

Parent-Teacher Consultations

Hopefully you've all booked your times for next week. Please don't miss this opportunity to speak to your child's teacher. It is just a 10 minute slot though (in order to fit everyone in over two nights) which means we always try to keep the focus of the meeting on your child's progress and achievement in their learning. We aim to provide you with a personalised insight into how they're progressing, things to celebrate, areas where we may have small concerns, or recommendations for additional support at home. Due to the necessary time restriction, I'd recommend that if you have any other concerns or issues you wish to raise with a teacher, it's best to make a separate appointment on another day. I did write about getting the most out of the consultations in the Beacon on 24 February, which may be worth another read before next week.

Superworm Performance - Foundation Stage

Julia Donaldson's popular story 'Superworm' served as great inspiration for Foundation Stage's performance this week. The children were absolutely amazing - when you hear the lines they've learned and the songs and dances too - WOW - it just blows you away (and all learnt over one week). Every family member that came along seemed to really enjoy themselves (especially when they were asked to join in)! Children from Playbox Pre-school joined us yesterday and thoroughly enjoyed the show. Thanks to everyone for coming along and supporting the children and a huge 'thank you' to staff - as you can imagine, co-ordinating ninety 4 & 5 year olds in such an endeavour can prove challenging. It was brilliant - well done to everyone.

School Funding

You may have seen a number of stories in the press around school funding with some worrying headlines accompanying them. I thought it important to let you know how Montpelier fairs in this current financial climate. School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. In fact, in my twelve years as a Headteacher, making the budget balance has always been a challenging task. Every year, as with most businesses, it's a matter of prioritising spending to ensure the essentials are provided, with enough left over to cover ongoing maintenance, the replacement of obsolete resources, and also ensure further improvements can be made. Tough decisions always have to be made, they just seem to be getting a bit tougher at the moment. The NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers) has stated that half of school leaders felt that their budget would be untenable by 2018/19. Personally, future budgets have always looked bleak as we necessarily work on a 'worst case scenario' but please be assured that we operate very diligently to ensure best value with our budget. The recent headlines have been caused by a proposed new funding formula for schools, designed to create a fairer allocation (the current funding formula was devised a long time ago and is no longer fit for purpose, as the differing needs of areas across the country have changed over time). However with increasing costs placed onto all schools the new formula will not really bring the benefits that we'd hoped to see. Although many school in Plymouth will face a reduction in funding (about 95% of schools), we don't expect Montpelier to lose funding as a result of the new formula (mainly because our funding has historically been a bit lower for a variety of reasons, but mainly due to our historic population demographic). The funding formula is being introduced to address such unfair variances. Many schools fear that budgetary issues may impact upon teaching, despite doing their utmost to prevent this. For example, you may have read or heard about schools cutting hours off the school day and, in some cases, Heads even suggesting a reduction to a four day week. Rest assured that Montpelier is not in such a position and if things do start to look a bit bleak, you'll all be the first to know!

Red Nose Day

Well, we asked for it and we got - CRAZY hair! Well done to all the children for their weird and wild hair styling efforts. A great way to raise awareness of the incredible projects the RND funding supports both in the UK and Africa. Their main areas of focus this year are immunisations, mental health, vulnerable young people, domestic violence and fighting malaria. All incredibly worthwhile causes - many thanks for your contributions.

Diary Dates

Tues 28th Mar 2017

- Parent's evening

Thurs 30th Mar 2017

- Parent's evening

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 (*not Year 6*)

Sun 21st - Fri 26th May 2016

- Bude Residential (Yr 6)

Mon 22nd May 2017

- Yr6 Activity Week

Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June '17

- Half term

Mon 19th June 2017

- Race for Life event

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

Mon 4th Sept 2017

- Non pupil day

Tues 5th Sept 2017

- First day of term



Monty's Den

Monty's Den is our onsite after school care. Call on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Flexible booking available
www.thedens.co.uk

Foundation News

Superworms! Super Foundation! We are so proud of how well the children performed and hope that you enjoyed the performance. Photos will be put on the website. Next week we will be thinking about the seasons and Easter, writing instructions on planting a seed. On Friday during our 50 Things we will plant our seeds and will be taking them home to watch them grow.

