

MOUNTJOY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Making a difference today, for tomorrow

Spring 2025

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we welcome the gentle sunshine of spring, we reflect on the wonderful growth and achievements that our pupils have made so far this year. Spring symbolizes renewal and opportunity, and it's exciting to see our students flourishing in all aspects of school life.

There is always a strong sense of purpose around the place; learning is the goal and I see this in all forms, not just our formal curriculum. This term, my particular favourites have been listening to the school council talking with important people such as politicians, councillors and the Dorset Education Challenge Leads with real confidence.

I also loved Arts Week as it gave the whole school an opportunity to work as one and everyone was creative, engaged and productive. Lastly, Careers Week was so inspirational; our children and young people got so much from it.

There is no doubt that the staff at Mountjoy go the extra mile, but we won't always get it right. Therefore, I'd like to draw your attention to our parent questionnaire, which you can complete to give us an overview of what you think we are doing well and what you think we need to improve and focus on: <https://forms.office.com/e/t73amEuQqT>

We enjoyed dressing in 80s garb for Comic Relief on 21st March, which took me right back to my days as a wannabe pop star! We raised about £415, with gift aid to follow!

Thanks for being so amazingly supportive. We couldn't do it without your help.

Gill



Governors

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to thank you for all the support you have given to our school since the beginning of this school year. Your children have been a pleasure to work with as we continue to explore every opportunity to expand their learning in a caring, stimulating and safe environment. When challenges arise, children thrive when there are systems in place that ensure that there is the very best available to them and very particularly, when families and schools work closely together. We really appreciate your collaboration at all times and celebrate what we have achieved together.

The impressive 'Big Wave' Arts week project was truly inspirational and our thanks as governors go to all staff who were so deeply passionate and involved in presenting this work with and for the children. We are looking forward to everything that has been planned for rest of this school year. There will be a whole range of interesting opportunities and activities that will continue to recognise the importance of hard work, success, celebration and having fun. We wish you well as we continue to work together to help your children be the very best they can be, so that they can take their place in the world with confidence and self-assurance.

Helen Farmer
Chair of Governors

Who are the Governors?

Governors can be elected by parents, staff or nominated by the Local Authority. The Governing Body works very closely with the Head Teacher and staff developing and monitoring policies to ensure that the children are safe and that their individual needs are met. Our role is threefold: to provide strategic direction, to be a critical friend, and to ensure accountability.

Parent governors: Elected by other parents in the school. A parent governor's role is the same as other governors on the board, but they provide a 'parental perspective'. They're not there as a parent representative nor as an advocate for their own child.

Staff governors: Elected by other staff members. Staff governors have the same role as other governors on the board, but they bring a unique staff perspective to the governing board. They don't represent the staff and are not there to be held to account by the board.

Local authority (LA) governors: Nominated by the Local Authority. LAs set their own eligibility criteria. The LA governor has the same role as other governors on the board, but they provide an 'LA viewpoint'. They're a representative of the Local Authority, but they're not a political appointee.

Co-opted governors: Appointed by the governing board. Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing board if it believes they have the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. They'll often have specialised knowledge in subjects like: Management, HR, Finance, Data, Law, and Education.

Dear Parents/Carers

Making a difference today, for tomorrow

Towards the end of last year, I was appointed a Co-opted Governor of Mountjoy School which I consider a great privilege. I come from a private sector legal background and still practise law today.

I have always been passionate about child welfare. I was a chair of a chamber of commerce and during my time in office sought to inspire local pupils to take an interest in the world of work. I also encouraged local employers to take an interest in local education.

Mountjoy's motto for me summarises the core ethos of the school. It's all about helping pupils and their families by making a difference in their education to achieve the best outcomes possible.

I look forward to working collaboratively with all the tremendously committed people that make Mountjoy such a lovely school.

