

MOUNTJOY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Making a difference today, for tomorrow

Summer 2022

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am thrilled be able to read the summer newsletter as this is the first term since I started in which we haven't felt under the thumb of COVID, and classes are making the most of it!

There has been so much going on in school. The pupils have benefited from lots of trips off-site. Our older year groups have benefited from residential visits to Freshwater, the Portland sailing Academy and others have stayed on Exmoor.

We have been able to see our parents and carers more too, with coffee mornings, information gathering sessions and also live attendance at annual reviews. I can't stress enough that seeing you in school really adds to the spirit of the place and helps to shape the direction we are moving in. Even if you aren't able to come into school, never

hesitate to share your ideas for school development.

Some of you will have heard that we have a number of families trying to gain a place for their children. Dorset have been helping us to identify other areas in which to expand school, as our site doesn't allow any room for growth. As soon as we hear any news, we will let you know.

I hope to see you at the family picnic day on the last day of term (July 22nd) and know that we will continue to work together in '22-'23 to make our school an even better place for our children and young people. If I don't see you, thanks for all you do as a parent or carer.

For now, enjoy the sunshine and have a wonderful summer break.

Gill



Deputy & Assistant Head Teachers

On Friday 1st July we invited former Mountjoy students back to school to talk to our 6th Formers about life after school and their experiences of college (if they went).

Alongside this alumni of students, we had Jules and Maria in school from the intriguingly named Cosmic Cactus to offer specialist advice on careers guidance for our Year 11 and Post 16 students. Jules and Maria have over 30 years' experience and knowledge of working in the careers sector for SEND and will become familiar faces at Mountjoy as we tap into their expertise in this important area of planning the future and understanding the options available beyond school for our young people.

The returning Mountjoy students, all in their early 20's now, had a lot to say and really enjoyed catching up with each other and seeing familiar staff.

Oak class hosted the event in the hall; our students were fully involved in planning, preparing and catering for our visitors, putting on a lovely summer buffet, serving our guests and all importantly clearing and tidying up afterwards. Well Done!

The past students spent time answering our 6th Former's questions and gave real insight into what college life is really like. Tomasz said that all colleges are different so it is good to look at them all and choose the one that is best for you. His college has helped him find a job. Bart told us that work experience is important because it helps you prepare for the future and what you want to do. Frankie has just finished his Entry Level 3 qualifications and intends to study for GCSEs whilst working at a local supermarket. Ashley helps out at a day centre and is the 'mascot' for Beaminster Fire Station.

Jamie is starting up his own business and the Princes Trust is supporting him to write a business plan!

I was so impressed with everyone's focus on their future goals and aspirations. Our past students are certainly excellent role models for the current 6th Formers and we plan to host another get together next year to catch up with them all again following the success of Friday.

Enjoy the summer break!

Tracey and Richard



Governors

On behalf of the Governors of Mountjoy School I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all – staff, pupils, parents and guardians – for the most amazing commitment you give to the school, giving it one of the best reputations for care and happiness in a learning environment in the whole of the South West. It is a privilege to be on the Governing Body where we learn about what you all do, how inspiring you are and therefore help us as Governors assist the Head and the Team decide what you need to continue and make sure you are safe, happy and learning. Mountjoy is a very popular school with lots of young people wishing to attend and this can be seen by the number of pupils who are on roll, 100! That is over double the number estimated when the school was built. So the Governors and the senior leadership team will be putting lots of effort in trying to get more exciting facilities to enjoy in the future. I hope you have the most amazing fun summer holidays and come back in the Autumn ready to learn a bit more, play and build friendships.

Rebecca Knox, Acting Chair of Governors

News from the office



We have updated our school branding and you can now order uniform with the new logo from <https://myclothing.com/collections/mountjoy-school-14313>. We will source a supply of sew on badges which you can request from school in the Autumn Term to sew over the old logo on existing uniform.

Free School Meals

If your child qualifies for free school meals, not only will they receive a healthy meal on every school day, they'll also get,

- access to free holiday clubs
- extra money for their school towards more teachers and activities

It's easy to find out if you qualify - complete the confidential checker at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals or telephone 01305 221090

Pupil Premium

If your child is in reception to year 2 and you receive qualifying benefits, you could get extra £££'s for your school!

Apply for the Pupil Premium at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/pupil-premium

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 lovely Summer Holiday.
Best wishes, Karen



FROM THE CLASSES

Elm Class

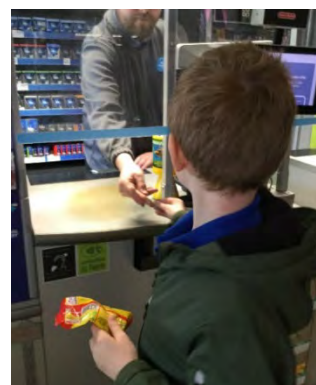


This summer term we have been enjoying the sunshine as well as lots of learning. We celebrated the Queens Jubilee, enjoyed “The Wave” and have been “Out and About” to the local park and shop.

