

## Headteacher News

### A Broad and Balanced Curriculum

I recently met with all the key people who will be involved in leading the Inspiring Schools Partnership (the Multi Academy Trust of which we are a member). During that meeting, I showed everyone the film that appears on the Homepage of our school website to give them a really good idea of what Montpelier is all about. If you've not watched it, it's worth spending three and half minutes on! The short film is merely a collection of photos that were taken during just one term at school. Not contrived or manufactured; Miss Spragg literally went through our 'Media' drive and pulled out a selection of photos, at random, taken by our staff and then put a caption to each one. What that did was to produce a snapshot into childrens' learning experiences at our school over a thirteen week period. It makes for some heartening viewing. What I told the Members and Trustees at the Inspiring Schools Partnership meeting was that we absolutely pride ourselves on our happy learning environment and that it's founded upon enjoyment of learning, and a **broad and balanced curriculum**. And whilst I don't think that anyone would argue that the mastery of English and maths is not crucial, as they are both key to the wider world of learning, we do believe that a narrow concentration on these can be unhealthy.

At Montpelier, we believe that a broad and balanced curriculum promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. The current accountability regime driven by successive governments has led many schools to provide a curriculum that is distorted or restricted by the external pressures of testing and accountability, as the diet of English and maths is increased at the expense of other subject areas. But why am I telling you this? Well, whilst we highly value the need for children to be both literate and numerate, I wish to reassure parents that this won't come at the expense of developing their knowledge and understanding of the very world we live in, the environment, different religions/cultures, a foreign language, technology, computing, music and the creative arts. We will continue to ensure that they participate fully in sports and physical activity; that they engage in high quality PSHE; that they develop positive character traits including resilience, communication, teamwork, problem solving and empathy; and also develop positive attributes including high self-esteem, positive emotional and mental health, tolerance, managing risk, respect and ambition. Whilst good English and maths test outcomes are very important for children and for schools, we will continue to educate your children to be well-rounded individuals with a diverse skill-set that will empower them as they move on in the world. Perhaps this is all a bit 'heavy' for a Friday afternoon newsletter but it speaks of our passion to do what's best for your children.

### Pokémon and Match Attax Cards.

Collectable trading cards come and go in popularity but it seems that an enthusiasm has been rekindled for both Pokémon and Match Attax cards. I certainly don't wish to ban children having these in school but we have had a few issues during this week. Cards, like any personal belongings in school, can go missing from time to time - either misplaced, lost, stolen, damaged, or spoiled in some way. Our stance is that trading cards are brought into school at the children's own risk. Parents need to be aware that staff cannot waste precious time pursuing cards that go missing. It is almost impossible to identify which cards belong to which child unless they're named (and naming cards somewhat defeats the potential for trading them). Certainly though tins or collector's books, albums or cases could be labelled. I would recommend that children don't bring in large collections or rare/expensive items as we just cannot guarantee they're safety. Bringing in a few cards that they may wish to show friends, or trade at break or lunch times, would be most sensible. I hope you can appreciate, understand and support us by encouraging this. Thank you.

## Diary Dates

### Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016

- Blue mufti for anti-bullying week

### Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016

- Children in Need Mufti - Brighten up your uniform by adding something spotty.

### Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016

- Shopping Night run by PTFA

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

- 3:15 to 5pm Christmas Fair

### Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016

- Carol Concert

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

- Christmas lunch
- Christmas Tree Festival - whole school - more info to follow

### Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016

- Christmas party / wear your Christmas jumper

### Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016

- 50 Things Event

### 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

- 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)

## Café Connect

### Relax Reflect Connect

Café Connect is our newly created community café. Based at the North Down Road entrance to Montpelier Primary School, it is a focal point where different members of our school community, especially our Service families, can meet and engage with the school on an informal level. Café Connect will enable us to welcome all our parents into school and hopefully thereby provide a means to meet and chat with our staff in an informal setting and also to network and develop bonds with other like-minded parents and members of our school community. Currently run by a small band of volunteers, it is a place where everybody is welcome. Why not pop in and see us, after all, it is your café!