Warm regards

Stephen Larcombe
Co-opted Governor

Helen Farmer,
Chair of Governors



Siobhan Freer,
Clerk to
Governors



News from the office

I am including information again for pupils that may be eligible for Free School Meals. Even if they do not have a hot meal in school or are in Reception to Year 2 and have Universal Infant Free School Meals, they may be eligible for free school trips, uniform and the school will receive extra money to spend on resources. Supermarket vouchers are often available to help buy lunches in the school holidays too.

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

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

Any questions you have, please email office@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk
or tel: 01308 861155

Wishing you all a lovely Easter. Best wishes, Karen

Arts Week

Hokusai's 'Great Wave'



Deputy & Assistant Head Teachers

If you have been in to school recently you would have seen the Foyer decorated with pink cherry blossom trees and erupting volcanoes!



It's all been part of our amazing Arts Week inspired by the Japanese artist Hokusai's 'Great Wave'. This picture depicts a high spiralling wave in the centre of a stormy sea with three rowing boats and Mount Fuji in the background.



Some students learnt about Hokusai's life as an artist and had the opportunity to make a foam block print. Over three days the secondary students helped to make a giant wave installation in the hall out of recycled materials and make cherry blossom trees and pictures.



Rowan class used the giant wave as a backdrop to perform a short drama to all Primary classes about the meaning of friendship based on Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo that they had been doing in English.



On the Thursday afternoon the hall was transformed in to a performance space with a cherry blossom avenue, accompanied by improvised Japanese style music by Ash class. On Friday, some students were put through their paces, taking part in a superb contemporary dance workshop led by Kelly in response to the Great Wave.



Theme weeks happen three or four times a year in school and to be successful take a lot of hard work, planning and collaboration by staff - so a BIG thank you to Charlotte, Donna, Iain, Natalie, Kat, Carrie.

Thank you to Karen for buying the school a fog machine and to our hard-working cleaners, Iris, Karen, Skye, Lucas, Jo, Charlotte and Dawn for keeping us all free from germs!



FROM THE CLASSES

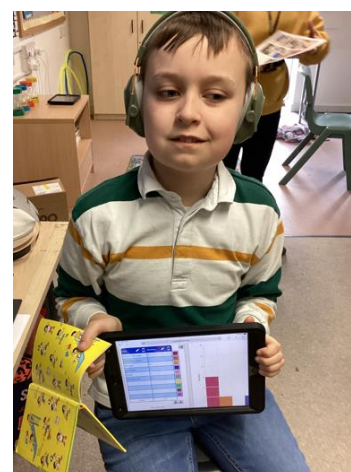
Chestnut Class

We have had a very busy Spring Term in Chestnut class! In English we have been writing recounts and learning about poetry with rhyming words. We had a very unfortunate incident in class where our chocolate cake was stolen and we had to solve the mystery of who had swiped it! We wrote a report about it, revealing that it was Richard. We have just about forgiven him now! We have made some shoe box theatres, with the scenery from the Gruffalo, so that we can retell the story, focussing on those rhyming words.



In maths we have been learning about multiplication and division and have then moved onto statistics. We carried out a survey to find out everyone's favourite pancake toppings and then made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, using the most popular. We are beginning to learn about measure and we have planted some sunflowers, so we can measure them to see how tall they grow.

In science we have enjoyed our Tuesday afternoon visits to Kingcombe, where we have been working towards an outdoor learning award. We have been looking for insects, found some different animal footprints and looked out for birds in the hide. We have also been lucky enough to work with Climate Cooler Schools, who have been helping to do some planting at Mountjoy. Everyone especially enjoyed using the wheelbarrow!





We have been on some off-site visits, focussing on life skills and independence for the future. We have visited Bridport Library, where we had great fun listening to a sensory story and learning how to use the machine to borrow books. We walked to Dexter's Café in Beaminster, where everyone ordered a drink and a cookie. We have also been to the cinema.



We enjoyed meeting some new people during careers week and considering different roles. Our favourite activity was the blood bikes!



Arts week was a real triumph, with Chestnut class creating a cherry blossom walk way, for an installation in the hall.

We are looking forward to the adventures of the summer term!