We all enjoyed the celebration for the Queens Jubilee party. From making crowns and table decorations to dressing up and feeling the warmth of everyone coming together as a school to eat and party!



For this summer term we have been venturing out to Beaminster park, walking different routes to encourage road safety, using the zebra crossing, sharing, turn taking and even choosing something tasty from the shop to enjoy after a play in the park. The children have really enjoyed the independence from this activity.



This term we are also going to have a morning out at West Bay for Beach school. We are very excited as a class to take a trip out on the bus!



“The wave” was an incredible multi-sensory story, with singing, dancing, lights and different materials. The children were all engaged and enjoyed being with other peers in the school.

For our end of year trip we went to Freshwater for a swim, lunch, the park and a trip to the shop to buy something of our choice. We all really enjoyed our time there as



we all love the water. It was a lovely day out and both staff and pupils will treasure these memories for a long time, the children were a credit to Mountjoy School and made us all very proud.



Maple Class

It has been a pleasure to take over as Maple Class teacher this term.

We have had a very busy time getting to know each other and the students have been so helpful making me feel very welcome!

We have had a busy time learning and enjoyed writing instructions and lists in English and then following this up with sandwich and toast making. We had some very unusual combinations but peanut butter and jelly seemed the most popular!

In science we spent time researching dinosaurs and fossils and the students created amazing dinosaur fossil pictures using dried pasta.

For our "Shops" school topic this term we created a Market Street where classes made something to sell. As a class we made sweet parcels using cellophane packets and choosing colour combinations of different sweets. This involved lots of sorting of sweets, counting and then deciding a fair price to sell the sweets for.

Sports Day was great fun and as a class we worked well together enjoying the different activities, even though it was a little hot!



Our class assembly was a great success as we chose two songs to sing and sign to for the school. Everyone joined in and so did lots of the classes singing along! We really enjoy singing and dancing in this class!

As I write this we are looking forward to our trip to the Aquarium in Plymouth. It has been a pleasure teaching your children this term and I look forward to teaching those that will be in Maple next year.

Carrie, Mel, Louise and Tracey – The Maple Team!

Willow Class

The summer term for Willow class brings with it some mixed emotions: The pleasure of nice weather and the opportunity for the pupils to spend more time learning outside, along with the less structure or consistency that the summer holidays will bring, and the apprehension of class change for September. As always Willow students have managed well and continue to be curious, motivated individuals.

Read Write Inc. has been clearly embedded in Willow class. Small steps of progress have been consistently made by all students especially over the last few months which is fantastic to see. We have been transferring our skills over the last few weeks by using computers to complete some writing tasks.



Willow students have focussed on rocks and fossils for Science this term. They have learnt about the different types of rocks, sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic, and studied fossils and where they come from. Students had the opportunity to visit the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre with Julie, where they consolidated previous learning. A great day was had by all and highlights included an ice-cream stop and a browse in the gift shop.

Willow class students were also lucky enough to visit the Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre (WOEC) for a day to experience activities including an indoor climbing wall, outdoor climbing and indoor caving. Once again Willow class students represented Mountjoy in impeccable fashion.

Following the White Rose curriculum in maths, Willow class have continued to work hard across the summer term. Students have been looking at a mixture of multiplication and division, money, greater than and less than, and number bonds to 20. They continue to enjoy working across classes and their independence skills have developed because of this.

In Design and Technology, we have been lucky enough to go to Beaminster School for two sessions in their D&T workshop. Students have used different tools to make wooden puppets. Everyone displayed maturity and independence skills and had the opportunity to experience a different educational environment. We hope to do more of the same in the future.

Overall, it has been a busy and enjoyable term. Willow class students and staff have made a great team where we have learnt lots, shared lots, and experienced lots together. It has been a pleasure.



Ash Class

The mad heat of Summer has descended and finds Ash anticipating the term's end. There will be some sad farewells to long-standing class members but we have been busy making fond memories while the weather is with us.

Starting with an absolute highlight, Ash were so very fortunate to be able to spend an immeasurably pleasant week at Freshwater Holiday Park.

Taking our whole class, we embraced the vibe of the Festival and took to caravans for a residential visit.



The students were a total credit to their school, parents and teachers. They adapted to this unfamiliar environment quickly, apparently enjoying the independence.



