

The Beacon

Academic Year 2016/17

Issue No: 19

Date 3rd February 2017

Governor News

It's a pleasure for the governor team to be able to take over the Beacon for this week. Our weekly newsletter provides a great opportunity for us to communicate to all parents and ensure you are up to date with the latest developments in school. As a reminder, the governance team are here to work with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education. We both support and challenge our Senior Leadership Team and oversee the school's aims and policies.

At our meeting this week, we had some time talking about communication. What did the old BT advert say? "It's good to talk". Well we believe so too!

In an environment where social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are commonly used to talk to each other, or share our views, sometimes we overlook the opportunity to have a good face to face catch up. Social media does serve a purpose, however, sometimes, messaging or views can be taken out of context. Each of us may interpret that message differently in the environment that we read that message. When reading, it may cause someone to be happy, feel thankful, honoured. But, on the flip side of that, we have to recognise that context of some messaging may offend, upset or damage feelings.

You would have seen before Christmas that our Community Café is now open and provides an environment for us to talk. We encourage you to use it; the funding secured to provide this facility was challenging, so let's make sure it is used. The facility could be used speak to our SLT or a point to socially meet up as parents/carers. If you would like to use it, then speak to our reception team about securing the facility.

In addition, we want to remind you all that the governing body are here. We continue to voluntarily commit our time to the development, care and support of the school. Our Senior Leaders, Middle Leaders, and all staff across the school are working extremely hard and are committed to delivering a quality and caring education experience for your children. If you want to feedback your praise of your experience or discuss challenges you see on this, **talk!** The governors would happily dedicate some time over a coffee in our new café, just remember to bring the biscuits!

As ever I am also available on e-mail if you would like to spend some time with me or my governance team (wendytout@mpsplymouth.net).

If I don't see you before the half term break, enjoy!

Wendy Tout and the Local Governing Body

Music News

What a fantastic time the Young Voices group had in Birmingham! Performing as part of a choir of 6,563 with professional singers and musicians was a truly memorable event. Look on the website in the children's section-Clubs- Choir for photos of the concert. Well done to our singers who represented the school so well. It was wonderful to see you having the time of your life!

Please note, if you have not yet paid your instrumental lesson fee, it is now well overdue. If not paid by Sunday, lessons will stop until payment is received. Please contact Mrs Simpson with any payment queries.

We require 6 weeks notice to cancel instrumental lessons, so if you do not wish your child to continue lessons after Easter, please let me know by email by Friday 10th February: jessrowe@mpsplymouth.net.

Thank you. Miss JR

Diary Dates

Tues 7th Feb 2017

- E-safety drop-ins, Café Connect, 9 -10am & 2-3pm

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb 2017 Inc.

- Half term

Fri 3rd March 2017

- Vista group photos - Year 6 and Foundation only.

Fri 31st Mar 2017

- 'Wear a Hat' mufti day - for Brain Tumor Research

Mon 3rd-Tues 18th Apr 2017 Inc.

- Easter holidays

Mon 1st May 2017

- Bank holiday

Wed 24th May 2017

- Tempest Photos – Class groups & Year 6 individual photos.

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

Dogs

May we remind parents that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds – even those being carried.

Foundation News

This week we have continued reading Julia Donaldson books with some fantastic work on The Snail and the Whale. In Maths the children have been busy working out one more than a number and are now focusing on one less than a number. Next Friday we are looking forward to fun outside with our 50 Things activity day. Please do sign up for parent consultations which will take place after half term.

Year 1 News

It has been money madness in Year 1 this week! Despite finding this tricky, the children have taken on the challenge and are becoming more and more confident recognising different coins and their values. It would be great if you could continue to support this whilst you're out and about this weekend! The Year 1 team would also like to express our thanks for your support with reading at home. This is a vital part of imbedding skills learnt in school and has a tremendous impact on children's progress. Thank you for your continued support with this. Have a brilliant weekend.

