

The Beacon

Academic Year 2016/17

Issue No: 18

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Headteacher News

In my last piece on the Beacon, I wrote about childhood obesity and how we all need to be doing more to safeguard against this. But this week I wish to celebrate something that Montpelier children regularly demonstrate. Altruism. 'Selfless concern for the wellbeing of others' or, in simpler terms, 'thinking of others before yourself'. I mention this because I'm deeply impressed with so many children at Montpelier because they demonstrate many altruistic tendencies. Schools often love to lay claim to what they instil in children, and I'd like to think that we play our part in nurturing altruism in children but, in reality, this wonderful characteristic must come from home. It's in the role models they see each and every day, how they're loved, spoken to, treated and respected by you, their parents. It's often only seen in small day-to-day moments but it speaks of a deep-rooted strength of character. I'll give you some examples.

I've lost count of the number of times that I've sat down to lunch with various different children, often very young children, only to have them ask me "Have you had a good morning Mr Holland?" or "How are you Mr Holland?". Simple enough questions but the fact that they're not just consumed with what's going on in their little world, that they're genuinely interested in how another person is, demonstrates that they're thinking of others before themselves. Many times out in the playground, I've seen children leave a group of friends they're playing with to comfort another child, or draw them into their game, or ask them if they're OK. The care and concern children demonstrate for each other when someone's fallen over in the playground or been upset by somebody else. These daily acts of thoughtfulness and altruism are heart-warming.

So, instead of saying what we perhaps need to be doing better, I wanted to commend you all and the children for these daily acts of kindness that make Montpelier such a delightful place to learn. Before coming here, I was worried that the large size of the school would mean that it became impersonal, that I'd lose that family feel that you so often get in smaller primaries. And it's true to a degree. I used to know the name of every child at my last school, know who their siblings were and I was also on first name terms with the vast majority of parents. With 670 pupils and over 500 families, that's something I've got nowhere close to managing here. However, I can genuinely say that the 'one big family' feel that I experienced previously is just as strong, if not even stronger, at Montpelier. And much of that is down to how the children talk to each other, care for each other and show respect for each other. As I mentioned, all characteristics we encourage here but so much of that must come from the family home.

So it's a big 'thank you' from me this week to the children for being fabulous and for all our families who are encouraging and instilling such important personal attributes within their children. It's not perfect here, and we of course experience children falling out and upsets, but the altruism demonstrated by so many of our pupils every day makes for a very happy school. So, well done all and have a great weekend!

Music News

As you read this, 14 Year 5 pupils will be at the Genting Arena in Birmingham as part of a choir of 4,500, taking part in Young Voices. They have been practicing for months and we hope they have a wonderful time!

Musicality

Looking for something to do on Saturday 4th February? Why not come along to Musicality at Plymouth Pavilions: two concerts packed full of young talent from across Plymouth. Both the 2pm and 6.30pm concerts feature children from Montpelier playing or singing in one of the citywide ensembles.

Come along and be inspired! Tickets are £7 for adults and free for under 16s and available from the Pavilions Box Office.

Diary Dates

Thurs 2nd Feb 2017

- Trutex pop-up shop 3.15pm – 4.15pm

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb 2017 Inc.

- Half term

Fri 3rd March 2017

- Vista group photos - Year 6 and Foundation only.

Fri 31st Mar 2017

- 'Wear a Hat' mufti day - for Brain Tumour Research

Mon 3rd-Tues 18th Apr 2017 Inc.

- Easter holidays

Mon 1st May 2017

- Bank holiday

Wed 24th May 2017

- Tempest Photos – Class groups & Year 6 individual photos.

Sun 21st – Fri 26th May 2016

- Bude Residential (Yr 6)

Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June '17

- Half term

Tues 25th July 2017

- Leavers' assembly
- Last day of term 2:30pm finish (Yr6 finish at 1.30pm)

Wed 26th July 2017

- Start of the summer holidays



Monty's Den

Monty's Den is our onsite after school care. Call on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Sessions start from £6.50. Flexible booking available www.thedens.co.uk

Dogs

May we remind parents that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds – even those being carried.