Laurel Class

What a brilliant term we have had so far! This term has been jam-packed with many extra-curricular days and busy weeks such as Careers Week, the Mountjoy Market and charity days such as Comic Relief where we all thoroughly enjoyed dressing up in our best 80's gear!

Alongside all of this, we have of course been working really hard within our core subjects such as Science, Maths and English/Phonics with some great progress made from our students.

Careers Week was a real highlight for us as a class with many opportunities given to us to explore different pathways that we may take on in our future careers. We had some new experiences this year with a session with a local Army Officer who let us try on some of his uniform as well as try out the hammock that they sleep in when out on exercise.



We also welcomed back Rob who works for the local refuse centre and let us have a go at recycling our own rubbish correctly as well as pushing the wheelie bins around!



World Book Day was another of our favourite days this term with everyone really embracing the idea of dressing up and exploring some new and old books and stories within the classroom as well as showcasing our costumes in the hall later that afternoon in our annual Mountjoy catwalk!



The Blood Bikes were also a favourite in Laurel class as we got to sit on the bikes – we all found this very exciting!

With Spring on the way we cannot wait to get out and about more and enjoy the sunshine (fingers crossed we get to see it!) Have a fabulous Easter Break and we will see you when we're back!



Acorns Class

We have had such an exciting Spring term full of opportunities and new experiences.



Careers Week saw us sitting on the blood bikes, 'milking the cow' and helping to grind wheat after listening to the farmer in the hall. We also explored dinosaur fossils and even sat on a dinosaur nest! We swung in the army hammocks, tried on the different uniforms and did lots of role play in class of different careers such as builder, doctor, hairdresser and chef.



We had lots of fun dressing up in our pyjamas for World Book Day, the children all looked so cosy and the day felt very relaxed. We enjoyed making hot chocolate, sharing stories such as The Three Little Pigs, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Guess How Much I Love You, and watched bedtime stories. We also had some time to explore the dark tent with the light box and torches.



For Sensology this term we have been learning about different celebrations and festivals. We have focused on Chinese New Year, Holi and Cinco de Mayo. This has seen us listening to the music from each culture, tasting and exploring the food, creating artwork relating to the festivals and exploring the celebration items.



We have continued with our Attention Autism sessions this term with everyone now working at Stage 3 with turn taking and some of us have just started Stage 4 where we carry out independent activities at our table. The children's engagement, anticipation and shared attention has increased massively!





We aim for all of our pupils to be as independent as possible and so have encouraged all of the children to take part in cookery skills which has included pouring and emptying, mashing, peeling, cutting, sieving and using spoons and forks.

During these sessions the children have also had fun using their senses to explore all of the ingredients.



We have been working on our body schema, doing lots of mirror work copying expressions and identifying our body parts this term. Some of the children are starting to take an interest in the Zones of Regulation and we have been encouraging them to look at their actions to see how they might be feeling.



We have been lucky to have had Forest School with Katie this term. We enjoyed walking to the woods in a small group and observing our surroundings on the way. We had fun exploring the woods, took part in We're Going on a Bear Hunt story, took turns to swing in the hammock and enjoyed mark making with natural paintbrushes. It was great seeing how much the children got from just having time to explore the different space and see their curiosity in nature.

I cannot believe we are already over half way through the school year! We are constantly amazed by how well the children are progressing with their communication, turn taking, social skills and confidence and cannot wait to see how much this continues next term!

Becki & Acorns team

Ash Class



Ash is bouncing into spring with mostly year 10s going on college visits and thinking about their next steps after key stage 4. Current year 11s are having college interviews and securing placements for the next academic year which we wish them all the luck with. In March we invested in Careers Week, exploring different jobs and careers.

Exams are underway in Ash and students are studying hard for these with practise papers and revision sessions during English & maths. English in the other classroom focuses on the Read Write Inc. work scheme. In Maths we have looked at Tally charts and data and number bonds.



Ash very much enjoyed Arts Week making Mount Fuji and exploring the picture The Great Wave. Arts carousel continues on Mondays. Year 11 have moved on to drama and year 10s are doing 3D art inspired by Alexander Calder's works.



