learning and enables them to reach their full potential.

There is strong statistical evidence to show a direct link between attendance and progress children make. Therefore, school does not authorise holidays during term, shopping trips, for example to purchase school shoes, or for leisure days out. Unless there is an exceptional circumstance, pre-planned absences cannot be authorised.

Attendance below 90% is particularly harmful to a child's education and will trigger intervention by the local authority.

Where a child is genuinely ill or needs medical treatment, school will be understanding and can provide home-learning for any extended periods. Please keep us informed, including if you are having any issues with school refusal, so we can support you.

Current NHS guidance for common childhood illnesses that require children to be kept off can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Thank you for giving your child the best possible chance to make progress at Mountjoy.

School clothing

My Clothing who supply our school clothing (link below) offer free delivery for orders over £50.

If you are thinking of placing an order, it might be worth seeing if any other parents/carers are also ordering, and arranging a joint order to avoid the postage charge.

[My Clothing](#)



FROM THE CLASSES

Hazel Class

Hazel Class have had a lovely Summer Term. Students have been working really hard across the curriculum, and I am pleased to say that they are always motivated to try new things, and work with different students and staff.

Hazel Class have been lucky enough to have been involved in some cricket sessions with a coach that has come into school every Friday. Students firstly learnt how to roll and then hit a ball with a bat during some table cricket sessions, and then progressed onto using a larger bat and ball, positioning the bat correctly and concentrating on posture and gait.

This tied in nicely with our learning in PE over the last term. We have focussed on ball skills; throwing, catching, rolling and bouncing a ball with a partner. We then enjoyed using these skills in our team games. Hazel Class have developed important relationships with peers during these sessions-there has been lots of laughing, concentration, camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Students also participated in an afternoon of running races on the Beaminster school field, everyone joined in and tried their best. It was lovely to see the children cheering each other on and celebrating everyone's achievements. Well done Hazel.

We have concentrated on Geography in Humanities this half term focussing on different types of fruit and vegetables that are grown in different parts of the world. We have located different countries on the world map, chosen a fruit or vegetable, or one as part of a local dish native to that country, and then we have prepared and tasted it. So far, we have looked at pomegranates, cous cous with peppers and cucumber, and coconuts. Class have enjoyed using their senses-smelling, tasting and touching all of the different ingredients.

It has been a great year for Hazel Class; learning new skills, working hard and having fun. It has been a pleasure to watch the students grow and mature. Let's hope everyone has a fabulous summer and a well-earned rest.

Hazel class



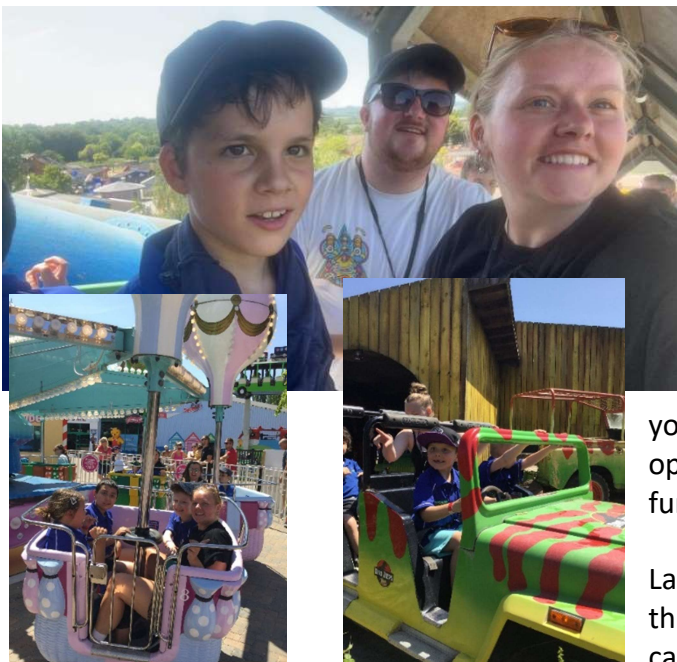
Elm Class



Wow! What a busy term we have all had in Elm Class! Firstly, we have welcomed a new friend into our classroom and it is safe to say he has found his feet in our school community very quickly and we cannot wait to

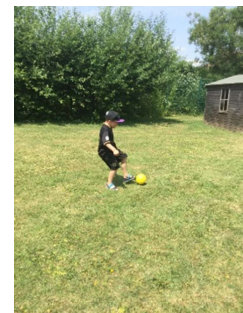


show him what Mountjoy has to offer. This term we have learnt about dinosaurs, basing a lot of our learning on the book 'Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs' and more recently fruit and vegetables, looking at the story of 'Supertato!'.



