



Mottram St Andrew Primary Academy Academy News

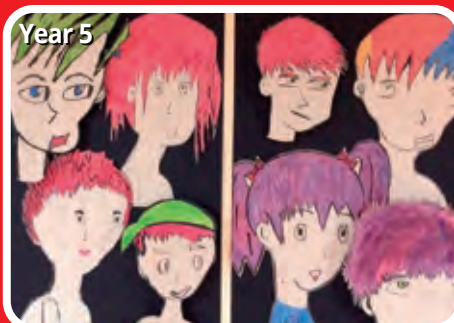
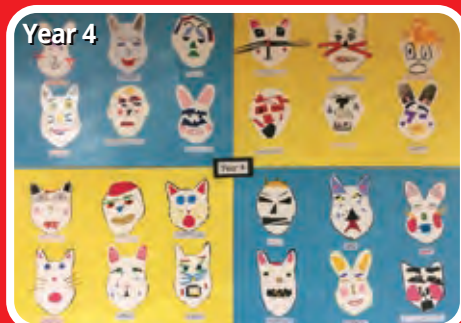
Spring
2016

A beautiful rural school. Learning with trust, respect, optimism and co-operation in small classes.

Arts Week 2016

Arts Week is an exciting part of the school curriculum and this year took place during February. Schools in the Fallibroome Learning Community plan together an exciting and enriching week of activities. Each year has a different theme and this year's theme was "Changes". Children from Reception to Year 6 explored "Changes" through art, dance, drama and music workshops and visits.

From the youngest children discovering how Elmer the elephant changed colour, to investigations into changes in nature, faces, moods and landscapes, everyone was able to develop their personal responses to the theme. The week culminated in performances and a sharing of quality work in a special assembly.



Welcome to the first issue of our twice yearly Newsletter bringing you news and highlights from the first half of this school year. I do hope you will get a flavour of the exciting learning taking place in each class every day and enjoy this snapshot of the activities outside the classroom including the wide range of enrichment opportunities.

We have had great fun, as you will see, over the last term and a half, alongside excellent daily teaching and learning.

Mrs Christine Bowen
Headteacher

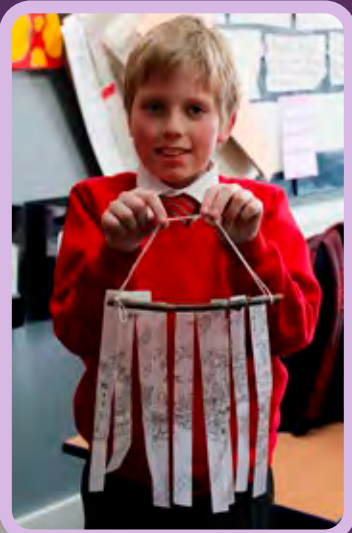
Keep In Touch

Tel: 01625 383000
Email: office@mottramacademy.org.uk
www.mottramacademy.org.uk

Follow us & keep up to date with the latest news & comment on:

Twitter: @Mottram_Academy

Some of the fun we had in Arts Week





Making Music at Mottram



We have a wide variety of music at Mottram and last Christmas we were delighted to put on a performance of Prickly Hay, a wonderful Nativity production from Reception, Year 1 and 2. All enjoyed participating in the event.

The Juniors performed two Carol Services in Mottram's lovely Methodist Chapel. Thanks to Rev. Ben Clowes and Ian Wright for arranging this.

Budding Brass Band

Every year we offer whole class brass tuition on either trumpet or trombone once a week to Year 4. We are looking forward to learning our pieces to play with The Halle Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall in June.

We also have children learning other instruments in school, oboe, clarinet and saxophone. Some individually and some in small groups each week.

The Largest School Choir Concerts in the World

Our Young Voices choir of 20 from Years 5 and 6 had been rehearsing hard since last September preparing for the massive concert in March when they joined with other schools to form an 8,000-strong Young Voices Choir at the Manchester Arena. They all performed at the same time with a professional live band and solo artists to a huge audience of family and friends. It was an amazing experience having the opportunity to sing together in a great venue alongside a wide range of musicians and artists. Children have performed with artists such as Alexandra Burke, Joss Stone and Gary Barlow as well as raising over 1 million pounds for Children's charities such as CLIC Sargent. The power of singing together in harmony and the sound created was incredible.



