

**Headteacher News**

The end of the first autumn term. It's been a very busy time – lots has been happening. Our Foundation Stage team have been working hard to introduce a new electronic way of recording pupil's learning journeys (Tapestry) which aims to keep parents more involved in their child's experiences in school by making much of what they do accessible online. They have also been undertaking a completely new baseline assessment system within a much shorter time frame than usual, in line with new government expectations. All of our Key Stage 1 and 2 staff have been getting to grips with an entirely new national curriculum, one which focusses heavily on learning more complex skills earlier, particularly in English and mathematics. Alongside this, they have also been getting used to a completely new way of assessing and tracking pupils in accordance with the new national curriculum objectives. Staff have also introduced new Learning Journey books throughout the school which replaces the separate books we had for each subject. Every time a child writes, no matter which subject, they will write in these Learning Journeys, with the exception of their English Progress pieces and their mathematics. You'll have an opportunity to look through these during the parent-teacher consultations in November. We've also launched eSchools which has required teachers to familiarise themselves with a new system of informing parents about learning and setting homework electronically. We've also been introducing the idea of Golden Learning Behaviours to sit alongside our 'Going for Gold' behaviour policy. The celebration of Golden Learning Behaviours is all about identifying and encouraging appropriate learning behaviours in children (such as planning, persevering, questioning, imagining, reasoning, collaborating) and overtly focussing on these with the idea that children can learn to become better learners. This is an initiative that we will continue to drive forward throughout this academic year. It's not about learning a particular subject as such, it all about learning to be better at learning across all subjects. So, as a school, we've had lots of new things to take on board, so we're rather pleased to have a break coming up! We're also looking forward to meeting parents directly following our return after the autumn break. I hope everyone is finding the new eSchools online booking process for the consultations easy and trouble free. As I've mentioned before; any feedback regarding eSchools will be gratefully received. In fact, as always, feel free to contact me regarding any school issue: head@mpslpymouth.net.

**Foundation News**

This week the children have continued to explore the school grounds searching for shapes in the environment. They have also produced some super shape collages. They now all belong to a house team; blue, green, red or yellow and showed great enthusiasm in their first team event running a relay for charity. We hope the children enjoy their half term, have a good rest and look forward to seeing you all for parents evening the first week back.

**Year 1 News**

The children have recently started to design their own cape as part of our Design and Technology curriculum. This is a project that we would love for you to continue with over the half-term break. There are many ways a cape can be made by using old tee-shirts, pillow cases or a sheet. The children can decorate and create their own logo and then wear them during the first week back after half-term Monday 2nd November 2015. Have a good break and keep safe.

**Year 2 News**

Wow! What a great week, to round off a successful first term in year two. The children have decided what would 'get stuck' in their tree, subtracted on a number line and explored the geographical features of our school. The children became 'Creators' in RE and Mrs Meatyard was extremely impressed with their thoughtful ideas and creations. As part of our Woodland Explorers topic, the children visited Ham Woods. They represented the school brilliantly and we were very proud of them all.

Don't forget to sign up for parent's evening via eSchools, Have a great half term.

**Year 3 News**

Our Ancient Adventuring in the Stone Age was completed this week with the arrival of our family and friends to see our Prehistoric Beasts. We showed them our fact files, our designs and even the creature itself - in model form of course!! Although our time in the Stone Age has been brief it has been a lot of fun and we now look forward after half-term to learning about life in the Bronze and Iron Ages.

We have had a super start to Year 3; check out the photographs on the website and e-schools to see what we have already achieved. Thank you for all your support so far with regard to home-reading, spellings, big maths / x tables and homework. It really does make a difference. Have a lovely half-term.

**Year 4 News**

Wow, the end of term already! What a fantastic term it has been. The children have worked so hard and achieved so much. Thank you for all the efforts and support given to the children with their Roman shields, they look fantastic. We will be keeping them in school to continue with our Roman topic next term in preparation for our Roman day. Details of the Roman day will be given out in the new term. Have a relaxing break.

**Year 5 News**

A great day was had by all on the visits to Buckland Abbey this week. The children represented the school extremely well and were a credit to themselves and the school. Staff at the Abbey commented on how knowledgeable the children were and how well behaved too. Well done to all of you! A special thank you to the parent helpers who came along and helped on the two days.

Thank you for returning the 'Bikeability' letters and more details will follow after half term.

Enjoy the half term break and how many of the 50 things can you complete during the week. Have a good break!

**Diary Dates**

**Trutex Schoolwear first**  
Thursday of every month  
2:45pm - 4:30pm.

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Oct Inc.**

- Half term

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015**

- Children in Need -  
British Hero Mufti

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015**

- Chocolate Mufti

**Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015**

- Christmas Fair

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015**

- Last day of term

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016**

- Non pupil day

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016**

- First day of term

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Feb Inc.**

- Half term

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 2016.**

- Wear a Hat Mufti Day

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Mar – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Apr Inc.**

- Easter holidays

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Apr 2016**

- Non pupil day

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

- Bank holiday

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

- Bank holiday

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup> May - Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June Inc.**

- Half term

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

- Non pupil day

## Year 6 News

As we come to the end of the first term in year 6 we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children who has been trying their best, both with their learning and their positive attitudes. We would like to tell you about a couple of things coming up - firstly we will be having an Art Day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Also the children will be having their outdoor P.E sessions led by a Plymouth Argyle community coach. This will be for 6 weeks and we would ask that all Yr 6 children have their outdoor P.E kits in school every Wednesday. Please continue to access eSchools with your children to see pictures of what they have been up to as well as links to websites related to their current learning. Please sign up for parents evening if you have not already done so via eSchools.