They showed their capabilities in all facets of living skills ranging from maintaining a clean and hygienic communal kitchen to selecting their own clothing and personal care. They made hot snacks and drinks and were prepared to visit the site shop to replace essentials. They used financial skills to budget their own money for the week and make transactions in the clubhouse each evening.



But if the impression is that this was all work, forgive us, there was plenty of down time for entertainment too. We were privy to some 'sick beats being dropped' and 'shapes being thrown' each night for the various disco and karaoke opportunities. Some evenings ended deep in conversation or collapsing in tears of laughter. The bonds of trust and



camaraderie deepened between all participants.

We wish to express gratitude to the Committee and Staff at Freshwater for their huge contribution to this wonderful trip, the Staff and Governors for making this happen and the Friends of Mountjoy who helped us enjoy the trip too.



Neither was this the last of the residential trips as some of the senior students were able to participate in the National Citizenship Service in Weymouth and Portland. Their activities were numerous and often water-based, culminating in a number of 'Bucket Lists' being ticked as they were accompanied by dolphins. They



finished their service by completing some volunteer-work earning certification for their hard work and commitment.





Indeed, all of Ash have completed some exemplary volunteer work this term! This has ranged from their creation of a whole school Mindful Exercise resource to reading in some of the younger classes. They have successfully shown their road safety to be sufficiently proficient as to aid in escorting one class down into Beaminster and demonstrated how to complete financial transactions in shops. They acted as Stewards during the recent Beaminster Festival, handing out programmes and tea/biscuits, giving a welcoming chat and making announcements.

They have even lent Dorset County a hand as part of the takeover challenge! They helped to write a newsletter to all the Head-teachers in Dorset, have discussed work experience as part of a forum group and are preparing to aid in the interview process for a Service Manager position.



Academically, Ash have completed their trial this year of the City and Guilds Functional Skills in English and Maths. Having navigated the curriculum and performed well in some sample assessments, we are pleased to announce that we will be taking the official assessments early in the fresh Autumn term. This means some students will find themselves able to progress higher in the Entry Levels.



Juniper Class

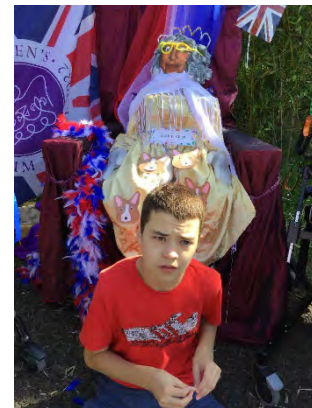
This term has been busy for Juniper class. The boys have spent a lot of time up in the polytunnel planting and watering their plants and were able to pick some of the lettuce they have grown to bring home and share with their families and have started growing sunflowers.



We have also been looking at the topic 'All sorts of shops' and have set up a shop in class with a different kind of shop every week, including a coffee shop where the boys were able to choose and make their own drinks.



The boys also had a wonderful time celebrating the Queen's jubilee. They were all able to go outside and watch as the 'Queen' drove by and made an amazing table decoration for our whole school Jubilee lunch. The boys all made their own crowns to wear and loved being with everyone in the sunshine celebrating.



In art we have looked at the artist Jackson Pollock and everyone had a go at creating their own painting using his splatter style, which got a bit messy but was enjoyed by all and all the boys have created a beautiful painting with lots of colour.



Juniper class have a lot more to be excited about in the final term before summer with some exciting trips out to the beach and Magdalen Farm planned.

Laurel Class

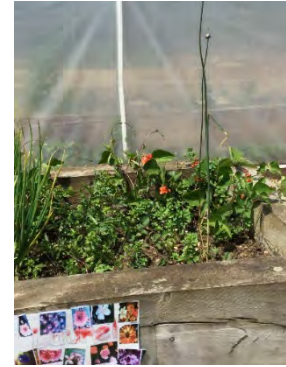
Summer has finally arrived along with some sunshine! We have been enjoying the outdoors and our walks to the shops each Wednesday afternoon have now changed to a walk to the park on a Thursday afternoon. Please remember to send in named: sun cream, a hat and water bottle for your child each day to keep them safe and healthy in the sunshine.



This term we have been working alongside Ash Class on our topic 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind'; they have taken us to the field to show us some yoga moves; read us story books and set up some water play when it was very hot! We listen well to the 'big' boys and girls in Ash Class and like to learn from them- they have been really good role models for us and we look forward to working with them more.



We have been watering and caring for our plants in the horticulture area. They are certainly looking very different to the seeds we planted in the spring. We are looking forward to harvesting the carrots, onions, beans and lettuce to use in our cookery or give to Mark in the kitchen to use for our lunches.



