

Headteacher News

Becoming an Academy

When the children return to school on Monday, we will officially be an academy. There have been a number of delays to the process; all extremely boring but important things such as transfer of lease agreements, contracts and outstanding building maintenance issues. Also, due to the sheer number of schools converting to academy status in Plymouth at the moment, many are facing such delays. But I won't bore you with the details, suffice to say I received confirmation in writing from the Secretary of State yesterday. As I have previously mentioned though, there will be no fanfares, no change of name, logo or uniform. Nothing. Or at least nothing that you'll directly notice. As an academy we will be a member of the Inspiring Schools Partnership MAT (Multi-Academy Trust) which consists of Montpelier Primary, Stoke Damerel Community College (SDCC) and Scott Medical and Health College. Over the coming months and years other local schools may well join this MAT to partner with us. Fundamentally and simply, becoming an academy means that we are independent of Plymouth City Council (our Local Authority) and we receive our funding directly from central government now rather than through PCC. The day-to-day running of the school remains with the Headteacher, who is now overseen by the ISP Multi-Academy Trust (which is a charitable organisation). The ISP provides advice, support, expertise and a strategic overview. And, in essence, we have more freedom than local authority maintained schools to change and innovate practice.

We have opted to work more closely with SDCC because evidence tells us that when we work with secondary colleagues, the transition between Key Stage 2 (end of primary curriculum) and Key Stage 3 (start of secondary curriculum) is a more natural step. We can learn a lot from each other; how we do things, how we teach and organise ourselves, and this will only strengthen the experience for our pupils as they move on. This doesn't mean to say that we expect our Year 6 pupils to naturally move on to SDCC – currently we feed to around 14 different secondary schools each year but by far the biggest proportion go to SDCC which makes them our natural partner. What we learn from working more closely with SDCC will also benefit how we work with all of our other secondary colleagues. Our focus has, and always will be, what is best for the children at Montpelier Primary School now and in the future. Working with a small number of partner schools in a close geographical location to us will enable us to share good practice easily and make best use of resources. A local solution for our local community.

So, although you won't notice any discernible differences immediately, over time our practice will change and improve (as it always does) as a result of us becoming an academy and joining the ISP MAT. If anyone has any questions regarding our conversion, you know where to find me! I'm more than happy to discuss and expand on any of this.

Community Café

Some of you have already experienced our new parent-focused Connect Café. Heavily funded by an Armed Services grant, we have established the café as a way to more informally engage with parents. Simply, it's a very nice place to meet and chat. We'll be advertising and explaining the use of the Connect Café over the coming weeks, so please look out for this on the Beacon and on our website (it'll be appearing in the 'Parents' section very soon).

Diary Dates

Fri 7th Oct 2016

- PTFA AGM

Fri 14th Oct 2016

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

Thurs 20th Oct 2016

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

Mon 24th to Fri 28th Oct 2016

- Half term

Mon 31st Oct 2016

- KS2 individual photos (family groups from 8am)

Fri 2nd Dec 2016

- 3:15 to 5pm Christmas Fair

Thurs 8th December 2016

- Christmas lunch

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 Inc.

- 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 Tammy on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Sessions start from £6.50. Flexible booking available www.thedens.co.uk

Plymouth College Open Morning

Plymouth College will be holding an 'Open Morning' on Saturday 8th October 9:30am to 12:30pm. All welcome.

Foundation News

The children have had a great week staying for lunch and it was lovely to see so many of you able to join us. We hope you found the curriculum evening informative on Wednesday. Next week we would like to invite you to our 'WOW' (Working On Writing) mornings where you can come in with your child and support them in writing their name. The Herald will be publishing photos of the classes on Tues 4th October.

Year 1 News

There was another suspect delivery in Year 1 this week. We returned from a fun filled PE lesson to see a mysterious dream catching jar had been left in our classrooms by the one and only BFG! We discovered that he had been reading our stories in the night... Ask your child what he reminded us to use in our super sentences to find out more! We also had lots of fun in science this week as we made the most of the warm weather when using our senses to explore the many outdoor areas around our school. It has been brilliant to see, read and display the children's fantastic homework this week. Thank you for your continued support with this. Have a great weekend!

