

## Deputy Headteacher News

### Time is flying...

I can't quite believe how fast time is going. It only seems like yesterday that we returned to school for the start of a new academic year. As we approach the end of the fifth week you begin to realise how precious time is and the notion that every minute counts becomes increasingly important. With that in mind I would like to tell you that I have had the privilege of seeing your children enthused, engaged and motivated by the wonderful learning opportunities that are on offer to them and I am hoping you are also hearing about the fantastic things they are taking part in. Over the past two weeks, Mr Holland, Miss Spragg and I have been going around the school to look closely at the quality of teaching and learning in our school. Quality first teaching is our main priority and we know as a team that this is the best way to ensure progress for your children. The staff are working incredibly hard planning, preparing and delivering some wonderful learning experiences for your children. I wanted to commend them to you and to thank them for their ongoing diligence and concerted hard work.

### Being Visible

It has always been (and will continue to be) my intention to be as visible as my commitments allow. Over the last two weeks I have attended a Plymouth Deputies meeting, a number of professional development meetings and have been involved in school inset which has resulted in my time on the playground at the beginning and end of the day being greatly reduced. I hope that this will change next week and will take every opportunity to be as visible as possible.

### Safety and Security

As mentioned at the end of last term it is of the utmost importance to all the staff of Montpelier that your children are safe and that the school site is secure when they are with us during the school day.

As a school we have made a conscious effort to tighten up on the time that we open the doors at the start and the end of the day.

I would like to remind you that at the end of the school day the only access into the school building is the main entrance. All other exits will be locked and closely monitored by the staff at the school. The school gates will be open by our Site Manager Zak Morgan from 15.00. Please be patient and allow time for this to happen as we have six entrances across our school site. At the end of the day the children will be shown out by their teacher or teaching assistant and they will be available at this time if you wish to speak with them or indeed they need to speak with you. After each class has been dismissed the door will be closed to ensure that our schools building is secure. I ask that if you wish to enter the building at this time that you use the main entrance in the same way that you would throughout the school day. In addition the school gates will be closed from 15.30. This will give enough time for all children to leave the school site safely. I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### Bikes, Scooters and Safety.

I am very conscious that I may start to sound like a broken record, but I feel that a reminder of our expectations regarding the use of bikes and scooters on the school grounds is required at this time. During my walks around the school grounds in the morning and after school (even though I have not been as visible as I would have liked) I have noticed an increasing number of children riding around the school grounds. Safety on the school site is of paramount importance to us. We have asked, in various ways, that pupils do not ride bikes or scooters around the school grounds. We love the idea of them using bikes and scooters to come to and from school; we strongly encourage this in fact. What we MUST have though is children dismounting and walking with their bike or scooter whilst on the school playgrounds. We have had too many collisions and minor accidents due to children charging around busy playgrounds at the end of the day. This is where I need your help. The children are under parental supervision at the end of the day. Please could you reinforce this requirement to consider everyone's safety? We can remind them, but it is almost an impossible task to check that this is happening and we would appreciate your support with making this happen.

I do hope you have a great weekend and we all look forward to the penultimate week of what has been an exciting, challenging, rewarding, but long start to the new school year.

## Diary Dates

### Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016

- Yr5 parents - Invitation to come into school during Golden Learning Time

### Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016

- Foundation & KS1 individual photos (family groups from 8am)

### Mon 24<sup>th</sup> to Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016

- Half term

### Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2016

- KS2 individual photos (family groups from 8am)

### Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2016

- 3:15 to 5pm Christmas Fair

### Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016

- Christmas lunch

### Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Dec '16 - Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Inc.

- Christmas Holidays

### Mon 13<sup>th</sup> - Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 Inc.

- Half term

### Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Apr 2017 Inc.

- Easter holidays

### Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017

- Bank holiday

### Sun 21<sup>st</sup> - Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016

- Bude Residential (Yr 6)

### Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May - Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> June '17 Inc.

- Half term

### Tues 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

- Leavers' assembly
- Last day of term 2:30pm finish (Yr6 finish at 1.30pm)

### Wed 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017

- Start of the summer holidays



### Monty's Den

Monty's Den is our onsite after school care. Call Tammy on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Sessions start from £6.50. Flexible booking available [www.thedens.co.uk](http://www.thedens.co.uk)

### **Foundation News**

The children have been really excited to learn about our new topic 'Space'. We have enjoyed sharing books about planets and the solar system and are learning a new Space Rocket Song. Please could you send in any kitchen roll tubes (not toilet rolls) as we will be making telescopes.