Who were
you on...

WORLD BOOK DAY



Book Fair

18th & 21st March

Lots of books for sale for
different ages and interests
Please come and support



Making Friends - Reception

Pupil
Zone



In our first term at school we got to know new friends and found out about our environment. We play indoors or outdoors and learn to share resources. Our days are always busy, packed with play based learning opportunities and we love it when our hard work is rewarded, especially if we are brave and have a go at something new.



We learn our phonics through daily games and activities and we have two guided reading sessions per week when we share stories with a small group of friends and begin to learn the many strategies of reading.

Our enticing learning environment lets us follow our own lines of enquiry, whilst also working on specific Areas of Learning such as maths and literacy activities.

Our daily 'hot spot challenges' allow us to apply what we know to find out more through play. Whilst these activities are carefully planned our interests guide much of the learning and so the environment is adapted. We manage our own time so that we complete the challenges whilst also finding time to initiate our own learning. We are lucky to always have two adults with us so we can learn and play safely in a group with one adult whilst the other adult interacts and plays with us

individually to help us think of different ways of doing things.



Our teachers keep records of how we learn through an on-line Learning Journal called Tapestry so our parents can immediately see what we are up to at school!



Superheroes - Year 1

We have been learning all about Superheroes. We read the book Charlie's Superhero Underpants and made our own superhero masks and capes; we built a scene from the book using building blocks. Dressed as 'masked adventurers' we prepared for 'a mission to do good and protect people'. We looked at features of comic texts and starred in our own Superhero comic adventures.

Inspired, we went on to learn about real life superheroes and met Fire Fighters who arrived in a real life Fire Engine. They told us about their skilful, brave and life-saving jobs.

We enjoyed ordering numbers in our Superhero Maths Hunt, we use Numicon tiles to help us understand numbers, number bonds and to solve maths problems. We made 3D shapes out of play-dough and cocktail sticks!

We have been using iPads to play a game which controls a 'Beebot' to move forwards, backwards and right to left via basic computer coding. There are lots of different levels and after 10 levels you become a chicken and after 20 levels you have completed the game. We love the challenge of this game.



Party like a Roman - Year 2

Pupil Zone



We were transported back in time to when the Romans ruled taking us on a journey through the Roman Empire where we learnt about how Roman life was different to the present day. We learnt all about Roman inventions including aqueducts, roads and central heating (hypocausts). A special highlight was learning all about Roman transport and chariot racing and, in our Design and Technology lessons, building chariots!

Art lessons were spent creating beautiful mosaics, constructing shields, building catapults and designing outfits for Roman soldiers. We learnt a Roman battle dance and how to get into a tortoise formation for battle.

Two "Romans" visited us and spent the day showing us how Romans lived. We played Roman games, made clay models, wrote scrolls, acted a scene from a Roman banquet, wore traditional costumes and acted out battle scenes.

We were even treated to a Roman lunch!



Maths Mastery

Making Maths Fun For Every Child



The new Primary National Curriculum (2014) emphasises a mastery approach to maths designed to raise standards universally. By developing a deep understanding of mathematical concepts children should become confident and able mathematicians.

The higher expectations mean that children are learning more difficult concepts earlier. They develop fluency in the facts and fundamentals of maths through varied and frequent practice so that they can recall and reason (apply their knowledge) rapidly and accurately to problem solving in different situations.

Progress is based on the security of children understanding and therefore readiness to progress. Those who grasp concepts are challenged through rich and varied problems before being accelerated through new content. Those not sufficiently secure in their knowledge at a particular level consolidate through interventions and additional practice.



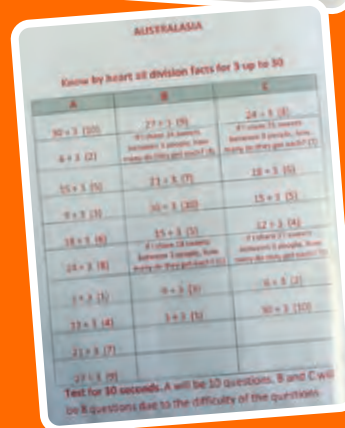
BEAT THAT!