Tuesday mornings are taken up with creating small easy to make meals. As students get older we teach a batch of easy meals which hopefully they can learn to make themselves as they near adulthood. Then in ICT we looked at safely online, making films, and now going on to animation.

History this term is all about Hitler and his rise as a dictator. Geography is all in the rain forests learning about climate, the animals, and where rainforests are in the world.

Duke of Edinburgh awards are continuing with person projects ongoing and the volunteering part of the award. We look forward to warmer days to practice getting our tents erected and cooking on the small stoves.



In RE we looked at Sanātana Dharma and Buddhism using sensory lessons to combat some of the complex world views.

PE on Fridays is soft ball with an external coach and multi skills with Kevin.

Ash have a fair few trips in the diary with trips to colleges, a trip out for breakfast in Bridport, and a day at Magdalen Farm during March.

We hope you have all managed to attend one of Kat's "moving on" sessions about students' next steps, or the coffee mornings or evenings about transition. If you haven't attended, please get in contact and we will email the PowerPoint presentation to you.

Ash class will look forward to sunny warmer days as we head towards the Easter break and we wish all our families a happy Easter.



Rowan Class

Rowan class have had a great Spring Term. We have been to Pizza Express, to the cinema to see Kensuke's Kingdom and we went to see The Wizard of Oz at the Electric Palace. We have been very busy with an excellent residential to Magdalen Farm.



Although we love going out and about, we have also been busy with our learning in class too. We completed reading the book Wonder. We really enjoyed learning about Auggie, and how he gets on at school. We have also been looking at poetry by focusing

our learning around the book Cloud Busting. We have been improving our writing by thinking about extended metaphors and ways to describe using adjectives. We also love reading and we read every day!

In maths, we have been looking at improper fractions and mixed numbers. We have also learnt about integers!

We also took part in Arts Week where we made our own costumes and created a performance linked to the Great Wave of Kanagawa.

Careers Week was another highlight, where we welcomed lots of visitors to Rowan class. We loved seeing the solider and the Blood Bikes.



In science, we have been learning about first aid, including the recovery position and CPR. This term, we have been looking at New Beginnings in RE, we made sun catchers and decorations for Ramadan and Eid. We tie-dyed t-shirts for Holi and made some yummy chocolate snacks for Easter.



This term we have been very lucky to have had Katie take us to the woods for Forest School. We have really enjoyed these sessions, thank you Katie for planning some great outdoor games for us.



That just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Easter and spring holiday.

We look forward to welcoming the children back for another busy summer term.



Elm Class

A wonderfully busy and varied Spring term with arts week, careers week, local visits and other new experiences!

We have enjoyed our class topics this term, starting with Around the World. The children enjoyed our focus on China and ordering the animals of the zodiac in our

story 'The Great Race'. Similarly we have all enjoyed our walks around the local area to link with our topic this half term, 'All kinds of shops'. The park being a particularly popular visit!



In maths we have been developing our recognition of numbers to 10 and ensuring we can carefully count different representations of the same number. We love watching Numberblocks on cbeebies to help us in understanding our numbers, as well as using numicon, dice and cubes. We have also been working on understanding the positional language 'in, on and under' and continuing to work on recognising different coins and the concept of shopping.

This term Elaine has led a fantastic programme of Attention Autism sessions for us during 'Bucket' sessions. We have enjoyed a range of sensory experiences from launching flying saucers to creating animal shapes from flour and splatting shaving foam! Next term we are going to continue Attention



Autism. We have all done really well in this area, extending our ability to watch, listen and manage new experiences.



We had a fantastic week learning about different jobs during careers week. We enjoyed meeting the drivers of Blood Bikes and even got to try out sitting in the driving seat! We also had a visit from a farmer and learned about recycling and archaeology. We particularly enjoyed trying on the different

hats and getting inside a hammock during our army careers talk.