Year 2 News

Well, what another eventful week. From a dinosaur breaking into our classroom, to finding a dinosaur egg and preparing it for transport. The children, as always, have shown a great amount of enthusiasm towards their learning, even when it has become quite tough. As you are aware, the curriculum expectations placed onto your children are quite demanding. We teach this curriculum in an environment where children are challenged, engaged and motivated. Where having a 'give it a go' attitude thrives. At times, to support the children to meet their best potential, we ask you to further develop their learning at home. Sometimes on top of our homework, reading and spelling expectations. The support you provide your child at home has a great impact in the classroom and all staff are always extremely appreciative. It is a great moment when a child links something they have done at home, to something in school and vice versa. We strongly value and appreciate your support. Have a great weekend

Year 3 News

Year 3 were excited to receive their new writing challenge this week from the Plymouth Tourist Information Centre. They have been asked to write a 'Kids Guide to the Extreme South West' including information of places you can go and extreme activities you can do. A selection of the best guides will go on display in the Tourist Information Centre on the Barbican. Another highlight of this week was a visit from a teacher from Plymouth in America! The children dazzled by singing their Plymouth, Devon songs which even included beat-boxing! In Maths the children have been starting to look at fractions. Any practical work at home would really support their understanding of this. Finally, an update on the children Mount Edgcumbe re-counts. Due to the bad weather posting has so far been postponed. Weather permitting the children should now be posting them next Monday so look out for them next week! Many thanks for all the envelopes and stamps sent in.

Year 4 News

The children have had a fun week, working in groups to make posters about Italy. During English they enjoyed a talk about Italy to help us develop their knowledge about planning an Italian Guide. In maths we investigated how to scale numbers by dividing and multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000. In science we found out about the water cycle. Please ask your child to explain how it works. Please encourage your child to keep practising their tables and learning their spotlight spellings. Thank you for your continued support. Have a great weekend.

Year 5 News

On Wednesday of this week, the year 5 children spent part of the day orienteering at Central Park. The sessions were led by the Mountbatten Watersports Centre and staggered throughout the day. Despite it being rather muddy, the weather was kind until the late afternoon, but all the children had an enjoyable time. Well done to all the year 5 children who have been using TT Rockstars this week in an effort to boost their times table speed and to try and win the various Battle of the Bands that are taking place.

Sport Kit

There seems to be a lot of school sport kit missing. For those children that have competed over the last few weeks please check that all sporting items has been returned. Thank you

No Athletics on Monday 6th February due to a competition

Year 6 News

In English, we have started looking at the features of advice leaflets. The children are learning how to inform and persuade at the same time! We will be writing our own advice leaflet next week which links to our topic: If the World Were a Village. We will advise others about protecting the environment and persuade people to take action!

Science has been so much fun! We have been learning about electricity, in particular, circuits. Using wires and components, we have built circuits from diagrams.

School Games

Basketball

On Wednesday the Year 6 basketball team took part in the first competition of the year at Coombe Dean School. With 3 teams pulling out at the last minute we only had 4 games to play. The first game was against Pomphlett. We won that match 5-0, next was Weston Mill, Wembury, and Oreston, winning all matches and only conceding 1 basket. Winning the event with 15 baskets. Congratulations team, you have qualified to play your next match in front of Plymouth Raiders.

Multi Skills

Wednesday afternoon 6 girls and 6 boys from Year 2 participated in SDCC family Multi Skills event held at the Plymouth Life Centre. The children were put through a range of different activities, from running, jumping, throwing and balancing. Working together as a team the children set the standards for the other 13 schools that we were competing against. After 90 minutes of hard work it was time to get the final result. Montpelier yet again were announced the overall winners. Well done team you were amazing.

E-safety drop-in's

We would like to invite you to our E-safety Drop-in's on Tuesday 7th February 2017, for the international 'Safer Internet Day' 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 Tuesday.

The E-safety Team