This term Elm Class have also had an incredible opportunity from the Rotary Club who offered them a trip to Crealy Adventure Park- and of course, we had an amazing day! Rollercoasters, log flumes, water slides... the list went on! The sun shone down on us and as always, the children in Elm Class made us very proud by showing the public how well behaved we are. A big thank you to everyone involved for giving us this opportunity, the pictures show how much fun we had!

Lastly, we supported this years' Soccer Aid campaign and all had a



turn at the penalty shootout where Deputy Head, Richard, was designated goalkeeper! Team Elm scored a fair amount of goals all whilst raising money for UNICEF. Here are some pictures of us in action!

Elm Class would like to say thank you for all the support this year and we hope you enjoy the summer holidays, let us hope the sun keeps shining! Elm Class



Maple Class



Hello from Maple ☺ We have had a lovely Summer Term!! Our topic this term was Dinosaurs and Fossils and we started this with a visit to Charmouth and the Heritage Centre. We went fossil hunting with some experts and found many fossils, which we brought back to school to display in class.

The weather was lovely and it was great to spend time with Rowan Class who came with us.

We also had a day at Kingston Maurward where we attended a Careers Fair talking to people about what we may want to do when we leave school.

Three of us, Tara, Roo and Kyle, were lucky enough to attend a fishing day and had great fun fishing in a lake and a lovely BBQ

lunch!

We had Arts week where we met an illustrator who showed us how to mono print and ended the week with a Recycled Fashion Show where we paraded in the hall to music- it was like walking down a cat walk!!

We also had a small concert in school where Maple Class sang with some others from Mountjoy to the school. We sang, "You've got a friend in me".



Some of the class also played in the Open Orchestra.

We were lucky enough to have a visiting theatre group visit us for a performance of The Secret Garden. I was so impressed with the student's

behavior- they were fully focused and really enjoyed it, especially the songs that were from Mathilda and the Greatest Showman!

We are looking forward to Sports Day and the final few weeks in Maple this term. We hope everyone has a happy and safe summer holiday ☺

Love from Carrie Kevin Mel, Loux, Tracey, Juliet, Jo and Maple Students ☺

Juniper Class

This term in Juniper we've been looking at the topic of Dinosaurs. We have enjoyed doing lots of art work creating our own dinosaurs and have especially enjoyed our sensory story 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs'.

Juniper have also been enjoying taking part in sports activities. We have been doing weekly cricket sessions, batting the ball and playing table top cricket. We also took part in a special Boccia tournament with other schools coming to Mountjoy to compete and had great fun training and playing in the competition!



In Maths we have been learning about sinking and floating and have been finding out what toys float and sink in water. Some of the boys have been using the plasma and laptop in class to enhance their learning in Maths, ordering numbers 1-10 and learning about cause and effect.





Juniper have also been making the most of the warm weather and have been spending time outside in the sensory garden, back field and in the beach school area and have been able to get the bikes out and get some exercise riding them around the playground.

We had fun taking part in Mountjoy Market and made cornflake cakes to sell to our friends and enjoyed going round to see what the other classes had made and buying some treats to take home.



To end the year, we are going to be looking at Fruit and Vegetables for our topic and are going to be planting and growing our own vegetables and are looking forward to making and tasting fruit kebabs and fruit salads and trying lots of new fruits and vegetables along the way. We hope the sunny weather continues so we can spend some more time enjoying our outside activities!



Ash Class

Ash Class loved learning how to customise clothing and up-cycle during Arts Week. Students formed teams and collaborated on designing their upcycled fashion pieces. They were given a small budget to spend either individually or to pool with their team. We visited the Weldmar Hospicecare charity shop in Beaminster to spend our money.

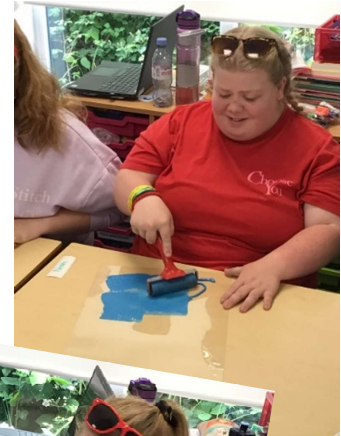


The students interacted confidently with the shop assistants and the store manager, and, through some very polite negotiating, some were able to walk away with impressive bargains!