We continue to work hard on our maths; as well as number work we have been learning more about 3D shapes, 2D shapes and making repeating patterns with these. We have been stretching our knowledge by answering true/false questions; spotting the odd one out and guessing what the shape could be from clues.

There have been lots of lovely activities that we have come together as a school for, the class have been



great, considering for some this will be the first time they have seen all of the Mountjoy pupils together. We particularly loved the Jubilee celebrations;

we made crowns, had a big picnic and enjoyed learning about the Queen.



We also had a wonderful experience when the 'Wave' theatre company brought their dome to school and put on an interactive performance. The Class were mesmerised.

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. I look forward to seeing you all at parents evening and the family picnic.

Acorns Class

This term Acorns all got dressed up in red, white and blue to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As the weather was so lovely we took our PE lesson outside and explored different ways to make things move; rolling a ball, throwing a Frisbee, pushing the cars and pulling ropes. As we were coming to the end of our session, a very special visitor popped by to say hello and we got to practise our best curtseys, bows and handshakes. It was a pleasure to meet you your highness!

Lunchtime was a grand affair and some Acorns pupils joined the lunchtime street party with pupils from all across the school. The atmosphere was buzzing and it was lovely to hear so much laughter from the pupils.



Thursday afternoons have been a firm favourite for a lot of Acorns pupils – cooking time! We have made cakes, biscuits, scones, smoothies and fruit salads this term and the pupils have all had a go at using different tools to mix the ingredients together; metal spoons, wooden spoons, forks, spatulas and the electric

whisk. The electric whisk was a real winner. Pupils quickly became very confident in stopping and starting the whisk with verbal prompts.



The most exciting experiences this term (so far!) have been our walks to the local park and using our big field climbing equipment.

We have seen the pupil's confidence in using the play equipment grow week on week and are very proud of how each pupil walks safely to the park each trip.

You can see by the looks on the pupil's faces how much they really enjoy these experiences.



As we approach the end of term we are working hard on cementing all the skills the pupils have learnt over the last year and ensuring they are all ready for the changes that the new school year will bring. We also have a very exciting trip to Vurlands Animal Farm planned in July and can't wait to share this experience with our class of 2021-2022.

Oak Class Mountjoy Market

Friday 10th June saw our Oak Class Mountjoy Market stall afternoon. Classes had been prepping their wares in the previous week or so and we had quite a selection; plants, dog treats, sweets, cakes, scented playdoh, stress ball and stencilled bags!

The weather was kind to us and the stalls were able to be set up outside the classes in glorious sunshine. The students and staff had a lovely afternoon manning their stalls, perusing others and buying items raising funds for our book nooks. The afternoon made £99.72



Oak Class

Oak Class spent the first part of the term been gearing up for their residential. We were really excited to be taking part in the NCS programme alongside Yewstock. The programme consisted of one week residential and one week 'social action project' based on school site.

We had 10 pupils from Oak, 2 from Ash and school staff along with Yewstock Year 11s and staff stopping at the Portland House the RYA hostel built for the Paralympic Sailors!! Those stopping for the week on Portland headed off on Monday morning, the amount of luggage loaded onto the coach looked like we were anticipating being away for a bit longer!! After a stop off to drop bags at the accommodation we walked across to the Sailing academy to meet Darren and Harry from Weymouth College who head up 'Weymouth and Portland Adventure' the people leading all our water activities for the week. First challenge of the week getting everyone into the right size wetsuit!! Thankfully Harry was quite well practised at finding the right sized suit for the individual stood in front of him, once suited up we set about raft building.



With rafts built, there was some fun and games on the water for the whole group or a bit of paddling in the shallows depending on how they felt.