Foundation News

This week the children have really enjoyed making puppets of characters from the 'Monkey Puzzle' and retelling the story in the puppet theatre.

In April we will be taking the Foundation unit trip to Buckfastleigh and travelling by steam train to visit the Rare Breeds Farm in Totnes. Further information will be given after half term.

Parents evening will be taking place the week after half term, Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd February - please sign up on eSchools to book an appointment with your child's teacher.

Year 1 News

It's been another brilliant week in Year 1. Our 'Into the Wild' topic led us out to the pond where we discovered some unusual goings on and a brand new story. Ask your child if they can tell you all about it! We have also had lots of fun learning about 2D and 3D shapes. The children's knowledge of shape properties has blown us away! To top the week off we went on a terrific tree hunt in Science. Have a great weekend!

Year 2 News

Wow! We really do have superstars in Year 2. This week we have been learning about different sentence types - we apologise for any bossy commands the children may be saying at home. Even though, at times, the learning seems very tricky, all of the children are showing excellent learning behaviours; persevering, managing distractions, questioning and collaborating to name a few. Thank you for your support with last week's homework. The children are certainly very keen to learn their times tables. Have a great weekend.

E-safety drop-in's

We would like to invite you to our E-safety Drop-in's on Tuesday 7th February 2017, for the international 'Safer Internet Day' in the Café Connect from 9 to 10am and 2 to 3pm. Our neighbourhood PCSO Chris Pooley will be joining us for the drop-in's, during the Drop-in's Chris will be able to answer any of your e-safety concerns. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

The E-safety Team

Year 3 News

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 3 this week. The children have been working really hard writing their recounts about their Mount Edgcombe trip are looking forward to sending them to family members next week. We have all noticed that the children's writing and spelling is improving all the time and we would like to thank you all for all your ongoing hard work and support you continue to provide. A huge thank you for the amazing homework projects that the children have brought in over the last couple of weeks, we have all enjoyed listening to the children present them to the class. Many Thanks Year 3 team.

Year 4 News

The children have had a busy week writing and editing their volcano disaster stories. On Tuesday we discovered why people experience earthquakes and why volcanoes explode. In maths we are looking at how to solve number problems using the four different mathematical operations. Please keep practising your tables as we will have a tables check the week before half term.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a great weekend.

Year 5 News

It was fantastic to see the variety of Viking projects come into school this week. There have been some very creative examples of work, including posters, PowerPoints, models and replica weaponry. They will certainly make an impressive display. Well done to everyone.

In class this week we have been continuing with our non-chronological report on the Vikings and in Maths we have started looking at calculating perimeter and area of composite shapes.

Some of the year 5 children took part in a 'Stock Market Challenge' at All Saints Academy on Wednesday, having an enjoyable day and making a suitable profit with the 'money' they were allocated.

Year 6 News

Our topic in Year 6 is 'If the World Were a Village.' As part of this topic, the children are learning about the different continents around the world. In class, we have made maps showing the features of these continents. The children are also making a website about their continent in ICT.

All classes will be visited by the British Red Cross to educate them about migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. This week, it was 6P's turn and it really opened our eyes about the challenges people face around the world.

Yellow Team Mufti

Children in the yellow team are permitted to wear Mufti next Friday 3rd February

School Council News

This week Councillor Leaves and Caroline from the Council came into school to judge our competition entries for posters, which will be displayed on the bins in Central Park, to encourage the public to bin their litter and dog's mess! Six worthy winners were chosen and rewarded with a family pass to the Life Centre. Well done everyone! There are lots of photos on the E schools website School Council page if you'd like to look!

Peverell Library

Peverell library is one of those under threat of being closed unless there is enough support from the community to keep it open. The best way to help is to go to the library and fill in one of their questionnaires. There is a meeting at the library on 15th February between 1-3pm.