It's a race against the clock to answer questions



An interactive maths game with quick fire questions on number bonds, times tables, doubling and halving, multiples and division facts. The games are against the clock or a previous best and designed to challenge and develop mental maths skills.

The questions are matched to each child's appropriate maths ability and helps to sharpen their recall of vital number facts in a fun way.



THE MATHS PASSPORT

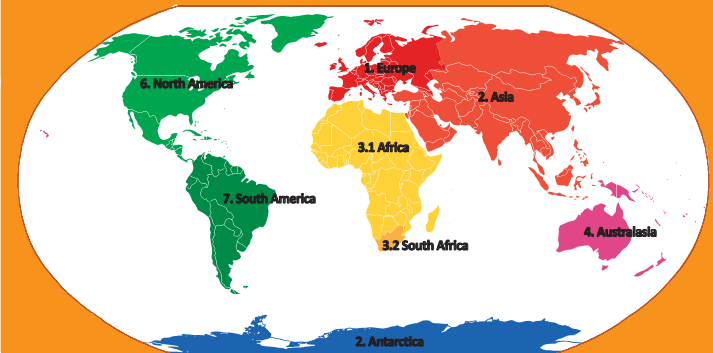


Travel the world learning as you go. Starting in Europe, travel across the continents until finally becoming a Globetrotter at the end of your trip.

Each passport helps you build a bank of maths facts that you learn by heart and remember quickly.

After each set of ten number facts is achieved you are awarded a passport stamp and when all the bank of facts for that passport is achieved you move to another continent and a new passport.

Each continent covers a different set of topics.



Dragons & Longships - Year 3

Pupil
Zone

We have enjoyed a term all about the Vikings! We discovered where they came from, the types of houses they lived in and all about their way of life. In Design and Technology we were challenged to design and make our Viking shields.



In literacy lessons we enjoyed learning alongside the text "How to Train Your Dragon" by Cressida Cowell. This gave us the opportunity to focus on specific things such as similes, metaphors and imperative verbs. We also developed our own set of instructions on how to trap a dragon, using inspiration from Pie Corbett's "talk for writing" technique.

We then created iMovies in ICT reporting on the 'sighting of a dragon'!

We enjoyed a wonderful trip to Tatton Park to experience all aspects of Viking Life. We made bread around an open fire and rowed in a long ship - we got very wet! We handled Viking artefacts such as jewellery, horn drinking vessels and bone combs. We also tried our hand at writing with ink and feather quills. We explored the park studying the deer, how to approach them to avoid detection and later we looked at antlers and learnt that the branches corresponded to the age of the deer. It was a fantastic day that really brought to life how it would have been if we had lived during the Viking era.

In maths we showed our parents a numeracy lesson which involved singing times tables and investigating number patterns practically.



Enrichment Activities



Pick & Mix

The fantastic new Enrichment Activities programme has far exceeded our expectations with many clubs filled to capacity - even homework club. Cookery club has been extremely well received by parents and children alike as the children have gone home each week with a meal for a family of four giving Mum and Dad a welcome break from the cooking.

The broad range of opportunities offered aims to enhance the children's school experience and extend their enjoyment of learning outside the classroom. There is something for everyone.



Enrichment - After School and Lunchtime Activities

Our hugely popular Clubs run Monday - Thursday, two per day and one on Friday.



Animation Station (Y4, Y5 & Y6): Animation using iPads and iMovie and creating model animations from plasticine or lego.



Outdoor Club (Y1, Y2 & Y3): Bushcraft and den building; outdoor crafts and sculpture; nature and mini beast hunts; building animal houses; digging and outdoor play/games.



Magic Maths (Y1, Y2 & Y3): Tricky mathematical challenges and investigations for keen young mathematicians.



Street Dance (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6): Lively Street Dance for boys and girls.



Spanish (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6): Hola! Learning Spanish, spoken in lots of countries worldwide, through role play and playing games while speaking in Spanish.



Football (Y4, Y5 & Y6): Improving your skills.



Lego Fun (Y1 & Y2) Let your imagination go and see what amazing creations you can make.



