The Beacon

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Headteacher News

The Bid Pedal

This week we have encouraged the children to come to school on their bikes and scooters as part of the National Big Pedal initiative. It was pleasing to see so many children taking part, being active and most importantly having fun. The final act of the week was a breakfast and obstacle course. The weather may not have been too kind, but this did not deter the parents and children of our school. The number attending and supporting the event was amazing and the enthusiasm displayed by the children was, as always, incredible.

My thanks go out to all our staff who go the extra mile to organise these events and then to wholeheartedly launch themselves into each occasion to make them so much fun. It makes for a great atmosphere in school and really helps to inspire children in their learning – so, thanks to everyone. It all helped to make it such a special event.

The Big Pedal is powered by Sustrans, funded by the Bike Hub and supported by some very kind sponsors. Sustrans is the charity that's enabling people to travel by foot, bike, or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. The Bike Hub is a cycle industry initiative which invests in projects in order to safeguard the future of cycling. For more information please visit http://bigpedal.org.uk.

Maths Big Sing

'Maths should be enjoyable and useful for all', is the opening statement of the maths moments at home booklet, produced by the Maths Action Group, that you all hopefully received this week. Here at Montpelier we stand by that and endeavour to make the subject as enjoyable as possible. On Thursday of this week, the children of Montpelier took part in a Maths day, promoting the subject in a fun, vibrant, exciting way. The day saw the children investigating, problem solving, exploring and using and applying the mathematical knowledge they have acquired throughout their time at Montpelier.

The end of the day saw the children come together to take part in the Maths Big Sing. I found myself, stood at the back of the hall, thinking of Jack Black in the film School of Rock, playing the guitar singing Math is a wonderful thing and how music can have a positive impact on the learning. It was lovely to see so many children and parents taking part.

Again, I would like to express my thanks to all the staff who made the event a reality. Particularly Jess Rowe, for her time and commitment in putting together the musical performance and Sarah Green, our Maths lead, who has dedicated so much of her time and energy into creating, with the full support of the Maths Action Group, the booklet and YouTube videos that I hope you will all find extremely useful. We are very proud of what we do and the opportunities we provide our children and I can assure you all that these wonderful events will continue to be part of the fabric of Montpelier as we continue on our journey. Have a great weekend, see you all on Monday.

Foundation News

The children had a fantastic Maths Day yesterday, counting, adding, doubling, making shapes and discussing their properties, measuring distance and much more! I think their favourite activity was 'Double domino biscuits', although there is no evidence of these! We hope enjoyed coming in to see what they had been doing. Next week each class will have two sessions a day on balance bikes. 'Balanceability' will run from Monday to Thursday and we will finish the week on Friday with a Bike Day, separate letter to follow.



Year 1 News

The children showed amazing learning during our "Maths Day". The language that they were using and the ideas that they thought of were fab. Thank you for coming into school so that the children could share with you all that they had learnt and that you enjoyed the singing as much as Mr Bennetts did! Next week we will have a return visit from the "Open Wide Step Inside" dental program who will be seeing how well the children can remember about what they learnt. We need your children's photos of them on holiday around the globe as part of Geography, so please could you send them in to your class teacher.

Diary Dates

Mon 2nd May 2016
- Bank holiday

Sun 22nd May 2016
- Bude residential

Mon 23rd May 2016
- Activity Week

Mon 30th May 2016
- Bank holiday

Tues 31st May - Fri 3rd June Inc.
- Half term

Mon 6th June 2016
- Non pupil day

Thurs 14th July 2016
- Year Six Production

Wed 20th July 2016
- Leaver's Celebration Disco

Thurs 21st July 2016
- Year 6 Leavers Lunch

Fri 22nd July 2016
- Leavers' assembly
- Last day of term 2:30pm finish (*Year 6 finish at 1.30pm)*

Wed 7th Sept 2016
- First day of term

Balanceability

All Foundation children will be taking part in the Balanceability programme next week, please ensure your child has spare sensible shoes for this event. All bikes and helmets will be provided.