In PE we have been enjoying collecting our 'Hey Dougie' work out badges each week and the children have been progressing well with their bat and ball skills, starting with rolling, kicking and throwing and now delving into bats and balls with some simple rallies between us!



We had a great time during arts week and loved seeing our mixed media cherry blossom collages and junk modelling boats in the 'Great wave' installation at the end of the week. We went outside and made natural paintbrushes with Katie, we really liked using our painting skills on a big scale by splashing paint onto fabric outside! We have enjoyed the different aspects of



art and D/T this term, starting with patterns and collage and finishing with our split pin Easter chicks, which you may have seen purchased from Mountjoy Market place.



Oak Class

Oak class have had a busy spring term, working towards finishing their ASDAN units around making the bed, personal hygiene and accessing a local swimming pool. The students have also continued working hard on their gardening – reinvigorating the sensory garden, reading and Read Write Inc. units. They have also begun new units on money work and relationships.



Before half term we took part in Arts Week with lots of painting using various tools to help create the large installation of The Wave. The students loved using the big brushes and rollers with emulsion paint, a useful skill if you are thinking of decorating – they would definitely be able help on big spaces. They really enjoyed visiting the finished installation.



We were lucky enough to take part in a two night residential to Magdalen Farm where lots of the skills we have been working on were put to the test. The students also had to navigate being with other classes in the group, not just Oak class. It was a very different experience for some students who are used to going home to just one other person or a couple of siblings. We appreciate that it's quite a challenge for parents and carers too! For several parents and carers this was the first time their young ones have been away from home. However, everyone was kept busy with various tasks around the farm; helping to feed the animals, collecting the eggs, planting sapling trees. There were also some workshops around orienteering, den building, making things using different tools, campfire songs, toasting spiced apple slices, making pizza snack and making smoothies on the bike! All in all a very busy few days.





Once back from residential we were straight into Careers Week with a range of visitors coming in to tell us about their jobs. The students listened well, and enjoyed taking part in various activities.



Hazel Class

We cannot believe we are the spring term is going so quickly! We have been having lots of fun in Hazel class; we have particularly enjoyed our offside visits and outdoor learning.

We had the opportunity to go to the Bridport Arts Centre to watch Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company's performance of the Three Little Pigs. It was very good and everyone really enjoyed it, it was very funny. It was so lovely to see the children so happy and enjoying the show and it made us very proud to take them out, as they were so sensible and polite whilst we were offsite.



We also had the chance to go to the cinema. We went on the bus to Yeovil Cineworld and we watched The Wild Robot. We had been looking forward to seeing it for a while so when the day arrived we were all very excited. We really enjoyed the movie. When we got back to school we drew pictures of the movie characters and discussed the movie.

We have also have had some visits from the Sensory Trust since Christmas, we each planted a tree in the backfield, we learnt about all the things a tree needs to grow.



During Art Week we went to the forest and made some natural paintbrushes using sticks and leaves, we dipped them in paint and flicked the paint to make pictures.