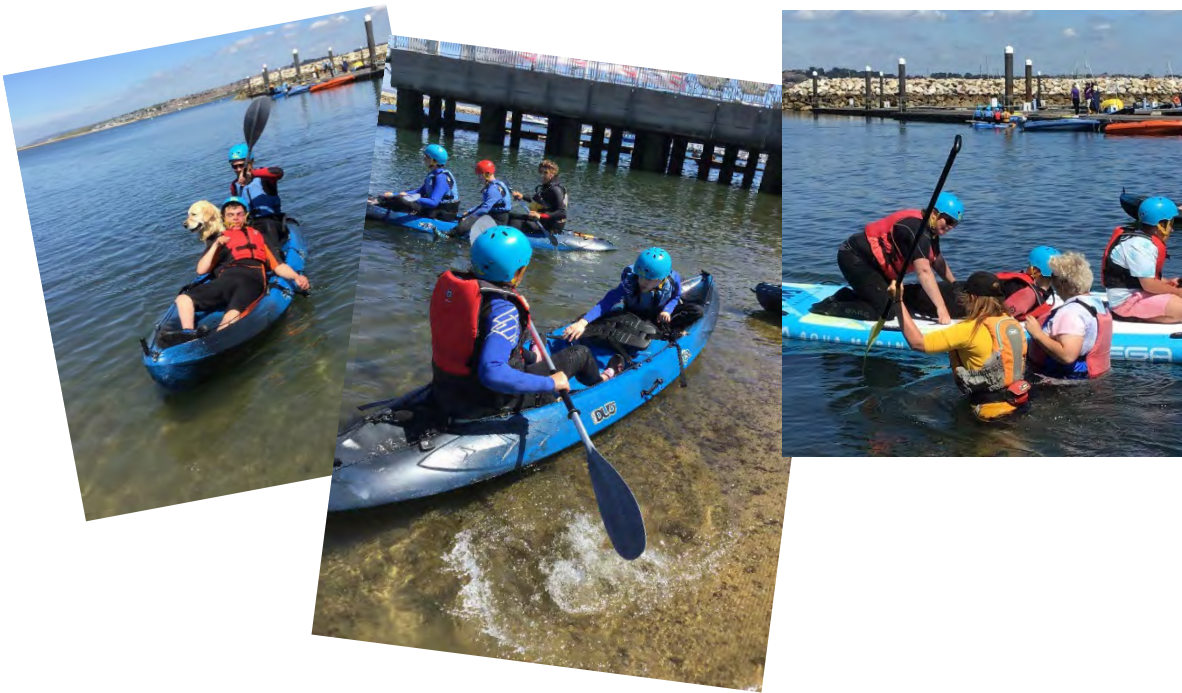
Some tired, weary but excited students made their way back to Portland house to check out their rooms before tea. Then there were activities in the top room with Kim and Llwellyn who were our NCS staff.

Tuesday morning wake up was fairly easy with most awake already. This time we had wetsuits at the hostel so after



breakfast we changed and headed on out again. Kayaking was on the agenda today and we were joined by remaining Oak class students and staff, and Year 11s from Ash with

staff who drove down daily. Some went out with our staff, some with the centre staff and some paired up to go it alone! Jasper the WPA dog enjoyed joining in with the group. There were paddle boards for those who found sitting in the kayaks tricky too!



Wednesday morning wake up at the hostel was a little harder, all the hours on the sea was starting to take its toll! Wetsuits donned, it was time for a spot of paddle boarding. Some paired boarding, and some on the large board. Those on the seated board had the opportunity to go out and round the harbour wall and that's where our chief spotter Joel saw the first dolphin!!!



Final day on the water meant powerboat and crabbing. The students headed down to the boardwalk with their crabbing lines to see whether they could catch more crabs than Yewstock had the previous day.



Students were then taken out in small groups on the power boats by Darren, Ewan and Ed. With the final trips due, our boats were loaded up, students and staff were all comfy and off we went. There was much crossing of wakes, doughnuts being spun and calls for more speed from the students when another shout out from chief spotter Joel, he'd spied the dolphin again!! This time we had not one but two playing alongside the boats in the wakes. It really was quite a sight to behold and an experience all those out on the boats will no doubt never forget. Exhilarated but hungry, the group headed back for lunch and a quick group shot with the amazing instructors from WPA who went out of their way to make the experiences for our students on the water ones they enjoyed.



Week 2 of the Programme for us involved trying to make the environment in school better. The focus was on the horticulture and sensory garden by Ash class.



Having worked out the resources needed, work began in earnest! Polytunnel cleared, patio weeded, areas tidied and shed sanded. All prep for the main event – painting the sheds and planters in fantastically bright colours.



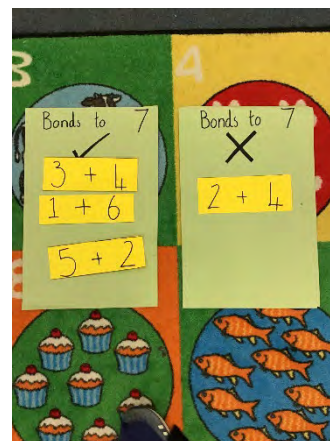
As the sun got hotter we retreated indoors to make some items for the sensory garden ready to hang the following day. Whilst the morning was cooler the sheds and planters were continued then as the heat took hold again refuge was sought in the class making more sensory garden items. Thursday afternoon saw the last of the painting and tidying to make sure the area was left ready for use, with the promise that we'll go back to give the sheds and planters a second coat of paint in the coming weeks. Friday marked the last day with all the last bits being tidied up before lunch, then Frankie from NCS arrived with cake to help us celebrate the end of the programme. Parents were invited in, photos and memories shared and certificates handed out. It really was an amazing fortnight for all involved and we hope to be able to offer the opportunity to other year groups in coming years.