Back in class, students creatively customised their items, or used them as part of their design. One group made shields, re-using old belts as the straps. Other groups experimented with adding colour using fabric pens and paints. Another group tried tie-dye, and some students

explored using fabric scissors, fraying techniques and sewing skills to radically re-create their items of clothing. Finally, students paraded their items in the Mountjoy Upcycling Fashion Show. It was brilliant to see the students engage creatively with this project, each in their own individual way.





In Speaking and Listening, we have been exploring themes related to Pride Month, including discussing how the issues of gender and sexuality were different in Shakespeare's time, compared to now. Ash Class have engaged in these discussions with great maturity and have advocated for raising the profile of Pride Month in school.

This term students have also had the opportunity to develop their confidence and presenting skills by sharing a skill or interest with the class. So far we have had some very enlightening presentations, covering varied topics such as art, crochet, slime and the Tudors!

We have completed our fire lighting ASDAN and have moved onto exploring food prep and safety in the kitchen. Students learned how to cook chicken skewers, recapping our learning about food hygiene and preparing meat safely.





Some students had the amazing opportunity to visit Wave in Bristol to try surfing. Most students had not tried surfing before, so they bravely stepped out of their comfort zones, and had a fantastic time. Well done!



Laurel Class



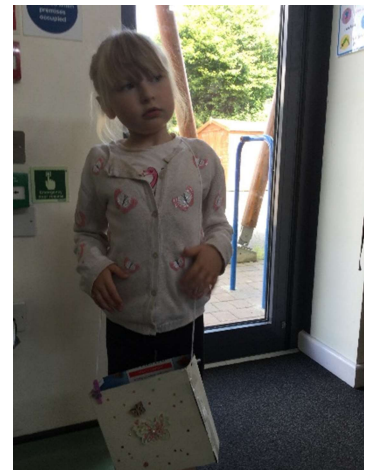
Summer has finally arrived; along with some sunshine! We have been enjoying the outdoors and our walks to the parks and local community of Beaminster have finally been able to happen. We have demonstrated super listening skills; walking, keeping safe and playing with our friends. Some of us have even ventured to the shops with Stacey to buy snacks to enjoy at the park.



There have been many lovely activities this year, which we have come together as a school for. It has been wonderful to see the class engaging their communication and social skills with other students and staff from around the school. During 'Market Street', we made and sold some yummy shortbread biscuits and spent our pennies on handmade ice-lollies, cakes, stuffed toys and jewellery!

the catwalk for the school to admire.

In Arts/Eco week we made bags by recycling old cereal boxes, we added our own unique designs and a handle; we then walked them down



We also watched an amazing performance of 'The Secret Garden' by M&M productions, Laurel Class were so enthralled.

We continue to work hard on our maths; as well as number work we have been learning about money; we loved handling and sorting the money into notes and coins and were particularly good at recognising the value of all the notes! We are also learning to tell the time to the o'clock and half past: making our own clocks to help us and playing games to help reinforce our learning.

As the Summer Term sees us getting closer to the end of the school year I'd like to say how proud I am of Laurel Class- they have worked incredibly hard all year. I look forward to seeing you all at parents evening and the family picnic.



Have a lovely summer, Laurel Team

Oak Class

We continued to hone our Boccia skills and some of us were lucky enough to be chosen for the team to play against the other TADSS schools. It was a lovely morning, we employed lots of skills around turn taking and waiting in addition to our fab Boccia skills!



We have been working on our own individual Maths and English targets linking to them being used in life beyond school. Enjoying our baking and meal making classes. We have taken part in Arts week making puzzle pieces and recycled fashion by tie dying old shirts and sheets to make new garments! We loved the catwalk time and all enjoyed the fashion show.



We have been learning in PSHE about Public and Private. We used the anatomically correct PSHE dolls when we looked at naming body parts and differences between boys and girls. Very importantly knowing where on our body is private so should not be on show or touched when we are in public places.

