

The Beacon

Academic Year: 2017/18

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The Beacon at a Glance

- **Year Group News** – Find out what has been going on.
- **Taekwondo Competition** – Champion Amy
- **Meerkats** – commencing 2nd October 2017
- **Monty's Den** – After school club provision
- **MacMillan coffee afternoon** - Friday 29th September 2017

Foundation News

Our Foundation children have continued to explore new resources in the classrooms and are becoming independent. They are learning the school rules and earning lots of Dojo reward points! We are looking forward to them all meeting each other next week and to our special lunch days.

Key Diary Dates

Friday 29th Sept 2017 - Macmillan Coffee afternoon
Monday 2nd Oct 2017 - **Non-pupil day**
Thursday 5th Oct 2017 - Trutex pop-up shop
Thurs 19th Oct 2017 - Individual & family group photos FS & KS1
Mon 23rd to 27th Oct 2017 incl. - Half term
Mon 30th Oct 2017 - Individual & family group photos KS2
Thursday 23rd Nov 2017 - **Non-pupil day**
Wed 20th Dec 2017 – Tues 02nd Jan 2018 incl. - Christmas holiday
Wednesday 03rd Jan 2018 - **Non-pupil day**
Friday 16th March 2018 - **Non-pupil day**

Head's News

I imagine that your children have been returning home and talking about the Dojo points they've earned. If they haven't, please do ask them about it. Every teacher will award a Dojo point when they see a pupil displaying one of our seven learning behaviours: Believing in Yourself, Focusing, Loving a Challenge, Loving Learning, Self-Helping, Persevering, and Teamwork. Each class will also have their own specific focus that Dojo points are awarded for, such as: Being Ready to Learn, Super Handwriting, or Efficiency. Although these points are given out for the same or similar things, each teacher will award them in different ways (due to the different level of expectation they're placing on awarding the points; some will award a point every time they see one of the behaviours, and others will wait until they see a glowing example). So we've told pupils to avoid comparing their points with children in other classes but to consider how they're doing compared to their classmates. Although siblings can be keen to compare, it wouldn't really be a fair comparison. Our 'new look' Friday Celebration Assembly then rewards particular pupils for exhibiting one or more of these learning behaviours in an exceptional way during the week. We still celebrate outstanding behaviour through Going for Gold (which is also recorded on ClassDojo), as well as spotlighting a 'Star of the Week' in each year group (but these do have new look certificates).

Year 1 News

Wow! What a fun-filled week in Y1. In maths we've delved into One More and One Less of a given number. We have also been exploring and using our senses in Science and we successfully choreographed a dance to the story of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Year 3 News

The year 3 team would like to thank all the parents who turned up to our meet the teacher evening. It was fantastic to see so many of you and we look forward to your continued support throughout year 3. A reminder about our trip to Ham woods next Tuesday morning- forest clothing and footwear will be required alongside a dry change of clothes for when we return to school. It has been another brilliant week in year 3 as children have started 'pattern sniffing' in maths, up-levering their sentences in English using expanded noun phrases and starting our reading challenge with a D.E.A.R Day which helped us reach our first destination- New York!

Monty's Den

Monty's Den is our on-site after school care. Call on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Flexible booking available. www.thedens.co.uk

Meerkats

Meerkats Group - for children who have experienced separation within their family. A new group will start week commencing 2nd October. More information is available on the school website under pupils section. If you feel your child may benefit from this group, or for more info, please email janegilbert@mpsplymouth.net or call 216160 and speak to Jane or Julie by Tuesday 26th September.

Lost Property

Wendy Pritchard has lost her names Trutex cardigan. Please inform the office if you know of its whereabouts.

National Champion

Congratulations to Amy Nutbrown in Year 4, she won Gold in a recent Taekwondo competition and is now the current National Champion in Taekwondo for her weight & age. Well done Amy!

Year 2 News

The highlights this week were certainly our fantastic visit from the Fire Brigade, can you find out from your child what they learnt? We have also enjoyed exploring the concepts of 'alive', 'once alive' and 'never alive' in science. Have a great weekend!

Year 4 News

Year 4 have had a very busy week rounding in Maths, writing diary entries in English and becoming 'predicting parrots' in Reading! We have had lots of amazing homework entries too, some of which are going to be displayed in the main entrance! Enjoy the weekend!

Year 5 News

Thank you to all those parents who attended the 'Meet the Teacher' session on Monday afternoon. If you were unable to attend, you can review the curriculum letter on the website under year 5 curriculum. We have received many permission slips for the Golden Hind trip in October, should you need another letter please see your child's class teacher.

Year 6 News

This week, children have started to write an autobiographical recount. The children are writing as if they are a slave, captured in the 1700's. What they have produced so far is impressive and we cannot wait to complete them next week!

MacMillan coffee afternoon - Friday 29th September 2017 Help us support Macmillan Cancer Support

Between 2pm and 3pm we invite you to support our coffee afternoon. You may collect your children from class (please return them before 3pm) and enjoy refreshments together in the KS1 and KS2 halls. There will also be a raffle. Come along and help us support this amazing charity. If you are unable to attend but wish to give a donation, please send it via your child's teacher on the day. This event takes place with the support of everyone, so if you would be able to help serve for all or just part of the afternoon please speak to a member of the PTFA or Jane Gilbert PSA.