Hazel Class



Hazel class have had a brilliant Summer term with lots of exciting things going on. We have really enjoyed our trips to the park, beach school in West Bay and the trip to Plymouth Aquarium.

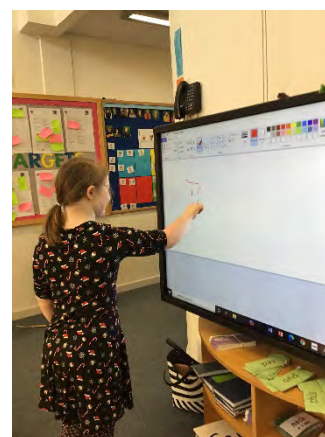
We are very busy in Hazel class and have a full timetable weekly consisting of English, maths, sensory room and soft play, PE, topic work, PSHE, art, music and reading. I have been really impressed with the children's learning this year. They always try their best and have worked very hard over the year. The progress this year has been very good from all the children and I have been particularly impressed with their attitude and learning in maths.



I touched upon our Hooke Court visit in the last newsletter, this was certainly a huge highlight of this year. It really was a great success – doing different outdoor activities each week including: learning about the environment through nature walks, making an oven from clay and twigs, making pizzas, natural art pictures and much more. The children have really enjoyed these sessions and the practical experiences these trips bring.



A few subjects that the pupils seemed to have enjoyed this term were maths, art and music. In maths we have been learning to count to 20 and beyond and introducing the 'tens' and 'ones'. More recently we have looked at shapes and using 3D shapes to make 2D shapes in paint. In art we have been learning about colour and abstract art where we looked at different artists who use lots of colour to make art in abstract ways. We enjoyed looking at Pollock, Matisse, Miro and Mondrian.



We spent some time looking at the artist's work and then recreated their style using a variety of mediums. We created digital art in the style of Pollock, as well as lots of paint flicking outside in the warmer weather. We have also used wax crayons, paint and dye to create different images and textures. We have used tin foil, paper, card and cloth to print on. In music, we have been focusing on our scheme Charanga Music. We found a song in the scheme that the children love to sing and so we used this for our assembly performance for the rest of the school. The children have enjoyed these sessions and have built upon their Signalong knowledge as we are learning to sing and sign. We also like using the percussion instruments to play loud, soft, and fast and slow. The pupils are now able to keep a steady pulse too.

Some of the children in Hazel attend the 'Sing and Sign Choir'. It was a pleasure to take them to the church to perform as part of Beaminster Festival. The pupils were amazing, gave a great performance and should feel very proud.

Another highlight of the year was the Jubilee Party we had in school. It really was a wonderful day where we all came together to celebrate the Queen's reign. We made crowns, table decorations and place mats to really add to the festivities. Hazel class won the best table decoration- a giant, gravity defying teapot, complete with red, white and blue streamers.



It has been a fantastic year and I have loved being Hazel class Teacher. I wish all the children a very happy summer and look forward to seeing them around school in the new academic year.

Natalie and Hazel Team

Rowan Class

Rowan class have had a fun summer term. One of the main highlights this term has been our regular weekly trips out. We have taken part in kayaking where pupils got confident in the water and practised their paddling skills. We enjoyed stand up paddle boarding. All students stood up on the board. Pupils enjoyed lying on the front of their paddle boards and paddling with their arms whilst adults pushed them quickly through the water. I'm not sure who was more competitive (the adults or pupils). Unfortunately, our iPod had a swim too and so our paddle boarding pictures were lost! The pupils particularly like the sessions exploring the tunnels. They would often ask for this! Pupils got confident with climbing and everyone climbed surprisingly high! On a couple of occasions when we couldn't visit Weymouth outdoor education centre we visited Crealy and Seaton tramway.



Crealy was a choice made by the pupils for their end of year trip. Pupils enjoyed the big soft play area and having the experience of roller-coaster, a train journey and playing in the area where you could fire balls! Our visit to Seaton tramway was enjoyed by everyone. Pupils loved the experience of sitting on the top of the tram and commenting on everything they could see. We loved waving to the other trams and the cars as we crossed over the road. We then practiced walking safely through

town and independent walking along the promenade before we bought ice creams where we practiced asking for what we would like and paying for it with our own money.