We have continued working hard on our physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and MOVE programmes to ensure that we are in tip top condition, healthy and ready to move. Big changes for Oak Class now as everyone is based in school after our Leavers have moved on, we had a fantastic evening at Prom celebrating with our friends in Ash. Then a lovely last day for them with Leavers Assembly and Barbeque where families joined us to celebrate their young people and the journey they have had through Mountjoy. We wish them all the best for the future and look forward to hearing how they are getting on, hopefully they will return for Alumni Day next year.



Oak Class – Prout Bridge



The Prout group completed a Duke of Edinburgh Expedition this half term on what were probably the hottest days of the year. For some it was their final Bronze expedition and for the rest it was their Silver practice expedition. The Duke of Edinburgh Award can be started at 14 in schools with 3 levels Bronze, Silver and Gold and 4 sections:- physical, skills, volunteering and expedition.

The Prout group have been working on the other sections across the year so the expedition was the final part before some of

them moved on to college. Our first day was based at Mapperton House, we walked to the Old School Hall and had



an interesting breakfast of noodles, pancakes and waffles. As part of the expedition you have to cook a hot meal on one of the days. We then followed the circular yellow route of about 5 miles around the Mapperton estate while completing our expedition aim of looking at wildlife. We saw plenty of animals, a lot of sheep and cows but Jack also spotted a deer and we saw the gnawed wood in the Mapperton beaver enclosure.

Our second day was even hotter and this time we were walking from Beaminster to Netherbury and back. Again we walked about 5 miles in a circular route and spotted bees in their hives, more sheep and cows, some donkeys out on a walk and an Osprey. Our assessor Lin was really impressed with the positive attitude, map reading skills and distance walked for all of the group.



Elliot, Rhianna and Albie all passed their Bronze award and Jack, Archie, Sebastian and Josh passed their Silver practice and will receive a Certificate of Achievement for their work over the year.



Chestnut Class

We have had a fantastic summer term in Chestnut Class!

As well as continuing to work hard on improving our English and maths skills, we have had the chance to do many other activities.

We have been playing cricket on Friday afternoons, with a visiting coach. Everyone had a go at scoring a goal past Richard on Soccer Aid day. Ryan said, "I scored a really good goal!"

We enjoyed having the opportunity to be creative during arts week and also visit a gallery and see work from A Level students from local schools. Sophie said' "I liked using the paint on the big rolls of paper outside!"

The highlight of this term has to be our residential trip to Magdalen Farm. All of the students tried different activities, including feeding the animals, making pizzas in the huge outside oven, den building, arts and crafts, fire making and orienteering. For some students it was the first time they had stayed away from home and they all coped well with this challenge. Abbie said, "I loved feeding the animals; they were all so cute!"

Well done to everyone in Chestnut Class for a great school year. Enjoy the summer holidays!



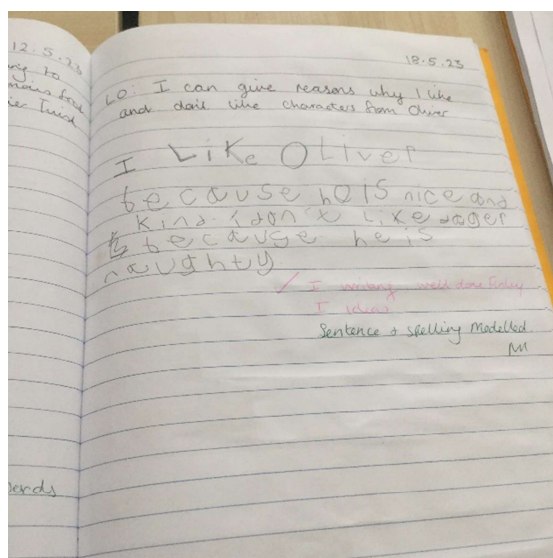
Rowan Class

I cannot believe it is the end of the school year! What a year it has been! It has been an extremely busy end to the term with lots going on. As I said in the last newsletter, we love getting offsite and we were hopeful for more trips: well it has not been disappointing. Rowan have been off into Beaminster town centre every Thursday afternoon to practice shopping skills, managing money and staying safe offsite. We have also enjoyed a wonderful trip to Charmouth where we found many fossils! We have also been involved in performing in the sing and sign choir in the church as well as bell ringing! Finally, we were lucky enough to go to see some amazing A level artwork in the Bridport Arts Centre. This was very inspiring as the children loved coming back into school and trying out some of the ideas we saw!



