

The Beacon

Academic Year 2016/17

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Deputy Headteacher News

This week I am experiencing what I believe many would refer to as writers block. The everyday at Montpelier offers reminders that I could mention, but I fear at times the message I am reinforcing is one that I know you would have received many times before. There is of course a place for this, and quite rightly so, however this week I wanted to offer something a little different... But it's taking a time to decide what that might be.

My journey to work every day, like many of you I'm sure, is the same, the same route, at the same time, sometimes arriving with the trip having gone by in a blur. This is, in my opinion, a direct response to the pace of life that we have grown accustomed to. However, recently I have been taking time to reflect and appreciate what I have failed to see as a result of being caught up in the everyday.

At this point I would like to let you know about a commitment we have made as part of the Plymouth Thrive Project to the Wellbeing of our staff and children. This commitment centres on work life balance, self-esteem and self-worth. By definition wellbeing describes your state - how you are feeling and how well you can cope with day-to-day life. Our wellbeing is dynamic. It can change from moment to moment, day to day, month to month or year to year. If you have a positive sense of wellbeing you are able to: feel relatively confident in yourself and have positive self-esteem, feel and express a range of emotions, build and maintain good relationships with others, feel engaged with the world around you, live and work productively, cope with the stresses of daily life, adapt and manage in times of change and uncertainty and that for us is the driving force.

As a school we have an opportunity to educate, provide experiences and open eyes to ensure that staff and children appreciate the world and the diversity of individuals around them to enrich their own lives. Taking time to appreciate their surroundings, enjoy the life that they are experiencing and make a positive contribution to the world they are living in.

This commitment is part of Plymouth's long term initiative to improve the quality of life for the people that live in the city and at Montpelier we are committed to having this at the forefront of everything that we do. I do hope you have a great weekend.

PTFA – Extravaganza Evening

The PTFA would like to say a huge thank you to everybody that supported their extravaganza last night (Thursday 24th November). Thank you also to all those that helped with the setting up or clearing away before and after the event. We made a whopping £795.50.

Look out for the Christmas raffle tickets that will be coming home tonight.

Maths Fun Day

It was wonderful to see so many parents in school for part of the maths fun day. The children enjoyed taking part in a variety of maths activities. Hopefully you gained an insight into the mental maths skills your child is focusing on and ideas for how you can support your child at home. For those who have children in KS2 don't forget to download the TTRockstars App to support your child with their times table knowledge. For details of how to download the App and addresses for other maths websites, go to the maths page on the school website.

E-safety drop-in's

We would like to invite you to our E-safety Drop-in's on Monday 28th November 2016 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 Monday.

Diary Dates

Fri 2nd Dec 2016

- 3:15 to 5pm Christmas Fair

Wed 7th Dec 2016

- Carol Concert

Thurs 8th Dec 2016

- Christmas lunch
- Christmas Tree Festival

Thurs 15th Dec 2016

- Christmas party / wear your Christmas jumper (Save the Children £1 donation)

Fri 16th Dec 2016

- 50 Things Event

Mon 19th Dec '16 - Tues 3rd Jan Inc.

- Christmas Holidays

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb 2017 Inc.

- Half term

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

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

Foundation News

Wow, what a busy week. The children thoroughly enjoyed the Maths day and it was great to see so many adults who were able to join us. The SpaceLab was an exciting way to end our Space topic before we get all Christmassy! Next week we would like to invite you to our Christmas afternoon on Wednesday 2-3pm. Prepare to be glittered!

Year 1 News

It has been another action packed week in Year 1! We had lots of fun on Maths Day when we were invited to join 'Giant School'. It all started with an unusual maths register, followed by creating bar model school hats before finally climbing number bond beanstalks! In the afternoon, we had a great time playing our very own board games. The children also loved showing off their maths skills in the 'big maths beat that'! We hope that you have received your letter about your child's role in our upcoming performance. Let us know if you have any questions about costumes. We have been practising many Christmas songs in anticipation for the show; we look forward to more rehearsals next week!

Year 2 News

Wizards, witches and rainforest rangers... What a week! The week began with our fantastic Eden trip which the children thoroughly enjoyed. They graduated as rainforest rangers and demonstrated their superb behaviour and attitude towards learning, to the Eden team. The maths fun day was also very successful, we had a fantastic time learning in Montpelier's School of witchcraft and wizardry. Hopefully their magic wands will help with their mental maths at home. Have a great weekend.