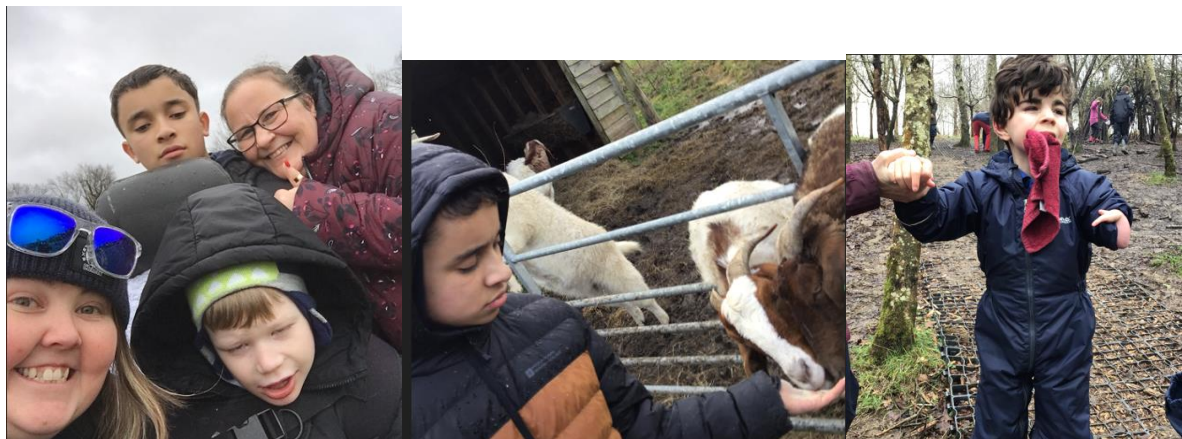


We very much look forward to the weather getting better and more opportunities to take our learning outdoors in the summer term! ⚙

Juniper Class

Juniper have enjoyed an exciting spring term.

We have been lucky enough to join in with numerous trips out, including an overnight stay at Magdalen for two of our classmates! They joined Rowan and Oak classes at Magdalen Farm to experience outdoor activities; campfires, animal care, den building and lots of mud and rain. We were all so proud of the way they settled in and spent their first night away from home without their parents. Two other classmates joined us for the day to help with building dens, exploring the grounds and of course drinking hot chocolate around the campfire.



Each week this half term, small groups have been heading out to the shops (Lidl, Co-op and Morrisons) this is all linked to our current topic All Sorts of Shops. We have been learning to follow a shopping list, pick items carefully, paying for them at the till and collecting our change. We very much enjoyed sampling the items from the bakery!

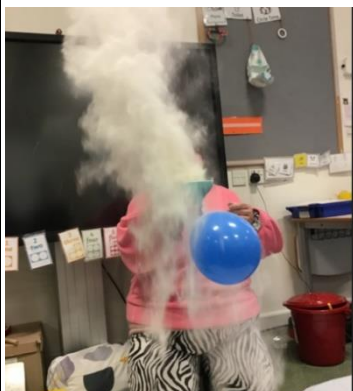
We have been role-playing at school too; our favourite is the café selling toast and a variety of toppings.



Some of us have been focusing on cooking skills each week as part of our ASDAN challenges, making a variety of tasty and healthy food.



Communication, interaction, therapies and life skills continue to be a core part of Juniper class and it has been amazing to see these skills flourish over this term.



Ellie (our Speech and Language Therapist) has been in class to run some very engaging communication sessions that have challenged us to use our AAC in more complex ways. We look forward to using our skills when we visit Morrisons café as a whole class at the end of the Spring term.

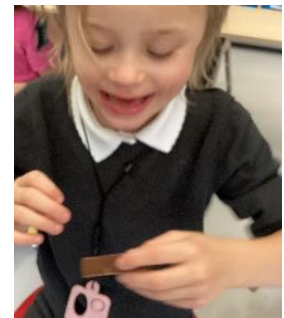
Willow Class



Willow class have been reading a new book this term called 'The World Came to my Place Today'. Just like George in the story we tried lots of different foods from chocolate bars, pizza, Rice Krispies, bananas, drinking orange juice and even smelling coffee granules, as well as feeling paper, rubber, smelling washing up liquid, a tin of beans and sunflower oil whilst finding out where in the world these items have grown or made. We also played with sand in a tray with a bucket, spade and a train.



The staff and pupils celebrated Chinese New Year, the year of the snake. Willow class enjoyed lots of Chinese food; Duck rolls, vegetable spring rolls, prawn crackers, chow mein, sweet and sour chicken, prawn toast and egg fried rice. Lots of full tummies and big smiles... not just from the children either! We tried on items of Chinese clothing, held an antique Chinese birdcage as well as watching videos about the dancing dragon.



The week before half-term the whole school took part in Arts Week. Willow class dressed up in their waterproofs and wellies and walked down to the back field to make natural paintbrushes, with a stick and some leaves and painted some paper with red and green paint! We also made a big painted wave in the hall and blossom trees out of tissue paper.