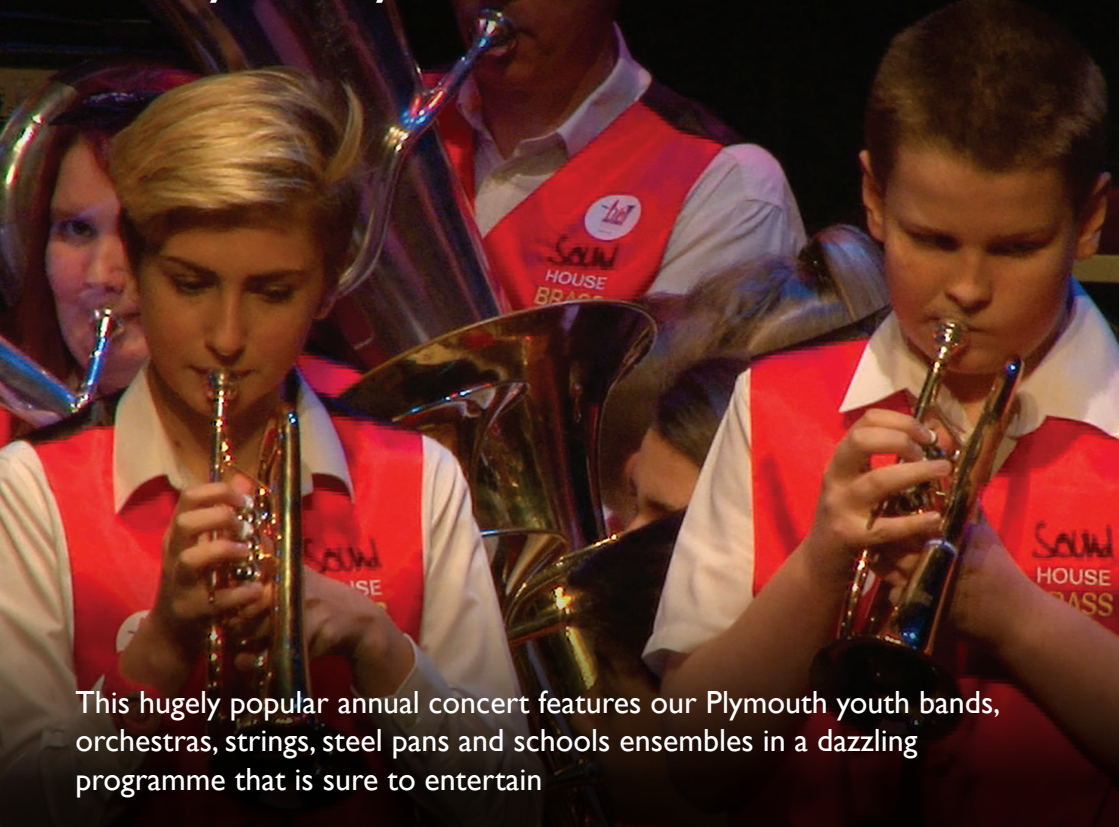
Rowing Championship

On Wednesday 4 girls and 4 boys from Year 6 took part in the annual Plymouth Indoor Rowing Championships held at Plymstock School. With very little rowing experience the children did extremely well. They finished the team relay in 3rd position. As we were not in the top 3 places, out of 44 teams, we are still waiting for our overall finishing position. Well done team.

Plymouth Music Education Hub Proudly Presents

'Musicality'

**Plymouth Pavilions 2pm and 6.30pm
Saturday February 4 2017**



This hugely popular annual concert features our Plymouth youth bands, orchestras, strings, steel pans and schools ensembles in a dazzling programme that is sure to entertain

Tickets are £7 (Under -16s free when accompanied by an adult) and exclusively available from The Pavilions Box Office on 0845 146 1460 and also via the Pavilions website.

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