Year 5 News

It was great to see so many parents come and join the Maths Fund Day in year 5 and we hope you enjoyed the experience. Well done to all the children for their efforts towards their respective class totals on TT Rockstars and the year 5 total as a whole. It was exceptional and you should be proud of yourselves! In the forthcoming weeks we will be undertaking our D&T project and we would request any shoe boxes, or similar, which you may have please and we could use for our final piece. Thank you in anticipation.

Year 4 News

The children have had a fantastic experience this week, starting with our visit inside the SpaceLab, they learnt about ancient Egypt including information on mummification and a number of Egyptian Gods. They enjoyed learning about star constellations in the night sky and how they related to Egyptian Gods. Thank you for your contribution. Mental Maths Day was great fun and the children really enjoyed playing all the mental maths games. We hope your children enjoy sharing the different games. On Tuesday 6th December we are going to travel back in time to ancient Egypt to take part in their second Pharaoh training day. To help make the children as engaged as possible we would like them to come in dressed in Egyptian clothing. We would like to invite you to come and work with your child in class between 2:30 and 3:15pm. During the afternoon we would like to share our work on ancient Egypt. We look forward to seeing you, to share your children's learning. Thank you for your continued support. Have a great weekend.

Year 6 News

Along with the rest of the school, Year 6 had great fun on Wednesday for Maths Fun Day. We spent most of the day designing and making Trivial Pursuit: The Mental Maths Edition. It was so much fun to playing! We also looked at other mental maths games such as Countdown and TT Rockstars. We hope that the children will continue playing these games at home. In particular, TT Rockstars, to improve their times table recall.

School Games - Indoor Athletics

Congratulations to both teams, Green and White that competed in the indoor athletics competition at the Life Centre on Wednesday. First on the track was the girls 1+1 lap relay, the White team winning their heat with ease, while the boys were putting in fantastic distance in the long jump and triple jump. Next was the 6 lap parlauf, the girls showed their strength winning both of their heats, time to swap over and put the boys on the track, Green team winning their heat with the White team in a close second. The events continued, again with both teams putting in amazing effort, both boys and girls Green team winning 4 events, boys White team winning 3 and girls all of theirs. Overall results Green team in 4th position with 244 points, only 6 points from 3rd, the White team finishing 1st overall with 340 points. Well done team you were all incredible, Next round will be at Marjons in February.

Kit - Any outstanding sports kit to be returned to Mrs Pearce ASAP please.

Jeremiah's Journey Christmas Craft & Gift Fayre

Experience a truly magical, festive evening on Thursday 1st December at Boringdon Park Golf Club, in Plympton from 5.30pm – 9pm.

Treat yourself to mince pies & mulled wine, whilst browsing over 40 high quality stalls showcasing the perfect gifts for your loved ones.

Enjoy incredible music from Southwest Philharmonia & Chorus throughout the evening and meet Santa and Jeremiah! With free entry, Christmas workshops & loads of fun activities for the children, it is the perfect event to get you in the Christmas Spirit!

Minecraft

Minecraft after-school is changing. We are going to run two very small clubs on Mondays after school in the New Year. The clubs will link with PlymouthCubed to build our school. This build will be exported to the PlymouthCubed server as part of their project to recreate Plymouth in Minecraft.

If you think that you have the skills to be one of these builders and you would like to join one of these small groups then please enter the build competition.

To enter the competition we would like you to build an iconic landmark. This has to be built from scratch so don't forget to take a photo of before and after. Mr Bennetts, Mr Farr and Neil (Lead Developer of PlymouthCubed) will be choosing the club members from this competition.

All entries have to be sent to minecraft@mpsplymouth.net by Wednesday 14th December 2016. Good luck and happy crafting.

For all you budding writers out there keep a look out for our Minecraft story writing competition! Details will follow very soon.

Battle of the Bands

The KS2 classes were locked in a TTRockstars Battle of the Bands all day during Maths Fun Day. They worked extremely hard, even after school had finished. They provided over 80,000 correct answers and they played over 6,000 games. It was a close battle with the lead changing hands on many occasions throughout the day. The winning class was 5S with a score of 15,175 and the highest individual score was Asad Ali (5S) who answered 2,994 questions correctly, fantastic effort!