In English literature this term, we have been studying the famous Oliver Twist by Children's Charles Dickens. Rowan class have enjoyed exploring the themes of the book, the historical context of life in Victorian Britain and developing deeper understanding of protagonists and characters. They have even watched some clips from the 1968 film. The text has given Rowan class the

opportunity to develop their awareness of cultural references and understand stories from famous British authors. Moreover, we wrote poems, character descriptions, and perspective writing, where we wrote in role as a poor child in a workhouse. This work was outstanding and so we used this as a springboard for our class assembly. We wowed the school with our performance of Food Glorious Food and even acted out that famous scene: the school really were shouting for 'more!'

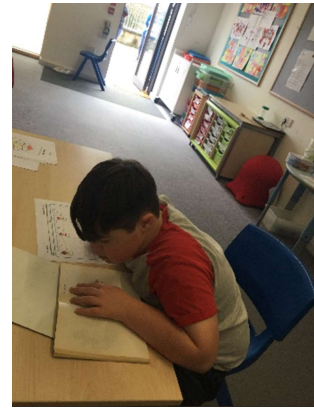


Maths has continued in their streamed classes and this has been extremely successful. Overall, maths has made good progress across the whole school and working alongside peers of a similar stage has shown to be having a positive impact. The children have been working on adding 3 numbers, measuring and statistics.

The afternoons have been hot! But the weather has not stopped us from continuing with our learning and getting the most out of every day. We have had music therapy on a Monday, followed by choir practice on a Tuesday. Rowan made me so proud during bell ringing and all of



them were naturals! Their performance was spectacular! Wednesdays have been very busy with fire lighting and outdoor sensory learning with Katie at Forest School. Thursdays we have been cooking and offsite and Fridays busy with Ample in PE and making the most of having the cricket coach on site. Our dinosaur topic was a big hit where we made our fossils out of salt dough and also had the wonderful trip to Charmouth. This half term we have been exploring fruits and vegetables and making different recipes with these.



It has been a very exciting term with lots going on! We look forward to seeing everyone in September for a new year and I wish all the children moving on, all the very best of luck for the future.

We wish you all a happy and healthy summer break. Natalie and Rowan Team

Acorns Class

What a brilliant Summer Term we have had! Our topics this term have really allowed the children to flourish and explore new ideas and concepts, whilst also tapping into their interests. 'On the Move' and 'Down at the Farm' have incorporated transport, animals and food which are key interests of many of our learners.

The pupils have all planted cress and sunflowers, enjoyed exploring our farm tuff trays with animals and vegetables and have all participated in our farm sensory story, incorporating edible, noisy, smelly and textured items to explore.

The pupils have created lots of artwork around our topics: painting with transport, creating boats from materials, animal masks, animal collages and sensory bottles.

We have been making the most of the sunny weather by going on a walk to Beaminster park every Monday morning. It is fantastic to see the children out of the school environment, socialise with the public and enjoy the range of play equipment they have. It is especially nice to see the progress that the children with us last year have made on following instructions and being able to walk both ways with the support from an adult.



Acorns were very lucky to have travelled to Gym Tots in Bridport every Friday last half term. The minibus was one of the highlights, along with the bouncy castle, balance beams and parallel bars. The children loved the space and freedom they were given here and it provided with them with a sense of independence, increasing their confidence.



This term we have also been able to join the rest of the school in the hall for a music concert and The Secret Garden production. We were astounded at the focus and concentration the pupils had during these performances and many of the class were able to happily stay until the end. This is no doubt thanks to Emma's weekly bucket sessions which have captivated their attention.

The children have loved our musical math sessions each week and have worked on their turn taking skills and actions to the songs.

Polly's music sessions every Monday afternoon have been absolutely fantastic! They have helped the children to regulate as they are so calming, whilst also introducing them to classical music, dancing to songs and working together as a class to move at certain points and pass items to each other in time to the music.



What a busy but brilliant term we have had! The children have grown so much in terms of their communication and social skills with adults and with each other and are starting to work more independently when doing their TEACCH tasks. We are so proud of all that they have done this year!

Thank you for all your support,
Becki and the Acorns team

Coffee Mornings

We are proud of the collaboration we have with parents and carers. Our coffee mornings run each half-term, which provide an opportunity for you to chat with other parents, share ideas about school development and often get some informal training with one of our specialists.