Lego Club (Y3-Y6): If you love lego and construction this is the club of you! Team challenges, a chance to work together with other lego fans to design and create fantastic models or create your own.



Fun PE (Rec, Y1 & Y2): Practise all kinds of PE skills in a fun and competitive way.



Netball (Y4, Y5 & Y6): Netball players are looking good! Come and join us and practise your defending, attacking and shooting skills.



ICT Explorers (Y3-Y6): For inexperienced and experienced ICT explorers alike we look at and share new apps and programmes. Try coding, programming and game developing using iPads and laptops.



Homework (Y4-Y6): A chance to get homework done in school with one of our teaching assistants on hand to help and to provide extra reading, tables and spelling activities if you finish early!



Girls' Football (Y4-Y6): Our girls' football team has been very successful this year. We will be phenomenal if we practice each week.



Mathematicians (Y4-Y6): Calling all keen mathematicians! Mathematical challenges and investigations to get you thinking 'outside the box'!



Touch Typing (Y4 & Y5): Learn a new life skill which will help you with your IT work in the future and secondary homework will be much easier if you can type - fast!



Football (Y1, Y2 & Y3): Are you a footballing star of the future? Designs on the Premier League? Come and start training for the Big Time.



Crafts (Reception and Y1): A fun creative club where you can explore and make lots of lovely crafty things.



Creative Crafts (Y3-Y6): Make fabulous creations using paper mache and clay.



Cookery (Y4-Y6): For aspiring Masterchefs - learn exciting new life skills and prepare a family meal each week to 'tickle your tastebuds' and give Mum and Dad a night off cooking tea.



Martial Arts (Y3-Y6): Learn the skills of martial arts.



Music Makers (Y1, Y2 & Y3): Fun music making - singing, composing and playing percussion.



Hockey (Y4-Y6): Learn to play hockey.



Gardening Club (Y5 & Y6): Lots to be done in the garden (Wildlife Area) at this time of the year.



Cross-Country (Y3-Y6): Training for up and coming tournaments.



Indoor Athletics (Y4 - Y6): Keep fit and practice for summer athletics competitions



Tag Rugby (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6): Learn rugby skills in safe, non-contact Tag Rugby. Open to girls and boys.

Our Governors



Our Governing Body is committed and active. The board is made up of parent, community and staff governors and all have equal status and serve for four year terms. There are 15 of us in all.

While the headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day, management of the school the Governors' responsibilities include setting the school's strategic direction, policies and objectives; challenging and supporting our headteacher and staff, ('a critical friend'); approving the school budget and monitoring the curriculum and standards.

We meet all together four times a year and at other times on various sub-committees looking at learning, curriculum, support including special educational needs and safeguarding, premises, promotions and, of course, finance.

Some Governors have special responsibilities for Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs, Audit, Pupil Premium, and Sport.

Interested in becoming a Governor? - get in touch.

E-SAFETY

Stay safe & happy online

Check out our website www.mottramacademy.org.uk for useful links and information about how to stay safe online.

We use resources from CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) often referred to as an online 999.



'Click Ceop' for advice on a range of issues

Education around safe use of the internet and technology is essential. The internet is an incredibly powerful educational tool but there are dangers too, therefore E-safety is one of our priorities. We start teaching children about how to stay safe online from Reception upwards and this develops through the school so that once children are in Year 6 they are ready for their own social media.

Meet our three Year 6 E-safety Ambassadors who help deliver the E-safety curriculum and are the first port of call for children who are concerned about their E-safety.



We think it is important for parents to know what their children are accessing online and we run an E-safety evening for parents every September. We encourage parents to speak to their children about how to stay safe and behave appropriately online.



We'll Meet Again - Year 4



Pupil
Zone

We have been studying World War II and as part of our learning we went to Woodcock Well CE Primary School, who have recently refurbished two Anderson Air Raid Shelters built during W.W.II for local children and evacuees from Manchester. We spent our day experiencing what it was like to be an evacuee.

Dressed as evacuees with only a suitcase we travelled by 'train' and were met by our 'new parents'. We were told we had to share our lives with the local community including the school and so there would be half day lessons - the rest helping in gardens and Digging for Victory to help earn our keep in our temporary homes.