### Opening times

Tuesday 14:00 to 16:00

Wednesday 14:00 to 16:00

Thursday (Service Families ONLY 14:30 – 15:15pm) 15:15 to 16:00 open to all

Friday 14:00 to 16:00

### Current events

**Meet the Senco** - Thursday 17th November 09:00 to 10:30  
and Wednesday 30th November 13:30 to 15:00

**E-Safety Drop-in** - Monday 28th November 09:00 to 10:00 and 14:00 to 15:00



### E-safety workshop

We would like to invite you to an E-safety workshop on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 5:30pm in the Key Stage 2. During the workshop we will look at filtering and suggestions on how to keep your child safe when using a technological device?

We look forward to seeing you.

The E-safety Team

### Sniffy Flu Immunisation

Please note the 'sniffy' flu immunisation will be taking place here at school on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. This is for Years 1, 2 and 3 where a signed consent form has been received.

## Tempest Photographs

Please ensure all photograph orders are back in school by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately after this time all orders will be returned unprocessed.

### Maths Fun Day

#### Go Mental for Maths!

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November is when Montpelier will go Mental for Maths! During the day the children will take part in a range of fun activities focused on mental maths skills. Parents are invited to come along and see what has been happening in their child's class. Parents will also get a chance to see Big Maths in action. Parents of Foundation and Key Stage One children are invited in to school at 2pm and parents of Key Stage Two children are invited in at 2:30pm. At the end of the school day there will be a maths sing along in the Key Stage Two hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Children in Need

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October - Children in Need - fundraising event - brighten up your uniform by adding something spotty.

### Remembrance Display

This year to mark Remembrance Day we are encouraging all of the children to take part in creating a display in the entrance hall. We would like your child to write a personal message, or a word or two about what Remembrance Day means to them on their poppy that has been sent home with them today. Children are then asked to cut them out and return them to school for Monday morning.



## School Games

### Cross Country Staddiscombe

The annual Plymouth School Sports Partnership Cross Country got underway on the 20<sup>th</sup> October at Staddiscombe, in an unusual dry and sunny conditions.

With eight races in total the 1000 plus runners arrived ready to take on the challenging course. Montpelier was fortunate enough to enter in all 'Major' categories. First up was the year 3 and 4 girls finishing in 9<sup>th</sup> position with 140 points. Next was the boys, knowing what to expect went 1 better than the girls in 8<sup>th</sup> position with 132 points. The year 5 and 6 boys finished in 13<sup>th</sup> place with 215 points against a very strong field. The year 5 and 6 girls had a lot to live up to, with winning the league a week earlier this was their moment to shine, and shine they did. With 19 schools and almost 100 runners entered into this event, our girls knew this was going to be difficult, yet again they proved why they are the best School Cross Country Team. Five of the girls finishing in the top 19, winning the event with an incredible 33 points, believed to be the first time ever for our school. 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.

Linda Pearce (Mrs)

### 'School Sports Club Raffle'

Exciting news - in February, one lucky Montpelier child will be the mascot for the Plymouth Raiders Basketball team at the Pavilions! To be in with a chance, children who attend sports clubs at school will be entered into a raffle - the more clubs children attend, the more raffle tickets they will have! For example; if a child attends 2 clubs every week for 7 weeks - that's 14 tickets into the draw! Start earning your tickets, who knows....it could be you... For more information, see Mr Robinson or Mrs Pearce.



### Foundation News

WOW! What an amazing day we had in Space on Thursday. A big thank you to all of those grown-ups who helped with creating the magnificent space helmets. The children looked fantastic-please take a look at the website next week to zoom in on our space fun.

### Year 1 News

What a fantastic first week back in Year 1! On Tuesday, each classroom discovered a chocolate cake and a book in their classrooms. After much deliberation, we decided there was only one option... We ate the cake and read the fantastic story. Ask your child to tell you more about 'The Giant of Jum'! You also may have heard about our DT day this Thursday. This involved designing, making and evaluating some (hopefully) delicious cookies for our Giant's Tea Party today! We hope you enjoyed it if you were able to make it. Thanks so much for all of your continued support. Have a great weekend!