Year 2 News

The children have certainly demonstrated their ability to be 'persevering penguins' over the last couple of weeks. They have worked hard to complete their reading challenge papers and we are all extremely proud of their fantastic efforts and positive attitudes.

We had great fun during Thursday's maths day, thanks for popping in if you were able to, if not, hopefully your child has been able to tell you all about it.

In science we are looking forward to investigating the best conditions for grass to grow and planting some of our own. Perhaps you could investigate this further at home or when you are out and about over the weekend.

Please remember to record home reading in your child's reading record and send it in to school every day in their book bag.

Year 3 News

This week year 3 enjoyed another week becoming heritage hunters. The walk around Plymouth really helped to bring the topic to life and help the children to understand some of the changes in their local environment. Fingers crossed for better weather for 3X on Monday. 'Maths Fun Day' was another highlight of the week, the children really enjoyed coming up with a proposal for a new zoo. They had to use lots of maths skills including collecting data, researching food costs for an animal and also measuring out enclosures. Next week the children are going to be making their own leaflets about the history of Plymouth. Homework reminder-The Plymouth history homework is due in Thursday 28th April (any questions please see class teachers).

Year 4 News

Year 4 have had another busy week. The children are working their socks off and as a result they are making some really good progress. In Maths this week, the children have been identifying and ordering angles, along with co-ordinates and direction on Maths Day! In English, the children have been responding to a text from the government suggesting that play times are to be banned! As expected, the children have come up with some very persuasive arguments to prevent this from happening. For topic the children have been looking at the Anglo-Saxons, identifying their time in history and beginning to have an understanding of who they are. Have a fun filled weekend.

Year 5 News

The children have enjoyed a further week swimming at the Life Centre and many have grown in confidence and improved their swimming and in some cases diving ability. A selection of the children in the year group will require a further week of swimming next week, if this is relevant to your child you will have received notification today.

We are still looking for more cardboard and cereal boxes etc., for our D&T work, so we would appreciate any you can spare.

In the forthcoming weeks, some of our Science lessons will be focusing on the life cycle of humans and changes that occur during puberty. If you have any questions please speak to your child's class teacher.

Football Taster Sessions

Marine Academy Plymouth are hosting free football taster sessions on Monday 25th April as part of the national Girls Football Week. The sessions are aimed at girls who show an interest in football and wish to possibly progress further into our Girls Football Development Programme and teams. Taster activities will be for all ages, Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 starting at 6pm on their Marine Academy Plymouth training pitches.

For more information contact Girls Development Officer Samantha Drewery Samantha.drewery@marineacademy.org.uk Tel: 213951. Twitter: @mapfootball @MAPLFC

Montpelier School Games School Challenge

Last Sunday 15 children from Years 5 and 6 completed their Half Marathon. This year over 2500 children across Plymouth finished their last mile on the Hoe, the children have been running regularly during lunch time, showing dedication and commitment, running a total of 13 miles. Each runner was awarded with a goody bag and most importantly a medal for their achievement, congratulations you were all fantastic. A massive thankyou also to the parents for allowing your child to participate so early, on a Sunday morning. Please start to collect and bring in, your sponsorship form and money.

Hair Cut Fundraiser

Just to announce that on Saturday 14th May Nuala Eyres in Year 1 is having her hair cut off for a children's charity that makes wigs for terminally ill children. If you are interested in supporting her fundraising efforts please contact Leigh (Mum) on 07948 967026



Big Pedal

The Big Pedal has been a great success this week, ended brilliantly with the traditional 'Big Pedal breakfast'. It was great to see so many children biking and scooting to school despite the rain. Thanks for everyone's involvement and support with making the week a success. A special thanks to Ryan for running a great timed course for the children to complete and both the PTFA and Ryan for funding the breakfast. Keep pedalling!