Caroline Essame,
Highly Specialist OT
teaching parents
about sensory needs
and fun strategies
for the home.



Careers



This term we were fortunate enough to be invited to the Dorset Festival of Careers and Industry, an event hosted by The Wessex Multi Academy Trust at Kingston Mauward where employers and colleges were all together to show what they can offer our students beyond Mountjoy. Ash and Maple went to have a look. They were able to talk to people

working for the Police and Army, colleges sharing their courses and people sharing information about schemes they could get involved with or might like to consider as a career. For Maple it was a first encounter so being in the space around lots of students all trying to find out information was an experience in itself. Ash had been set a challenge to talk to people on the stalls to ask about things that interested them. The event was a fantastic success with all students gaining experience and some knowledge.

Jules Benton, our Independent Careers Advisor has been in to carry out 1:1 interviews with our Year 10 and 11 students. Thinking about where and what they would like to do next. A record of the discussions with some pointers for the students to be looking for in next steps should be coming home with them soon.

Oak and Ash hosted our 2nd Alumni day with past pupils returning to share with us what they are up to now and the career paths they are on. It was lovely to see some old faces and hear about what they are up to and how they are enjoying life after school. Quite thought provoking for our students too with some very different paths across the group.

Mountjoy Market Place, our termly careers event where students are involved in all parts of making their class product then become shopkeepers as they sell and consumers as they buy, was a fantastic success. The main aim is for the student to be involved in the processes rather than funds raised, however as the year has gone on we have raised more and more. The latest one saw us donating nearly £150 to Friends of Mountjoy. It was lovely for the students to be able to give a little back to those who support us so much.

The Careers information on the website is being updated so please keep checking back in to see the links and information added.

If anyone knows of any employers who would like to support us in our careers programme in any way please get in touch with the main office.

Emma Lambourn
Careers Lead

School Games Award



We are delighted to announce that Mountjoy School has achieved the School Games GOLD Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year!

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year included: A fantastic health and fitness week back in February, followed by our Welly Walk raising money for sports relief. Hosting the TADDS Boccia tournament in May, working alongside external coaches to provide high quality PE such as Cricket and Boccia. With many young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. We look forward to applying once again in 2024!

The Friends of Mountjoy (FOMS)

Another great year for Friends with lots of items funded for school - this year we have funded theatre trips out, visiting theatre groups in school, Christmas presents, the Soundbeam 6 with additional microphone, button and trolley, a beanbag chair for Sixth form, 3 evening family disco events, new musical instruments and the Leavers Prom!



And the year isn't over yet ... on Saturday 15th July 4pm until 8pm we have the FOMS Summer Social where families can come along and enjoy the barbecue and a drink, dance along to the disco, and socialise with the wider Mountjoy family. There will also be activities for the kids and a few stalls. Future events to look forward to in the Autumn include another evening disco and as the yuletide approaches we will be holding the Christmas Fayre. We would also like to send our support and thanks to Raymond Park who is taking part in the Great South Run in October in aid of FOMS - we will be sharing Facebook posts for anyone that wants to support Raymond with this event.

The amount raised at Mountjoy Market Place for Friends of Mountjoy is £149.05 - an amazing amount. A big THANK YOU to everyone that has supported our events and donated to raffles - we couldn't do it without your continued support.
From FOMS Committee

School Prom

As always, we are filled with great happiness as well as sadness when we say farewell to school leavers.

Some of our students have been with us for up to 15 years! This year we sent them off with a bang! We had an amazing prom with a huge turnout of leavers, their friends and classmates and staff. In true prom style, many arrived with great panache, and all of them looked fab-u-lous. They were treated to a Hollywood-style reception and danced the night away with mocktails in hand. One person stated 'it was the best night of my life!'

Copy or type this link for paparazzi photos: <https://mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk/news/2023-06-30-mountjoy-prom-2023>



Online Safety



Family Picnic Afternoon - 21st July at 12.00

I am pleased to announce that we are planning to have our annual family picnic afternoon on Friday 21st July, which is the last day of term. This will run from 12.00 - 2.00 pm and families are invited to come and join their child or children for a picnic on the back field.

You are welcome to take your child home afterwards, but please make sure you have informed the class team so we can mark the register.

If you have already ordered a school dinner for this day, it will be replaced by a packed lunch.