Year 1 News

It has been a busy week in Year 1. A highlight was certainly watching Foundation's performance on Monday as well as Red Nose Day on today! We are hoping that by the time you read this, some of our chicks may have hatched. We look forward to learning more about them in science next week!

As you may know Year 1 has been home to an incubator and 10 eggs. 2 chicks have now hatched and Mr Farr has kindly set up the webcam for live viewing! We are expecting more the hatch today. The link is ...

<http://www.mpsplymouth.net/chickens/>

Have a great weekend.

Year 2 News

Wow... What a week! We have begun to write our super stories, had a fantastic go at our challenge booklets, Jurassic jived at the disco and designed, created and evaluated our very own sandwiches. We hope you have a fantastic weekend and enjoy the Easter Fayre.

Year 3 News

Year 3 have been really excited this week to start planning their adventure island stories. They have been drawing maps, creating characters and inventing plots so they are ready to write their stories next week. On Tuesday the children enjoyed a visit from Mount Batten instructors and a chance to ask questions about their upcoming visit. If you have any further questions please see class teachers. Fundraising efforts are going well, thank you for all the clothes and cakes you have sent in, it is much appreciated. Keep watching on eSchools for photos of their canoeing adventures!

Year 4 News

The children have had a fun week writing and editing their newspaper reports about Mr and Mrs Twit vanishing. On Tuesday we had a fantastic day in Exeter; the children showed super behaviour during the day. Thank you for sharing our Italian afternoon this week. It was great to see so many of you supporting your child in the classroom, sharing their writing, tasting pizza and erupting volcanoes. Next week we will have a times tables and spotlight spelling check, please keep practicing. We look forward to seeing you next week for parents evening. We hope you have a great weekend.

Year 5 News

It was great to see so many children dressing up for our Frozen North Day this week and the children enjoyed the various activities of the day. We spent some time in the Forest area, learning how to start a fire and cooked porridge and toast over the fire. In class we made 'Gloopy Glaciers' and solved the puzzles of the 'Melting Runes'. Our afternoon was taken up by creating some Inuit art on tiles, and printing on to paper. Thank you to those parents who came in after school to look at the children's creations.

If you haven't yet returned the swimming forms could the slips be passed to the class teacher by Monday 27th March. Swimming will begin on the first day of the new term Wednesday 19th April.

Year 6 News

In Year 6, we have been working very hard this week! In Maths, we are refining our arithmetic skills. We have learnt how to multiply and divide by TU, and we are working with fractions.

In English, we are looking at stories that include flashbacks. We have looked at films that have flashbacks in, such as the Lion King, Toy Story 2 and The Piano. We will be using the short film The Piano to produce a quality piece of writing next week.

Also next week is our swimming reward on Monday 27th March. You should have received a reminder letter about this.

SCHOOL MEALS – NEW MENU

SUMMER 2017

The new Summer Menu is due for release and will commence after the Easter break. It will run until October half term. Menus will be sent home with every child as soon as they are received here in school. A copy can also now be viewed on our school website. Please note as advised previously CATERed have increased prices to £2.10 effective on our return after Easter.

Please kindly ensure payment for school meals is made in advance as per school policy and that any debt is settled without delay. Thank you

Help us save Peverell Library!

This week at our School Council meeting, we have discussed the mission to save Peverell Library, our local library and one used by the school and it's pupils a lot!

Please support the campaign by putting a poster (sent with the Beacon this week) in your window. It could be coloured in by the children first! Thank you!

Responding to children affected by the media coverage of the incident in Westminster - Winston's Wish.

Here is a guide you may find useful in responding to children affected by the media coverage of the incident in Westminster.