Year 2 News

It has been another fantastic week in year 2. The children have written some amazing pieces of writing, including questions and statements. On Tuesday, the children were also visited by the firefighters from Camels Head fire station. There will be some pictures on eschools. We are so pleased with the support you are giving your child at home with their reading. We have given out more stickers than ever this week - reading at home really does help! Again, thank you and have a great weekend.

Year 3 News

It has been another action packed week in Year 3. The children have worked really hard covering columnar addition in maths and word classes in English. The children have also started to plan their 'Stone Age Boy' stories which they will be writing next week and sharing with their old Year 2 teachers. They will be bringing home a story map so they can share their story ideas with you to prepare them to write next week.

Year 4 News

The children have been working very hard this week. In English we have been writing character descriptions, describing settings and have begun to plan our own Egyptian Quest stories, in preparation to write them next week. In Maths our new topic involves investigating number patterns. We are beginning to look at number patterns and sequences of numbers. Thank you for coming to our 'Meet the Teacher' event. It was great to see so many of you there. Have a great weekend.

Year 5 News

Another busy week in year 5 this week, with the year group continuing the writing of their story in English and learning about squared and cubed numbers in Maths. The year group also enjoyed some hockey tuition this week on Tuesday afternoon.

Your child should have brought home a letter and questionnaire regarding the forthcoming 'Bikeability' event. May we please ask for those to be returned at your earliest convenience.

Thank you to everyone who returned the permission slips for our Buckland Abbey trip. However, there are still a few outstanding forms. If you should require a further copy of the letter please see your child's class teacher.

Year 6 News

It's been another fun week! The children have enjoyed extra PE with specialists coming in to teach them some hockey skills. We have also been visited by a science teacher who helped us to dissect a heart!

Thank you to all the parents who turned up to our 'Meet the Teacher'. It was great to see you all there and hopefully now you feel at ease approaching us with any concerns or to chat about how your child is getting on.

We would like to invite you to come in again. This time to work with your child in class. We will be holding an art session on Friday 21st October between 2:15pm and 3:15pm and would love you to support your child. Come along and join in with the fun!

Could we remind you that for our art topic we desperately need magazines, in particular, images of faces. We would really appreciate it if you could send a magazine in for your child to use.

Bude Payments

The next Bude payment of £50 is not due until the 1st November but there are still a couple of outstanding payments from 12th September deadline, bringing monies paid to a minimum of £110. Your child's place is at risk if these stage payments are missed. Please contact Mrs Simpson on 216160 if there is a problem with meeting any of the deadlines.

School Games

Cycling - On Wednesday eight children across Years 5 and 6 competed at a 'Go-Ride' event at Hele's School. Five teams entered this year, they rode individually and in their seed category, competing for the Gold medal, completing one lap of the track as fast as they could. Once all 8 cyclists had raced, their time were put into categories ready to race against the other students in their seed. The seed race commenced with all 5 cyclists, from that category, racing twice around the track at the same time. There was a massive amount of support from all spectators, cheering on the young athletes for those very close finishes. At the end of each seed race points were awarded based on their finishing positions - 1st position = 12 points, 2nd = 10 points, 3rd = 8 points, 4th = 6 points and 5th = 4 points.

There were 8 seed races overall.

Well done team, a fantastic effort from you all.

Cross Country - On Thursday Year 5 and 6 children competed in the first cross country warm up event held at Plymbridge. First up were the girls, with no surprise they controlled the rest of the field, six of the eight finishing in the top 16, giving the A Team an incredible 18 points, winning this round of the competition. The B Team finished in 5th position with 81 points.

With a strong field the boys had a lot of running to do to keep up with the success of the girls, unfortunately it wasn't their day, the B Team finished in 7th with 157 points and the A Team in 6th with 92. Congratulations team you all should be very proud of your achievements.

Mrs Pearce