



**Montpelier Primary School**  
North Down Rd, Beacon Park, Plymouth, PL2 3HN  
Tel: 01752 216160  
e-mail: admin@mpsplymouth.net  
Web site: www.montpelierprimary.co.uk



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As we end the Easter break and start a new term, we would like to summarise how Montpelier is responding to the C19 pandemic and signpost you to all the potential information you may need to access in the coming weeks until school opens fully to all pupils.

### **Key worker Children**

School has remained open and will do so for parents that have two key workers and children who are deemed 'vulnerable' using the government guidelines. The school office and Mrs Hunter have been coordinating this. If your household has two recognised key workers (with letters of confirmation from employers) then please do get in touch if you would like support with childcare.

### **Home Learning**

The daily home learning is a guide of things your children can do at home with some support from you. There will be times when this may be easier to manage than others; the most important thing to remember is that these are exceptional circumstances which we have never experienced before. Take each day as you can, be flexible and DO NOT WORRY if things do not get done. The most crucial thing is to keep your family's well-being your primary focus – making sure your child feels safe, happy and loved at this time is the thing that matters the most. Many families are concerned their children will get behind. Take reassurance that all children across the country are in the same position and that a few months out of 14 years of education is not going to have a life-threatening impact on their learning. Daily reading, spelling and tables/ number learning and recap will support children ready for their return to school. We have chosen to maintain our relaxed approach to home learning at this time, rather than sending out timetables and requesting that work is returned for marking, as we feel that there is enough for families to be managing with already. If you would like further work for your child then please see the list of websites for the different subjects that was sent previously.

Please find below the links for home learning:

<b>Foundation</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2IYExEJ">https://bit.ly/2IYExEJ</a>
<b>Year 1</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2U81lbw">https://bit.ly/2U81lbw</a>
<b>Year 2</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/3a8G1YG">https://bit.ly/3a8G1YG</a>
<b>Year 3</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2x8DxuW">https://bit.ly/2x8DxuW</a>
<b>Year 4</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2J3p9qA">https://bit.ly/2J3p9qA</a>
<b>Year 5</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2U4cfic">https://bit.ly/2U4cfic</a>
<b>Year 6</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2UptzNE">https://bit.ly/2UptzNE</a>
<b>Music</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2J7RLPf">https://bit.ly/2J7RLPf</a>

### **Professional Support**

Firstly, we have created a family support team at school which includes Mrs Green , Miss Spragg, Miss Clegg, Mrs Jones and Miss Lonnen and Miss Gilbert. There is always someone at school to talk to if you need to so please ring or email. We are not here to judge but encourage you and signpost you to further support agencies. Over the last few weeks, we have sent you a number of emails with information on FSM, useful numbers if things are difficult emotionally or financially and how to manage at home. We are in the process of updating these and will send this out to you shortly.

We would recommend that all parents look at The NSPCC site as this has great information on how to establish routines, manage working from home, explain how to talk to your children about anxieties and some suitable anxiety reducing activities. We will pass on any other information received as and when we receive it.

### **Maintaining Contact and Staying Connected**

- We will update the home learning challenges daily during term time and post ideas and information on Facebook of activities you can do at home.
- There will be assemblies and bedtime stories from staff on Facebook. Parents are not required to sign up to Facebook in order to view our content but instead can just follow the link from the school's main website to see all that is available.
- We have been making phone calls to some families, which we will now extend over the next few weeks to everyone as class teachers will phone just to say hello to each child in their class. It will take a while to make all these calls but we have made a start already.
- Our website is currently being redesigned but all information can be accessed from this as well.

### **Supporting Parents to access Free School Meals**

We are working on extending our options for Parents who are eligible for Benefit Free School Meals. We are committed to ensuring that parents that are entitled get the best provision for their family. If you feel you may be entitled now to benefit-based Free School Meals please follow this link

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolseducationchildcareskillsandemployability/catered/freeschoolmeals>.

However, if you do not qualify but are struggling financially at this time, please get in touch with us. We are here to help.

### **Safeguarding**

We will continue to hold safeguarding as our most critical concern.

Members of the safeguarding team will still attend different meetings held for our vulnerable children and work with our safeguarding partners. We have made updates to our child protection procedures during this time: the addendum can be found on our website.

We report weekly to the educational welfare team with regard to our actions to support our vulnerable children. We will always have a safeguarding lead in school or contactable.

### **Staffing and Governance**

To enable us to keep as many staff as possible safely at home we have been running a rotation of those working on site, those working off site and those getting an Easter break. As we leave the Easter break behind us we will be working in teams either on or off site, either on current priorities or looking ahead to the new school year. These teams need to be flexible to allow for changes in staff self-isolation and wellness. Mrs Hunter and Mr Demuth (our Chair of Governors) are in regular communication and will shortly be agreeing how to move forward with 'virtual' governors' meetings during the period of school closure.

### **Is it Okay to ask... ?**

We are very aware that there will be lots of questions that parents and children will have at the moment. Much of these are determined by how long school will be closed for and whether or not we will be back together in the summer term. While we do not know the answers to all these questions, we really want to know the things that you are wondering about. While we cannot necessarily answer them right now, by asking you will make sure that we get thinking about it if we haven't already. Some examples that have come up already are...

- Will we have a summer term report?
- Will Year 6 be going to Bude?
- If we do not come back before the summer, will children go straight into their new classes the first day back after the break?
- Are we still going to be mixing classes this year ready for September?

Please email [headshipteam@mpsplymouth.net](mailto:headshipteam@mpsplymouth.net)

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Hunter  
Headteacher