Soccer Aid Playground Challenge for Schools

Soccer Aid for UINCEF took place on 11th June at Old Trafford in Manchester. Mountjoy School joined hundreds of other schools across the country to organise a Playground Challenge in support of Soccer Aid <https://www.socceraid.org.uk/schools/>.



Our event on 16th June was a huge success! All the students had a go at dribbling, kicking, carrying, throwing or bouncing a ball along an obstacle course before aiming at the goal, which Richard kindly offered to defend. Pupils and staff wore their favourite football shirt. As well as raising funds for a good cause, pupils got lots of exercise and fresh air and practised their physical skills, coordination and team work.



Thanks to your generosity, we raised £18 and this will be doubled by the UK government when we send it in.





Mountjoy Fashion Show

On Thursday 22nd June Mountjoy hosted its very own fashion show. This was however, a fashion show with a difference. The show was named Recreate, as all items were made by pupils out of recycled and repurposed materials. There were tie-dyed socks, bags made from old t-shirts, hats made from cardboard, tops made from carrier bags, shoes made from boxes and many more amazing creations. Although the whole school had an amazing time parading their items along the cat walk, the purpose was to be aware of the waste we produce and how we can all do our part to protect our planet.



MOVE Programme

Some of our MOVE achievement for the Summer

Term and through out the year 23



We have big celebrations this year with our school, we are now a MOVE SILVER school, we have had our first graduate Toby Page well done!

Of course not forgetting our amazing pupils/students that have met some of their goals and are moving onwards and upwards with their sheer determination to improve and beat their personal targets.

Thank you all, for your constant support & help that you give our Pupils/students who have been able to reach high and achieve their goals. Have a great summer holidays and look forward to seeing you all in September and REMEMBER keep MOVING.....

Family Picnic

Friday 21st July

MOVE Day 2023

MOVE Fest!



MOVE Day is an annual event for schools to celebrate the achievements of everybody involved in the MOVE Programme. This year's theme is a chance for you to not only have a fun day practicing MOVE skills with your pupils, but also provides an opportunity to explore activities related to the many festivals that happen across the UK in the lead up to Summer!




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).



School Council meetings are a way for students to tell senior leaders what they think is going well at school, and what could be improved. Any issues which pupils have can be brought up and discussed. Classes elect up to two students to represent them at the half termly meetings.

School Council members							
Joshua		Abigail		Abel		Charlie	
Eli		Ryan		Lily		Frank	
Jade		Tara		Josh		Ryan	






Pastoral Support Team



Sandra, Ali and Kate



School Counsellors Emily & Helen

SAFEGUARDING			
Designated Safeguarding Lead			
Gill Howard			
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads			
Tracey Page		Sandra Hutchings	
Richard Bowskill		Emma Lambourn	

Safeguarding – our highest priority

Gill Howard is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in school and she is always available for a chat if you have any concerns. We also have 4 Deputy DSLs, all of whom do Level 3 training regularly, so we are covered at all times with knowledgeable staff. All staff complete annual training in Keeping Children Safe in Education and have regular top-ups on specific areas. We also have two online safety champions, Jenny and Iain. If you have any worries, the best thing to do is get in touch and we will help out or sign-post you to the relevant service. If you do not feel able to talk to school, the Dorset Multi-Agency Support Hub can be contacted on 01305 228866.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is the term used when someone who is not a parent or a 'close relative' (e.g., great aunt, cousin, mum's friend or a neighbour) is looking after a child or young person under the age of 16 (under 18 if they are disabled) for 28 days or more in their own home. If this is the case, anyone involved is required by law to notify the local council's Children's Services of the arrangement. A social worker will visit the home to speak to the carer and the child to ensure the child is safe, carry out background checks and make sure support is being provided. Support available for private foster carers may include:

- advice on benefits and possible funding for some essential items
- parenting support and advice
- help in bringing families in crisis back together

Consider contacting school and speaking to Gill Howard if you need support in informing the council, or visit the Dorset Council website for more information.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childrens-social-care/children-in-care/family-and-friends-care/private-fostering>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Last day of Summer term	Friday, 21 st July
Teacher training Days (non-pupil days)	1 st & 4 th September
First day back at school	Tuesday, 5 th September
Half Term	23 rd October – 27 th October
MOUNTJOY SCHOOL, TUNNEL ROAD, BEAMINSTER, DORSET DT8 3HB	
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