### **Year 1 News**

In year 1 this week we put our magic glasses on and stepped into the BFG's mysterious cave. Once inside, we used our senses to taste 'snozzcumpers' and 'whizzpopping frobscottle' whilst surrounded by magical flickering dream jars - check out eSchools for photos! This experience will help us to write our senses poems next week which we hope to share with you soon. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 2:15pm the children would like to invite you to a Giant's Tea Party in their classrooms to share what they have been learning with you. Keep your eyes peeled for your formal invite which we have been designing in DT this week! Have a great weekend!

### **Year 2 News**

Year 2 had their rainforest explorer hats on this week. They went into the forest to investigate strange goings on and found fur, scratch marks and paw prints! When we returned to class we found that the Lord of the Forest had left a gift. Maybe you could ask your child what it was! We are really excited about our trip to the Eden Project on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November. This will be an amazing opportunity to bring our rainforest topic to life. The children have been given a trip letter and a school packed lunch order form. Please can you fill out, sign and return them as soon as possible to a member of the Year 2 team.

### **School Games - Cross Country**

The 5<sup>th</sup> of October brought us a very windy start to the 2<sup>nd</sup> cross country warm up event held at Eggbuckland. First up was the year 4 boys, with this being a new event for these children, this didn't dishearten their enthusiasm, the team finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> position overall. The year 6 girls' team once again held their own against a very strong field. It came down to a sprint finish between Olivia G and Lily V for gold and silver. The A team winning the event and B team in 5<sup>th</sup> position. The year 6 boys were eagerly waiting for their race and did not disappoint, all 4 boys fought for their positions, the team finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> overall, a massive improvement from last week. Congratulations team, you are all amazing. Thank you to those parents who provided transport and support.

### **Year 4 News**

The children have had a busy week, writing their Egyptian Quest stories, counting in different sequences and investigating number patterns. In science we have enjoyed the sunny weather, investigating living things in the many outdoor areas around our school. It has been brilliant to see, read and display the children's fantastic homework this week on number patterns. We would like to invite you to come and work with your child in class on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October between 2:15pm and 3:15pm. During the afternoon we will be holding an Egyptian creative session and would like to invite you into the classroom to support your child. We look forward to seeing you, to share your children's learning. Thank you for your continued support. Have a great weekend.

### **Year 5 News**

This week in year 5 the Fire Service came in to talk to the children about fire safety in school and around the home. Unfortunately one of the crew broke his memory stick and was unable to show the video they had brought along but it didn't spoil the session. It has been great to see so many 'Seafaring' projects returned this week. There was an array of models, PowerPoints and posters. Well done to all of you. Thank you to everyone who has returned the 'Bikeability' and Buckland Abbey forms, there are still some outstanding and may we ask that these are returned at the earliest convenience please. If you should require another letter please ask your class teacher.

It has been great to see so many 'Seafaring' projects returned this week, there was an array of models, PowerPoints and posters. Well done to all of you.

### **Year 6 News**

Thank you for all the magazines and tubes you have sent in. They have been most helpful in aiding the children to learn in a practical way. We have used the tubes to make a simple stethoscope in Science. The magazines were used in art, where children cut out faces to make a collage in the style of Picasso. In English, we are working towards writing a diary. You could support your child by writing diaries at home. Help them by discussing what information to include and their response with thoughts and feelings.

### **Year 3 News**

Year 3 have dazzled us this week by making their very own story books. Next week we will be learning about prehistoric beasts, starting with an art day on Monday (children can bring in an old shirt if they have one).

### **Free School Meal**

Even if your child is aged 4 to 7 and would qualify for a UIFSM, we would encourage everyone to register for free school meals if you think that you may be entitled under any of the benefits.

Registration for FSM allows school to claim much needed and valuable funding. If you are unsure then please contact the school office for guidance or advice. Forms are available from main reception – even if your child does not intend taking a lunch then the school can still benefit financially.

### **Jeremiah's Journey**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October Plymouth College of Art will be holding their 3<sup>rd</sup> Photomathon. It's a photography competition with a twist! Participants have 6 hours to take 6 pictures of 6 given topics (which are kept top secret until the day). It's all about how participants interpret the topic rather than the quality of the picture. So for example if someone is given the topic 'Out of Place' they may like to take a picture of a toothbrush in the fridge – there are some great prizes to be won!

### **Library News**

We are delighted to announce that the library has now reopened. Apologies to all the children for it being closed since we have come back from the summer holidays, there was lots of sorting to be done! We suggested to children to change their books in the interim period from their class library or from home reading books. The library will be having a relaunch in the way that it is used in school and applications will be sent out next week for an exciting new role for Year 6's wanting a responsible job. Also, there will be an opportunity in a few weeks' time after school for parents to come in and take home a selection of books if they wish.

Thanks for your patience with this.  
Mrs Dyer and the Library Team