Pupils did amazingly well on all the trips. They were all very polite, listened well, practiced their independence skills and socialising in the community. Our very last trip of the year was to Plymouth Aquarium, where Maple, Willow and Hazel joined us. This was such a great day out and the pupils did Mountjoy school proud. We took the big coach down to Plymouth, explored the aquarium and took part in a workshop. I can imagine It was a trip that the pupils will remember for a while! Rowan class would like to wish you all a very Happy summer holidays.



A personal note from me: As some of you may know, it is my last term teaching at Mountjoy. I started in Elm class, moved to Hazel and most recently Rowan class, but as well as this I have had lots of contact with many other pupils in the school. I would just like to say a big thank you to all the pupils, staff and parents for making my time at Mountjoy so enjoyable. I have had the best time and the pupils at Mountjoy School truly are amazing!

I wish you all the best for the future. Alice 😊

Sing and Sign Choir

The Sing and Sign Choir has been meeting since September. The Choir has varied in size throughout the year as students have tried it out. At one point there were just three, now there are twenty-three. We have worked on three songs that we can now sing and sign unaccompanied. And then we have been having lots of fun singing and signing along to videos by Singing Hands. The highlight of our year was giving a short performance at the Beaminster Music Festival at the end of June. This was a real challenge for some of the students. I am really proud of the progress they have made throughout the year!

Louise Heatley



Working hard at a Sing and Sign Choir practice session



Beaminster Music Festival



Singing and signing "Good Day"



Singing and signing "I like the Flowers"



Singing and signing "I like the Flowers"



Singing and signing "The Fruit Song"

"I felt happy and calm and excited when I performed at the festival." says Charlotte

Soccer Aid

The whole school was involved in our Soccer Aid day on Friday 1st July. Our School Council had planned the event. Classes made a design for pupils to kick, bounce, dribble, throw, carry or push a ball along, then have a go at scoring a goal. Ash class made big foam hands for Richard the goalkeeper to wear in goal, but this didn't stop our determined pupils from scoring lots of goals.

Everybody had a go along the course to the goal – some had a lot of goes! We invited people to send in £1 in aid of UNICEF and we took an impressive £29 in donations. Thank you to everyone who donated. This is part of our programme to maintain gold Rights Respecting status at Mountjoy. By donating, pupils help UNICEF to help other children in the world whose rights are ignored.



MOVE programme – Movement for learning and life

Some of our MOVE achievement for the Summer Term 22



Not only are we celebrating our pupils' goals, but we are now a Bronze MOVE school which celebrates how much the MOVE team and our pupils have achieved over the last year.

Thank you all for your hard work and our pupils for their sheer determination to achieve their personal goals and not to forget our pupils' parents for all your support. Have a great summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all in September.

The Friends of Mountjoy (FOMS)

This year has been a great year for The Friends of Mountjoy! Lots of money raised and lots of money spent! At Christmas time our crafts and raffle were really successful, and the Chidley Randall Tractor Run supported by FOMS, and the recent Summer Fayre were big fund raisers. This year we have funded an off-site visit for every class, Freshwater residential, The Calvert Trust residential, and part funded the Santa Christmas gifts to pupils. We look forward to funding lots more in the next academic year.

I want to take the opportunity in this newsletter to thank everyone for the support FOMS has had this year. We have a committee of great volunteers who give up their time to organise events, and we have a really supportive school community of parents, staff and pupils who donate to all our events, send in items for our stalls or raffles, help out at events and attend with their families. It is always heart-warming to see so many Mountjoy pupils and their families at our events and to see the children having such a good time. We have also had an amazing level of support from the local community and businesses, repeatedly donating raffle prizes whenever asked. FOMS would not exist without this participation, so thank you all so much!

We hope everyone has a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all at future fund raisers - things in the pipeline for the Autumn are a family evening Halloween Social/ Disco and of course, Christmas crafts and raffle. Follow us on our Facebook page to keep up to date with up-coming events: [The Friends of Mountjoy School | Facebook](#)
Happy summer everyone!

Tracey Page - Chair

New Mountjoy Logo



After working with a graphic designer and sharing options with the pupils and staff, we are very pleased to show you our new school logo, which will 'go live' in September. Although new uniform is available (<https://myclothing.com/collections/mountjoy-school-14313>), there is no obligation to change from your current uniform with the blue jigsaw logo and we are keeping school uniform optional, as our families prefer to have a choice.

Sports Day

Pupils, parents and staff came together to have a fabulous, fun and energetic time at our Sports Day on 29th June. The sun shone down on an event full of varied physical activities, team-building exercises and camaraderie in a supportive and productive atmosphere. It was lovely to see all the parents who visited and joined in.



At the end of Sports Day, pupils were proud recipients of awards presented to them for their achievements over the year. Here are some photos and comments



Noah won the Achievement Cup because he has improved in so many areas. His attitude to his work, how he's managing to regulate, his behaviour on our trips out and willingness to join in and give things a try. He has become confident using the toilet and going to the sensory room and is so much better with lights being off and doors closed. He's a real little superstar.



