



Deputy Headteacher News

My week began with an email from a proud father. His girls had given up their time (7 hours in total), throughout the weekend to collect and raise money for the Royal British Legion. The commitment shown by two so young will, in some way, ensure that future generations continue to acknowledge and remember the sacrifice made by so many to secure the futures of the majority.

Armistice Day, held on November 11th every year, commemorates the signing of the armistice between the Allies and Germany at 11am on 11 November 1918. Although hostilities continued in some areas, the armistice essentially brought an end to four years of fighting in the First World War.

Today, as I am sure many of you did, the children and staff of Montpelier Primary School respected the tradition to pause for a two minute silence at 11am to remember those killed in the two world wars and those British servicemen killed or injured since 1945.

Royal British Legion says: "Great Britain still believes strongly in remembering those who fought not only in World Wars, but the more than 12,000 British Servicemen and women killed or injured since 1945." The act of Remembrance rightly has a place in and impact on our lives, no matter which day of the week it might fall upon. The most important thing from our school perspective is that the memory of those who have given their lives and continue to serve our country to preserve the free world that we live in are remembered for many generations to come. Having researched this week the significance of the poppy I feel it is relevant to share what I found out.

In the spring of 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, Canadian doctor Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies growing in the battle fields to write the now famous poem In Flanders Fields. His poem moved American teacher Moina Michael who began making and selling silk poppies to friends to raise money for the ex-service community. Before long, poppies made their way to the UK and became the symbol of the Royal British Legion when it was formed in 1921. The first ever 'Poppy Appeal' in the UK that year raised over £106,000 for war veterans. The following year, a poppy factory was set up by Major George Howson MC, giving jobs to disabled former servicemen. The bright red poppy is regarded as a resilient flower which managed to flourish despite fields being destroyed by war.

The sight of the poppy and the reason we wear it will hopefully be something the children of Montpelier Primary School now understand, have respect for and will honour for many years to come.

Have a great weekend.

Switch Off Fortnight

The Eco Warriors of Montpelier Primary School are getting ready to join in with the big Switch-Off Fortnight. Switch-Off Fortnight is an initiative designed by EDF Energy's Education Team to raise awareness regarding saving energy. The fortnight runs from Monday 14th to Sunday 27th November and encourages everyone (pupils as well as staff) to consider some simple rules for cutting down energy consumption. We all need to think about switching off lights and computer monitors and staff need to remember to turn off appliances such as projectors and photocopiers, as well as the school considering how much time the heating remains on. Closing doors and windows to conserve heating and switching off the heating a little earlier could make significant differences to our annual costs. You can find out more about Switch-Off Fortnight and to explore more energy resources by going to 'jointhepod.org/SOF2016'.

E-safety workshop

We would like to invite you to an E-safety workshop on Monday 14th November 2016 at 5:30pm in the Key Stage 2. The neighbourhood PCSO Chris Pooley will be joining us for the workshop. 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

Diary Dates

Mon 14th Nov 2016

- Blue mufti - anti-bullying week

Fri 18th Nov 2016

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

Thurs 24th Nov 2016

- Shopping Night run by PTFA

Fri 2nd Dec 2016

- 3:15 to 5pm Christmas Fair

Wed 7th Nov 2016

- Carol Concert

Thurs 8th Dec 2016

- Christmas lunch
- Christmas Tree Festival

Thurs 15th Dec 2016

- Christmas party / wear your Christmas jumper (Save the Children £1 donation)

Fri 16th Dec 2016

- 50 Things Event

Mon 19th Dec '16 - Tues 3rd Jan Inc.

- Christmas Holidays

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb 2017 Inc.

- Half term

Mon 3rd - Tues 18th Apr 2017 Inc.

- Easter holidays

Mon 1st May 2017

- Bank holiday

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

Children in Need

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

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

Reminder – no dogs on the school premises please, even when being carried.

Foundation News

This week the children were very excited to meet one of the Montpelier rabbits 'Tangles' who joined them in the classroom for an afternoon. We were also very fortunate to have some coaches from the City of Plymouth Trampolining and Gymnastics club who may have spotted some future Olympians! Next week we will be dressing in Blue on Monday and discussing Bullying through a story and raising money for Children in Need and going all spotty on Friday.