## Year 6

### Secondary School Preference Forms

All completed secondary school preference forms need to be sent to the School Admissions Team as soon as possible - the deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. Please, wherever possible, apply online, it is quick and easy – all you need is an email address. If you are confused or concerned please contact Dawn Stewart-Braddon on 307469 – she will do all she can to help. 23 children are still to apply.

## Music News

All Miss JR's clubs will start back straight away after half term, including those held on parents evenings.

We are now working towards our school Carol Service on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm at Mutley Baptist Church.

Instrumental lessons will also start straight away except for Mrs Berna's Tuesday guitar lessons which will restart on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November. We hope everyone is enjoying their instrumental lessons. If however you wish to cancel your child's lessons, please inform Miss JR (jessrowe@mpsplymouth.net) by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to avoid being charged a cancellation fee for the Spring Term.

## Street Jazz - Year 2 & 3

There are still a few places available for the next run of sessions starting Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. If interested please ask for a sign up letter from the office or download from our website.

## New School Menu - Winter 2015.

Please look out for the new winter menu and the special flyer for National School Meals Week which will be coming home today.

## Netball

Julie Corletto, Australian Netballer. 3 x World Champion. Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist.

**VENUE:** Ridgeway School, Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

**DATE:** TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

**TIME:** & 9am – 12noon (8 – 10 year olds)

**AGES:** 1pm – 4pm (11 – 12 year olds)

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

**Time:** 9am – 12noon (13 – 15 year olds)

1pm – 4pm (16 – 18 year olds)

**COST:** £25 (per participant)

Session includes: Skills, Q&A, Prizes & a Gold Medal experience. BOOK ONLINE at [www.juliecorletto.com](http://www.juliecorletto.com)

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL & CLOSES 26/10/2015** unless sold out prior. Only a limited number of places available book now to avoid missing out

## Reminder to all fencers

Fencing sessions start again on the first Monday after half term. If you haven't yet returned your sign up slip please do so first thing on the Monday morning. Copies of the sign up letter are available to download from our website should you need a replacement. Thank you

## School Lunch and Breakfast Club

### payments

Firstly we would like to thank those of you who always pay so promptly, it's much appreciated. However, as the term has progressed the number of late payments has steadily increased. May we respectfully request that every endeavour is made to make payments in advance as per school policy. If you are experiencing difficulty please do contact the school office.

## Free Family Fun Day

Plymouth City Council's Short Breaks Service and It's Sports Development Unit will be running another free Family Fun Day on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1pm - 5pm. The four activities on offer between 1pm and 4pm will include Trampolining and Bowls (climbing will not be included this time), followed by a family swim from 4pm-5pm. These events are for families with children with additional needs (aged 6-18) that live within Plymouth. As always, places are limited and are allocated on a first come basis. To book a space call 01752 307008 or [emailsportsdev@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:emailsportsdev@plymouth.gov.uk) on Mondays or Tuesdays preferably.

## Lost Property

Eryn McGregor Class 6P has lost a long, navy coloured, quilted, Bench coat. Please inform reception if you know of its whereabouts. Thank you

## Montpelier School Games

### Cross Country

The final event of the warm up series for Primary Cross Country was blessed with another beautiful sunny afternoon. Held at Coombe Dean, over 250 children arrived for the longest of the warm-up courses at 1.78km. 3 teams were ready to compete in this tough event. Once again the children all worked extremely hard with the year 5&6 girls collecting their 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive medal finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> position overall. Well done!

### Quicksticks/Hockey

With its biggest uptake in years, 13 schools and 15 teams turned up at Brickfields for the Level 2 Quicksticks hockey tournament. Teams were mixed 7-a-side, with no goalkeepers and at least 3 girls on the pitch at all times. The games were played on a third of an astro with a slightly bigger, lighter ball than adult hockey. Congratulations to our team, you showed fantastic team spirit and sportsmanship.

### Multi Skills

Congratulation to the year 3&4 multi skills team that competed at SDCC, this competition put all 12 children to the test that included running, jumping, throwing and catching. The squad worked together with pure determination and concentration earn them the overall winners. Well done, fantastic effort by all.

### PTFA News

Next PTFA meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> November at 9am.

If any parents are able to provide a raffle donation for the Christmas Fayre then it would be greatly appreciated.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November @ 9.30am, Scott Allen from STORM running will be visiting our school to take the first session of a ten week running program. The program, supported by the Plymouth City Council, is aimed at getting parents active and in term, ensuring children get active too. Over the 10 week program, the aim is to improve confidence, fitness, running technique and identify a group leader, so after the 10 weeks, the group is sustainable. Scott, from his newly formed "STORM" running team, will bring the morals & ethics from his team to our school. STORMs care & motivational nature has seen 320 runners join them in 6 months.

There is a 30 limit capacity on this program. Interested parents, can book a spot by emailing

[lindapearce@mpsplymouth.net](mailto:lindapearce@mpsplymouth.net)

### PTFA Cookie Sale

A grand total of £341 was raised at the recent cookie sale. Thank you for supporting this event. Thank you also to those PTFA members involved in organising the sale.