We were told about rationing and what our rations would have been. We learnt about gas bombs and how to put on a gas mask - fortunately as when the air raid siren sounded we had to grab our gas masks and make our way, calmly, to the Anderson Shelter.

Whilst in the shelter we sang songs to keep our spirits up until the air raid was over. The dim battery powered lights flickered and we could hear planes over head and distant bombs. After the air raid we enjoyed a delicious evacuee stew lunch.

We had a great time and our visit really added to our understanding of life during Word War II.





MOTTRAM



CALVELEY

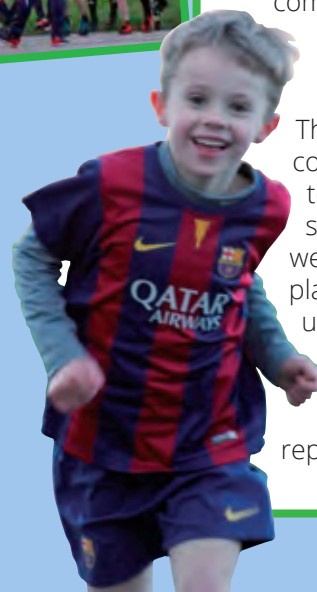


WRIGHT

Who Will You Support On Sports Day?

With everyone belonging to a House there is strong loyalty and friendly rivalry between the Houses of Mottram, Calveley and Wright. House competition is keenly contested and always enjoyed, especially at our competitive Sports Day in the summer term.

Each House has its own House Captain and Vice-Captain. One of their tasks is to collect and count the House Points awarded each week. The winning House is announced in Friday Assembly and its Captain and Vice-Captain collect the sought after ribbon and tie it to the House Cup. There are also Cups awarded for Sport and the Pearson Cup for the Arts.



SPORT

Sport and PE at Mottram is varied, inclusive, and above all fun. We strive to instil in the children a love of sport, exercise and healthy living through our PE lessons and also our extensive range of after-school sports clubs. The clubs, mostly run by specialist coaches are very popular and include hockey, football, netball, athletics, martial arts and street dance.

We attend many competitions as part of the Fallibroome School Games Cluster. These run throughout the school year and are a super opportunity for the children to compete individually and as part of a team. Since September we have taken part in competitions in Tag Rugby, Hockey, Girls Football, Cross Country as well as 'Little Champs' at Macclesfield Leisure Centre - a fun and inclusive event attended by all of Year 2.

The children perform consistently well in all these competitions. We work closely with all our sports coaches to ensure that we are running high quality after-school sports clubs with up-coming competitions in mind. As well as after-school clubs, Year 5 and 6 PE lessons are planned to ensure we are preparing the children for upcoming competitions. For general health and well being we have introduced a 5 minute run.

Our children are very proud to be in the squads and to represent our school in competitions.

On the Edge - Year 5

Pupil
Zone



We have been looking at Footsteps through Time with our inspirational focus coming from The Weirdstone of Brisingamen by Alan Garner - a local writer.

The novel set in and around Macclesfield and Alderley Edge led us to delve into the historic past of the Bronze Age looking at the tools and objects they made and used. In Design and Technology we made 'contemporary' clay beakers. We used iPads to research Stonehenge and with great enthusiasm, for homework, we created our own replica Stonehenge.

In Assembly we created and performed a dance based on freeze frame scenes from our book and we recited a poem we had learnt, The Wizard of Alderley Edge by Josie Whitehead, based on the legend of Alderley Edge.

The highlight of our topic was a visit to Blackden the home of Alan Garner run by the Blackden Trust. We learnt how places and objects influence writers.

Walking around Blackden we were encouraged to observe our surroundings and we were shown some of the places mentioned in The Weirdstone of Brisingamen. We learnt Alan Garner uses not only real places but also real objects in his writing. We looked

and felt some of his precious objects as well as exploring parts of the Medicine House. We discovered how ordinary objects and places can be transformed through detailed observation, imagination and creative writing. Together we solved picture puzzles and riddles to identify images in the garden and enjoyed exploring the labyrinth.