We look forward to showing and telling you all the exciting things that we will be doing in the next term!



Climate Cooler Schools Project

The Sensory Trust was back at Mountjoy School to continue the Climate Cooler Schools project last week. This time the students were planting wildflowers to diversify the grasslands at the back of the field.

The students learnt about how important it is to have a range of plants and leave areas for the wildflowers and grass to grow longer. This supports positive climate action allowing the plants to carry out a cooling action and help water soak into the ground where it needs to be.

The students sowed some wildflower seeds, and each planted some wildflower plug plants to create a big area of grassland. The flowers should appear in the summer term and Harry the Site Manager will mow a path through the middle so everyone can enjoy them. Each class was left with a wildflower spotters guide so they can go out and look for what they have planted. Everyone worked very hard and have added another skill to their climate action activity! Go team!

For more information about the project, you can visit the [Sensory Trust website](#) or join the [Facebook group Sensory Trust Collective Climate Repair](#)



Arts Week

The Great Wave of Kanagawa recreated

To celebrate a week of arts at Mountjoy, the pupils and staff have created a ceiling height model of The Great Wave. Hokusai's famous Japanese woodblock artwork depicts a huge wave about to crash into three fishing boats with an erupting Mount Fuji in the background.



The installation involved a team effort using scrap materials and a lot of creativity. All of our children and young people were involved in making it. As well as the giant model, we had haiku writing, printing, dance, music and drama and learning this week has had a distinctive Japanese feel to it.







© UNCRRC Article 31

I have a right to relax and play

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: You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.



The school Council has been very busy this spring term. The class representatives have brought the views of their classes to meetings with Dorset Council councillors and Dorset Unstoppables.

In January the School Council attended a Speech Writing Workshop where they learnt how to take one of the issues they had brought up at their last meeting and write a campaign speech about how important the issue is, and then to deliver the speech.



Later on in January, the School Council met Councillor Bridget Bolwell, Ward Councillor for Bridport. Bridget wanted to know if there was anything the School Council would like to tell her. Then she asked if they would like to be part of a Bridport and local area Youth Parliament. She said three School Council members could meet other school's Council members to work together on a project to benefit the community. This could be, for

example, litter picking, put on a show or develop a playground.

In March the School Council worked to support the Dorset Unstoppables, which is a new group designed to capture the voices of young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The Dorset Unstoppables want to give young people an accessible, safe and inclusive space to be listened to, and to share feedback and ideas in a variety of ways. This is to ensure to ensure that young people with a special educational need or disability and council decision makers work together to get services right for families and children and young people in Dorset. Mountjoy's School Council completed an activity where they wrote and drew about themselves, then they wrote about fairness. The Dorset Unstoppables will add this to other School Councils' responses from across Dorset to shape the way they work with young people.



Careers

Across this term students from Ash have attended various colleges looking at the options open for them in Dorset, Somerset and Devon. Really important as we have students from all 3 counties in the cohort.

We are just off the back of Careers week 2025. We had a wide range of visitors in to share with us about their jobs and what a day in their work life looks like. The students enjoyed finding out about the different jobs and we had some really interesting questions for our visitors.

There were some who couldn't make careers week so we'll be getting them in later in the year to share with us. If you are able to offer time to come and share with us or have us visit your workplace we'd love to hear from you.

So far for our encounters we'd like to say a big thank you to:

Amy and Gareth Burton – The Nook, Weymouth

Rob Edmonds Wayland - Refuse collector – Dorset Council

Will Bowditch – Discover Farming

Kris Knapton and Steve Barnes– Bloodbikes

Rev Jo Neary – Beaminster St Mary's

Louise Green – Alley Cuts Bridport

Martin Whitehead – Archaeologist

Liam Rowley – Csgt Rowley, Cold Stream Guards.

Sian Humphries + Erika – Beaminster Medivet.