Year 1 News

It has been another brilliant week in Year 1. We have enjoyed becoming pen pals with the 'Giant of Jum' after he sent some mysterious messages. The children's writing is getting better and better every day; we know they were extremely proud to show this off at the tea party last week! There were also exciting challenges in maths as we used magical number bond boxes and brilliant bar models to discover and represent number pairs. We rounded off the week by learning about Remembrance and creating our own poppies decorated with meaningful words and thoughts. Well done Year 1. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 3 News

The children have yet again amazed us with their learning. In maths the children have been multiplying and dividing factor pairs to find the rest of the factor family. They finished the week solving missing number problems. In English the children have been up-leverling their writing by using a range of conjunctions, verbs, adverbs and expanded noun phrases.

In Science this week the children explored how fossils were made, using their knowledge of soil and rocks. Thank you for your continued support with the children's learning. Have a fantastic weekend.

Year 4 News

This week has been a busy week for year 4, we have found out about the different Egyptian Gods, in English we have been developing our English skills writing simple, compound and complex sentences. During Maths we have been adding two four digit numbers together and subtracting a four digit number from another four digit number. In Science we have been exploring how different sounds are made. Please remember we are seeking a voluntary contribution of £2.00 (to cover costs) by Monday 14th November for the Spacelab Planetarium on Monday 21st November 2016. Have a great weekend!

Year 2 News

It's been another super week in year 2. We have discovered more about Christopher Columbus and all the food and produce he brought back, to Europe, from America. We have also been investigating addition in maths and starting to write fantastic postcards in English. The year 2 team have noticed a big improvement in the children's reading and spelling - thanks for you continuing support with this at home. Have a great weekend.

Year 5 News

There have been some fantastic performances of the poems that were sent home last week to be learned for homework. Clearly we have some talented performers in year 5! It has been great to witness the children's enthusiasm.

Thank you to those parents who assisted with the Buckland Abbey visits on Thursday and Friday of last week, your help was invaluable.

Next week Bikeability begins and your child should have brought a letter home detailing the times of their session and the necessary clothing requirements. If you have any queries please speak to the class teacher or Mrs. Pearce.

Year 6 News

Thank you to all the parents who sent in soup packages this week. We had a really fun afternoon analysing the packaging, looking at ingredients and learning about food hygiene, before sampling some soup. The children blind tested a range of soup and the results were really interesting! Ask your child which brand of soup was their favourite.

This week Warburtons have visited two of our Year 6 classes to make sandwiches. It was great fun!

Next week is our visit to the Synagogue. Could you please make sure that children come to school in a coat. Boys will need a hat as they will need to have their head covered.

Maths Fun Day - Go Mental for Maths!

Wednesday 23rd 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.

Winter School Meal Menu - Changes

Reminder - as from Monday 14th November wrap fillings will be changing

Pudsey Lunch - Friday 18th November

Option 1 : Pudsey Sausage & Chips

Option 2 : Pudsey Chicken & Chips
Peas or beans

Option 3 : Jacket potato with beans, cheese or tuna

No wraps will be available on this day

Sweet : Pudsey iced sponge cake

School Money Payments

A reminder that payment for school meals and breakfast club should be made on line, **in advance** on www.schoolmoney.co.uk as per school policy.

We would like to thank all those parents/carers who continue to make timely payments. We would respectfully request that everyone be especially vigilant when applying payments to your account and ensure that payments for breakfast club and clubs are made to clubs/top ups and dinner payments to dinners. As an academy we now operate separate bank accounts to Plymouth City Council and payments made to the wrong category will require a further payment being made to the correct area whilst we process a refund.

If you need support on how to make payments, please contact the school office. We are hoping shortly to offer some training sessions on the use of school money in our new Café Connect. Watch this space.

School games

On Wednesday 12 children from year 4 participated in this year SDCC family multi skills event. The children were put though different activities such as running, jumping and throwing to gain as many points as they could for their team. Having fantastic athletes the children showed a range of skills winning the event overall. Congratulations team you were all amazing. Thank you to Mrs Potter for helping out.

Bikeability

Year 5 bikeability is this Monday, please wrap up warm, this programme will run in all weather. You may leave your bike overnight in the bike shelter in the pirate playground, the school holds no responsibility. Any queries please contact me on lindapearce@mpsplymouth.net

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

Closing Date: 28th November

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