Finally, influenced by discoveries and observations from our visit, we wrote our own creative stories.

A fleeting glimpse of Alan Garner gave the day a truly magical feel!



Pupil Voice

Our School Council Representatives 2015-16



Our active School Council have two elected reps from each year and meet every 3/4 weeks with our Pastoral Leader, Mrs Poole.

We discuss different aspects of school life that could be improved and put forward suggestions and ideas for improvement that classmates have suggested.

Sometimes teachers send requests to School Council, for example, appointing energy monitors for each class.

Our Energy Monitors go and...



turn off
lights



turn off
computer
monitors



check radiator
thermostats
are on '3'



check taps
have been
turned off

**AND REMIND US
TO DO THIS
TOO!**

After School & Holiday Club is popular and fun



School Council Chose Our Adventure Playground Equipment.





Plague & Peril - Year 6

Pupil
Zone



We visited Eyam, a village in Derbyshire as part of our cross-curricular literacy and geography study. Our theme was Plague and Peril and the visit formed the basis of much of our Autumn term's work.

Locating Eyam on the map was a focal point of our geography and we learnt map reading skills and co-ordinate plotting.

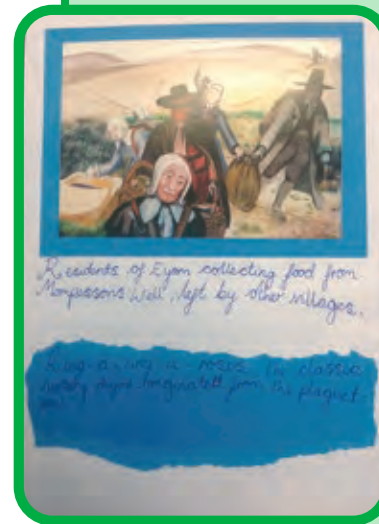
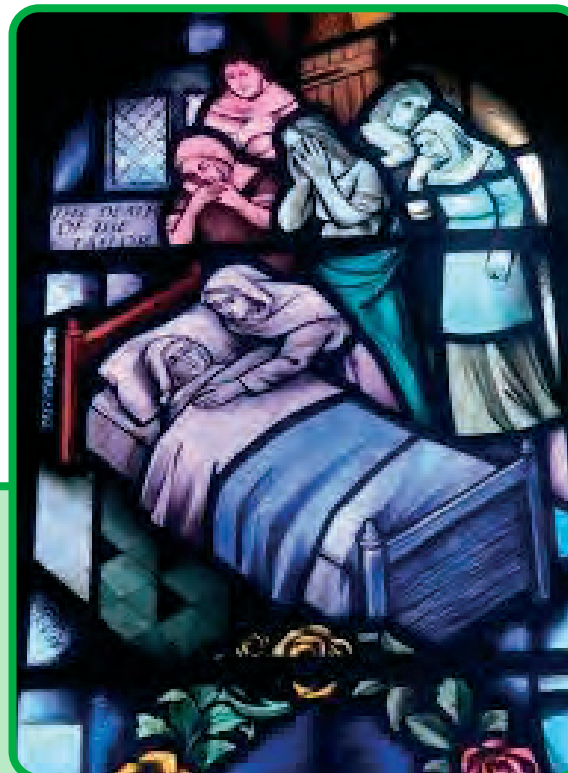
Eyam was famous for its self-imposed quarantine during the Plague of 1665 and the history of Eyam was the central theme of the novel we studied, Kiss of Death by Malcolm Rose.

The plague, mostly confined to London, arrived in Eyam via a parcel of material from London to an Eyam tailor which contained the fleas that caused the Plague.

William Mompesson the church leader persuaded villagers not to leave the village for fear of spreading the plague. Well over half of the village died but their sacrifice may well have saved many thousands of lives in the north of England.

Our visit to the village included the starting point of the novel, Mompesson's Well, where we learnt that coins were left in the Well in exchange for food and provisions left by people living outside Eyam.

At Eyam Museum we looked at how the Plague spread and the impact on village life this helped with our creative and informative writing. The visit allowed us to explore and contrast how the real villagers and the characters in the story felt during the Plague.