### Year 2 News

What a brilliant first week back! The children have enjoyed many learning challenges this week. It was fascinating learning about Christopher Columbus and his explorations to America - ask your child if they can remember the 3 ships he sailed. We are looking forward to our Eden trip and have managed to secure the payments we needed, to enable us to go. A huge thank you for all of your voluntary donations, without them we would not be able to enjoy such fantastic learning experiences. Have a great weekend.

### Year 3 News

On Monday, the children were surprised to discover an unusual pumpkin in the school grounds along with an ancient tale. Over the week the children have worked really hard to learn the tale of 'Why the Sun and Moon live in the Sky?' so they can magpie ideas for writing their own tales over the coming weeks. This week in Maths, Year 3 have enjoyed exploring patterns. We will continue this next week using our times table knowledge to help us find fact families. We would encourage children to continue to practise their times tables at home as bronze (2,5,10's), silver (3,4's) and even some gold cups (8) are starting to be given out. Remember to encourage children to increase their recall speed, as to earn their cups they need to know their facts instantly, without the use of fingers or counting, and, also know them in any order! Don't forget to check out e-schools to see the children telling the ancient tale of 'Why the Sun and Moon live in the Sky?'

### Year 4 News

The children have all made a great start back after the half term holiday. This week in English we have used our non-fiction skills to research mummification. On Wednesday we became 'Embalmers,' we are investigating what happens when you embalm a tomato! During maths we have investigated triangles and different types of angles. Ask your child if they can spot different angles around your house. We are so pleased with the support you are giving your child at home with their reading. Please remind them to put their reading record and their reading book in their school bag every day. Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy your weekend.

### Year 5 News

The children have been entertaining us with their performances of 'The Boneyard Rap' by Wes Magee during English this week as part of our Performance Poetry unit. At the end of the week, the children visited Buckland Abbey and found out what life would have been like on board a Tudor ship and the issues sailors had to deal with, while each child had the enjoyable experience of making Ship Biscuits. Bikeability will commence on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November and further information will be coming home via a letter next week.

### Year 6 News

We hope you had a lovely half term break and that your child is ready to come back and work hard! In English, we have been looking at information texts and are learning how to use the features, focusing specifically on sentence structure. In Maths we are working on how to use four operations and applying our knowledge to problem solving. As you are aware, we are starting a new topic in DT which involves soup! We would appreciate it if you could send in soup packaging for our lesson on Monday.

### Music News

The Christmas Carol Service rehearsals have started brilliantly! If your child sings in the Year 2 and 3/Thursday/Boys or Green Squad Choirs, be sure to keep Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm free for our Carol Service at Mutley Baptist Church. It's going to be great! Ticket details to follow.

### Winter School Meal Menu 2016/17 - Changes

Please be aware that as from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November wrap fillings will be changing as follows:-

***Week 1 – Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, Mar 6<sup>th</sup>, Mar 27<sup>th</sup>.***

Cheese and coleslaw or Tuna, mayo and cucumber or Ham

***Week 2- Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, Mar 13<sup>th</sup>.***

Cream cheese and salad or Tuna, mayo and sweetcorn or Roast beef

***Week 3 – Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, Mar 20<sup>th</sup>.***

Cheese and cucumber or Egg mayo or Coronation chicken

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

CALLING ALL LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND SMALL BUSINESSES!

Montpelier are looking forward to holding their first CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The theme of the festival is 'British Values', one of which is 'We try to help other people in our wider community'. To this end, we would like to give local community groups and small businesses the opportunity to provide a Christmas tree for the festival. This can be decorated however you like. Parents and members of the community will be invited into school on that day to view the decorated trees and will provide a fantastic opportunity to promote your group or small business in the run up to Christmas. If you are interested, please contact Charlotte Johnson (class teacher) for further information.

***Any donations of unwanted Christmas trees gladly welcomed. Please hand them in at Reception. Thank you***

# Maths Movie Makers competition

**Are you a budding movie maker?**

Put your maths and movie skills together to create a maths video that will help people with their maths skills. Your movie needs to teach one aspect of maths.

The best maths movies will be added to the Maths Action Group YouTube and there is a prize for the overall winner.

Have a look online to get some ideas:

[Goo.gl/UaPhH8](http://Goo.gl/UaPhH8)

**Closing Date: 28th November**

Bring entries into school on a memory stick to Mrs Green.