

# The Beacon

Academic Year 2017/18

Issue No: 07

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## The Beacon at a Glance

- **Year Group News** – Find out what has been going on.
- **Deputy Headteacher's News** – Reading
- **Other news** – Music news, Poppy sale, Cross Country

## Deputy Headteacher's News

Reading: Reading is the key to success in learning. I know that you know this but it's always helpful to remind ourselves of the importance of it. When just a few months old, a child can look at pictures, listen to voices, and point to things in the pages of a book. They learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to them stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. Even after they learn to read by themselves, it's still so very important for parents to read aloud with them. By reading stories that are on their interest level, but beyond their reading level, you can stretch their understanding and motivate them to improve their skills.

Although our lives are often very hectic, parents should try to read with their child (or children) at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time. Don't be discouraged if you skip a day or don't always keep to your schedule but I would ask that you read to your child as often as you possibly can. Taking the time to read to them on a regular basis sends an important message – that reading is worthwhile. And whilst we will do all that we can to teach them this crucial skill in school, continuous practise at home makes all the difference. It's one of the biggest boosts you can give your child academically and all it costs is a few minutes of your time each day. So please join with us in encouraging a love of reading at Montpelier. Have a great half term.

## Foundation News

The children have had a great week exploring our space activities! Thank you to all parents who attended parents evening - we hope it was a useful insight. Please remember PE kits after half term. Have a great week off!

## Year 2 News

Wow! What a brilliant first term in Year 2. This week we've been busy writing beautiful descriptions, solving tricky maths problems and creating collages in science to represent the layer of the rainforest! We can't wait to continue to delve deeper into our topic next term. Thank you for your ongoing support. Have a super half term!

## Music News

Here is the link for Thursday Choir singers to access the lyric and dance videos for the songs we are currently learning. <https://www.youngvoices.co.uk/childrens-music-room>

The code is YVConcerts2018

No instrumental lessons with Mrs Berna on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

## Cross Country Staddiscombe

The annual PSSP Cross Country got underway yesterday at Staddiscombe. First up was the Yr 3 & 4 girls finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> position. The Yr 5 & 6 boys finished in 7<sup>th</sup>. The Yr 5 and 6 girls had a lot to live up to, with winning the league, unfortunately it wasn't our day, finishing in 2nd position overall. We have been selected to compete in the Devon Winter Games next year. Congratulations to all of you, you were all amazing. Thank you to the parents who transported their child and for the continued support and encouragement.

## Quicksticks

Yr 5 & 6 hockey team had their first competition at Marjons last Friday, winning all matches, not conceding a single goal. The team won their group with maximum points and have progress to the level 3 Winter Games next year. Congratulations, fantastic team spirit.

## Key Diary Dates

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 incl.** - Half term

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017** - Individual & family group photos KS2

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2017** - **Non-pupil day**

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 – Tues 02<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2018 incl.** - Christmas hols

**Wed 03<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2018** - **Non-pupil day**

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018** - **Non-pupil day**

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Mar – 16<sup>th</sup> Apr 2018 Inc.** – Easter holidays

**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank holiday

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank holiday

**Tues 29<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June Inc.** – Half term

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> July** - End of term - 2:30pm finish (**Yr6 finish at 1.30pm**)

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – First day of the summer holidays

## Year 1 News

In Maths this week the children have been using a variety of strategies to add numbers as well as investigate missing number problems. In English the children finished their BFG senses poem using their sentence ingredients. The week was finished off with the children enjoying an art day, making giant stationary for the BFG.

## Year 3 News

Year 3 have continued their Ancient Adventurer's topic this week by creating their prehistoric beasts out of clay and writing non-fiction information about their beast. Each Year 3 class performed a class poem about the Stone Age. This week in maths we have used the columnar method for addition and subtraction and we have had a great time using TTRockstars to help us learn our tables. Have a great half term.

## Year 4 News

This week Year 4 have been out and about around the school investigating invertebrates in Science. Thank you to all those who attended parents evening, it was great to see so many of you. We hope you have a great half term and the children get a well-earned break!

## Year 5 News

Have a great half-term break and enjoy the holiday. Remember to find some time for reading and your times-tables please.

## Year 6 News

After half-term, Year 6 will be changing the day of their PE from Tuesday to Monday. This is so they can benefit from a specialist PE teacher who will be visiting from Stoke Damerel.

## Staff Car Park

May we remind parents that the car park in North Down Road is for STAFF ONLY. Parents should keep to the pedestrian areas around the carpark and not walk across the carpark itself.

## Plymouth University

Congratulations Tom, Mackensie, Olivia, Ellie, Matilda, Elizabeth, Hannia, Connor, and Immy who all earned 100 hours of learning in the last year and graduated with the children's University at a ceremony at Plymouth University this week. We all enjoyed a fantastic evening of entertainment and presentations followed by refreshments. Keep collecting learning hours in your passports for your 'out of school' activities and next year this may be you.

## Poppies for sale

Poppies will be on sale in school between Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct & Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. KS2 children will be able to purchase these at break and lunch times. KS1 children will be able to buy them at the beginning of the day.

## Lost Property

Please check lost property bins, as there are a number of school sweatshirts without names. All unclaimed items will be disposed of.

# Plymouth University Graduation