Dennegeur Sponsored Walk

A really big thank you to all the children from Year 2 to Year 6 who took part in the annual sponsored walk exploring the footpaths from Mottram St Andrew to Alderley Edge and climbing up on to 'The Edge' with splendid views back to Mottram. The weather was perfect and it was relatively dry underfoot enabling the walk to be completed in record time! The children were well exercised and tired by the time they got back but they all felt a sense of achievement knowing that their efforts were very worthwhile.

We raised a fantastic sum of money for Dennegeur Primary School in South Africa and thank you again for your brilliant support.

Mrs Bowen first visited Dennegeur 14 years ago. She was struck by the poverty of the area and the resourcefulness of the staff and resolved to support them in their mission to provide a better education of the children in their care.

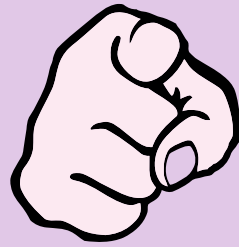
We have raised a lot of money for Dennegeur over the years every penny of which goes directly to the school. This has enabled them to increase the number of teachers and improve facilities and resources.

Importantly this link gives our children a real example of life in another country at a very different stage of development from us. Children in Dennegeur have very little. They may only have three pencil crayons in an old tin but they treasure and look after them carefully. Through this relationship our children can begin to understand how lucky they are and their responsibility to the rest of the world.

A sponsorship scheme (min £5/month) was set up to enable the most able pupils from Dennegeur to attend the fee-paying secondary school in Grabouw. If you would like to sponsor a child please go to the school office and ask for a sponsorship form.



Friends of Mottram



We Need YOU!

Our Parent Teacher Association is called the Friends of MSAPA (Mottram) - a group of parent and teacher volunteers who meet to produce fundraising ideas and events to raise money to spend on our school and children.

Annually the Friends raise thousands of pounds through activities and events including the annual Summer Fete (our biggest fundraising event of the year), the Christmas Fair, second hands clothes recycling, discos, film nights and cake sales.

The money raised buys extra equipment and resources for our children, not otherwise available within the school budget. Last year we bought new iPads for a whole class which are shared across the school. We are currently buying fiction and non-fiction books for our library and also extending the entire reading scheme for the whole school. In addition we are buying new kit for our sports teams including smart hoodies. Red tops will have 'Team Mottram' on the back.

The Friends also help provide refreshments at, for example, Open Mornings, Villager and Grandparent Afternoons and Sports Day.

We Need You!

We are lucky to have a really supportive Friends of Mottram. The Friends are always looking out for new members so please get in

touch if you want to help at an event - it's fun, informal and you can do as much or as little as you wish! A great way to meet new people and get involved in the wider life of school. Interested? - get in touch.

Online Fundraising

We operate an online fundraising system where you can do all your online shopping anywhere via this link and earn money for the school every time you spend. Please take a look at the site and do your online shopping via this link as it really is money for nothing! So far we have raised nearly £1,500 which is sent as a cheque to spend on the school. www.easyfundraising.co.uk



Diary Dates

15 th & 16 th March	Alice the Musical - 6.30pm Village Hall
18 th & 21 st March	Book Fair
22 nd March	Film Night
22 nd March	Easter Egg Decorating Competition
23 rd March	Parents' Open Morning and Easter Themed Cake Sale
22 nd April	Quiz and Chips Evening - Over Alderley Reading Rooms
28 th April	Bags 2 School
25 th May	Prospective Parents Open Morning
24 th June	Summer Fair

Our Village Community

Village Website: www.mottramstandrew.com

Mottram St Andrew Foundation Nursery - Village Hall
Parent & Toddler Group - Village Hall. Monday morning
Brownies - 1st Mottram St Andrew - Tuesday 5-6.30pm Village Hall
Guides - 1st Mottram St Andrew - Friday 6-7.30pm Village Hall
Singing for Fun Kookaburras (some of our staff enjoy this)
Methodist Chapel. 2nd Monday each month
Methodist Church Young Church

Date for your Diary

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration
Saturday 11th June Village Hall & Field



How many pictures of ME did you spot in the newsletter?

TROC
Learning with
Trust, Respect, Optimism
and Co-operation.