It has some helpful scripts which may support you in answering questions they may have.

Click on the link for more information.

<https://www.winstonswish.org.uk/responding-children-affected-media-coverage-incident-westminster/>

Music News

All Miss JR's music clubs will run as normal next week.

Start dates for the summer term are:
Thursday Choir: Thursday 20th April
Monday Steel Pan: Monday 24th April

Year 2/3 choir: Tuesday 25th April
Wednesday Steel Pan: Wednesday 26th April

**PLEASE SAVE
PEVERELL**



LIBRARY

MULTI ADVENTURE DAYS (MAD)

Are you MAD for adventure?

Our MAD days really are MAD as you complete 3 action-packed activities in just 1 day! Suitable for Ages 7 – 11, MAD days include a range of exciting water-based and land-based adventurous activities. Please see www.mount-batten-centre.com to book and full terms and conditions.

Packed lunch included!

Just £34.95 per person, or buy 2 for £59.95 when booking 2 people onto the same MAD day

Includes all specialist equipment

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Coastal Traverse, Canoe Raft & Problem Solving	10	31		28	3, 11, 15, 25, 31		27
Slackline, Scramble Nets & Wacky Races	11	29		24	2, 8, 14, 22, 30		24
Den Build, Beach Scramble & Soft Archery	12		2	25	4, 7, 17, 21	1	23
Inflatable Rafts, Orienteering & Soft Archery	13	30		26	1, 9, 18, 23, 28		25
Raft Build, Ladder Climb & Abseil	14		1	27, 31	10, 16, 24, 29		26

Mount Batten Watersports & Activities Centre, 70 Lawrence Road,
Mount Batten, Plymouth, Devon PL9 9SJ

T: 01752 404567 E: enquiries@mount-batten-centre.com www.mount-batten-centre.com



www.facebook.com/MountBattenWatersports



www.instagram.com/mountbattencentre



www.twitter.com/MountBattenCntr

The Mount Batten Centre Charity Trust Charity Registration Number: 1,159,633 VAT number 202124674

THE MAD CHALLENGE – are you MAD enough to take it on?

Complete 4 days, get your instructor to stamp
and sign the boxes below, and get a 5th day at half price!

MAD Adventurer Name:

Coastal Traverse	Pull on a wetsuit and make your way along the rocky shore both in and out of the water	BLUE DAY  <input type="text"/>
Canoe Raft	Paddle the Plym Estuary in our super stable Canoe Raft with your instructor on board	
Problem Solving	Work together to solve fun, practical problems throughout the day	
Slackline	Test your balance... try walking across a bouncy, highly-tensioned, single piece of webbing!	GREEN DAY  <input type="text"/>
Scramble Nets	It's all action on our scramble nets... How far will you make it?	
Wacky Races	Using a range of different equipment race together to try to beat the Mount Batten records!	
Den Build	Have a go at bushcraft by building a den and maybe even eat your lunch in it and discover the Bear Grylls in you!	BROWN DAY  <input type="text"/>
Beach Scramble	Learn how to safely scramble over rocks, completing beach challenges along way and discover the fun of rock pooling!	
Soft Archery	Try your hand at Soft Archery and find out if you are a modern day Robin Hood!	
Inflatable Rafts	Take to the water with our inflatable rafts and see what fun challenges our instructors have in store for you	YELLOW DAY  <input type="text"/>
Orienteering	If you like treasure hunts then orienteering is for you.... Learn to navigate the Mount Batten Peninsula at speed	
Soft Archery	Try your hand at Soft Archery and find out if you are a modern day Robin Hood!	
Raft Build	Raft Building is fun, wet and a super team activity as you design, build and paddle your own raft!	RED DAY  <input type="text"/>
Ladder Climb	Have you got what it takes to complete the ladder climb challenge?	
Abseil	Climb over the edge of the building, dangle in space and then control your own rope as you descend back to the ground!	

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