Our first Mountjoy Market of the academic year saw £110 raised for the Bloodbikes. The second market was run last week raising over £100 (not yet counted up all the monies) for the Sensory Trust, an organization working with school on a range of Outdoor and Eco Projects. Lovely to be able to give back a little to them. Having the students involved in making the products, selling, and handling cash both as a buyer and as seller are invaluable skills for life.

Emma Lambourn Careers Lead

Thank you!

Mountjoy School is very grateful for the following donations which have been so kindly offered by local organisations.

- Waitrose donated £850 for the Christmas Play (December 2024).
- Bridport MENCAP donated Easter Eggs for all the students at Mountjoy.
- Mountjoy prides itself on being sustainable and is very grateful to The Scrapstore at The Hub, Yeovil for donating materials for our Arts Week and National Trust property, Montacute for enabling the school to make a cherry blossom walk as the entrance to the Great Wave of Kanagawa installation, for an authentic Japanese experience.

The Friends of Mountjoy (FOMS)

As the weather starts to get warmer we are looking ahead to our future events. On Friday, 28th March we held a family Fun Disco 6 'til 8 but don't worry if you missed it because we have another one on Friday 18th July. These are "give back "events, not designed to make a profit, but rather to give Mountjoy pupils an opportunity to socialise outside of school with friends and family.



Another date for the diary is Sunday 8th June when we will be holding our Summer Fayre. After the Easter holidays the call will go out for raffle prizes and donations for stalls so please keep an eye on your email and the FOMS Facebook page for details. If you would like to volunteer at this event please get in touch too - we always need lots of helpers!

FOMS continues to use funds for enrichment activities for the pupils. In recent months we have funded OT equipment for Early Years, a Magdalen residential trip for Key Stage 3, and this year's upcoming leaver's prom.

So, thank you for your continued support, without which none of these would have been possible!

Tracey Page (Deputy Head and FOMS Committee Member).

In memory



21st September 2007 – 25th March 2025

SAFEGUARDING

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Emma Lambourn



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)



Richard Bowskill



Tracey Page



Gill Howard



Sandra Hutchings

Safeguarding - Our Highest Priority

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, working to keep our children safe. Something that is prioritised throughout the school.

We do however recognise there are times when you might need support when school is closed.

If you're concerned about a child's safety or well-being you can report concerns to:

In Dorset:

Dorset Council's Children's Advice and Duty Service (ChAD):

Phone: 01305 228866 (for family and friends)

Hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 10pm, Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 9am to 10pm.

Outside of Office Hours: 01305 221000

In Somerset:

Contact Somerset Council Children's Social Care team.

Phone: 0300 123 2224

Outside of Office Hours: 0300 123 23 27

In Devon:

Contact our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Phone: 0345 155 1071

Hours: 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4pm on Friday.

Outside office hours: At weekends and public holidays, please contact the Emergency Duty Service on 0345 600 0388.

Emma Lambourn, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Pastoral Support Team



Sandra, Family Liaison Officer
Alison, Parent Support Advisor
Kate, SENDCo



School Counsellors Emily & Helen

Our parents and carers coffee mornings are a great way to learn more about school, other support and hear about each other's experiences. We also get to hear your news, views and suggestions for improving school. We'll keep you posted on upcoming speakers and hopefully see you there soon.

Colette, Parent Support Advisor



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 4 th April	INSET day, school closed to pupils
Monday, 7 th April – Monday, 21 st April	Easter holidays
Tuesday, 22 nd April	First day back at school
Monday, 5 th May	Bank holiday
Wednesday, 14 th May	Pupil photos
Wednesday, 14 th May	Parent's evening
Monday, 26 th May – Friday, 30 th May	Summer half term
Friday, June 27 th	INSET day, school closed to pupils
Sunday, 8 th June	FOMS Summer Fayre
Wednesday, 25 th June	Prom Night
Thursday, 10 th July	Sports day
Friday, 18 th July	FOMS Family Fun Disco
Wednesday, 23 rd July	Last day of Summer term
MOUNTJOY SCHOOL, TUNNEL ROAD, BEAMINSTER, DORSET DT8 3HB	
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 facebook.com/mountjoyschool	