Josh always comes to school with a smile on his face. He is happy, helpful and always willing. Throughout the year it has been extremely noticeable how much effort he puts in to everything he does. He helps in the class, offers to tidy up and is always polite and caring. He is an excellent friend to many because he is so kind and helpful. He has also tried very hard in all his areas of learning and had moved up to the next group in phonics. Excellent progress in all aspects of learning including personal growth too. Hazel team are very proud of Josh.



He has been a super student this year, his approach to the MOVE programme has been outstanding and he has made many gains across school including playing the sound beam as part of the open orchestra. He has excellent attendance and always tries his best in lessons. He is a worthy winner of the achievement cup for Juniper class and we are all extremely proud of him.



Max received the Pat Taplin Music Award for musical progress and enthusiasm in class and in the Open Orchestra

Heidi said "I really didn't think that I would win the cup, I thought it would be someone else from class. I was really surprised and happy".





More trophy winners included Jack and Abel for the Fastest Junior and the Fastest Senior



Rowan class cup - he's had a very settled year, he's been doing some lovely walking in school and offsite, he's accessed lots of offsite visits, his communication is continuing to progress, and he can understand and regulate himself better in class. He has had a very happy and positive year.



Ella has made the greatest progress of all Engagement Steps learners across all areas. Her communication has improved through her understanding of her 'total communication' environment. She understands her routines, picks up on visual cues, initiates interaction with all staff and some of her peers. She uses her iPad, all buttons and symbols, making choices independently. What a star, we are so proud of you!!!



Mountjoy's Super Success Stew

From tiny Acorns, sweet and new
Mountjoy's super success stew...

Boughs of Elm
and Laurel shoots
take time to prepare the roots

Mix with Willow
and sprigs of Ash
Add some Rowan fruit and mash

Maple essence
and Hazel leaves
Sprinkle with Juniper berry seeds

Stir and nurture
Leave to soak
The finished product...
A mighty Oak

E. Nokes April '22

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).



At our School Council meeting in June, the class representatives discussed their ideas to design a course for the Soccer Aid day and how the event should be run. They also talked about designing a mural on a wall in the playground. The themes they suggested for the mural were Lion King, jungle and sunset, with colours orange, green brown, grey/blue and yellow. Maple, Rowan and Willow classes would like a bench to sit on in their outside area, so they are going to look online for a bench. The School Council is proving to be an effective way for pupils' voices to be heard and also for them to contribute actively in school matters that are for and about them. We're looking forward to continuing with our regular meetings after the Summer break.

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

Online Safety

Parents and carers can 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.



Pastoral Support Team

We're rapidly approaching the end of another academic year with the summer holidays almost upon us – where has this year gone? We have had a lovely summer term and have really enjoyed seeing so many more parents and carers in person for the children's annual reviews and parent/teacher consultations!

This summer, Sandra and Ali are looking forward to weekly meet ups with parent/carers and children throughout the holidays. You all should have received a letter with the dates and details of these gatherings but here are the dates and venues again:

27th July – Orchard Crescent Play Area, Bridport DT6 5HB
3rd August – Radipole Park and Gardens, Weymouth DT4 7NB
9th August – Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth EX10 ONU
17th August – Chard Reservoir, Chard TA20 1HN
22nd August – Nine Springs, Yeovil BA20 1QN
31st August – The Terrace Playing Fields, Sherborne DT9 5NS

This will be a lovely opportunity for you to meet up with other families and for your children to meet up with their friends over the summer. It's not always easy with our children spread across 3 counties but, as you can see, venues have been arranged across a variety of areas so that at least one session should be accessible for all. If you didn't see the letter and would like more information, please contact either Sandra Hutchings or Ali Edwards. Just as a reminder, all parent/carers will be responsible for their own children for the duration of these meet ups.

We were delighted to see so many parent/carers sign up for our Parent Focus Group this term, our first meeting will be on the 7th September, 9:30-11:30am (more details to follow). This will be a great opportunity for you to become more involved in our school community as we all get back to normal school life.

Have a wonderful summer holiday and we'll look forward to seeing everyone in September for a brand new school year!



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 Lambourne



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Family Picnic Day

Friday, 22 July

Last day of Summer term

Friday, 22 July

First day of Autumn term for pupils

Monday, 5th September

Teacher Training Days

Thursday & Friday, 1st & 2nd September

Autumn half term

24th – 28th October

Bank Holiday

Monday, 31st October

Last day of Autumn term

Friday, 16th December

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