



The Beacon

Learning together; achieving success

Academic Year 2014/2015 Montpelier Primary School Issue No: 2 Date 18th Sept 2015



Deputy Heads News

I can't quite believe that it has been 20 weeks since my first day at Montpelier. I don't know where the time has gone, but I can say it has been a time that I have enjoyed immensely. I feel that I am now finding my feet, getting to know how the school operates and most importantly building relationships with the people who make Montpelier such a great place to be.

I would like to share one thing that has stood out for me during my time at Montpelier. When considering what this might be I found myself facing a difficult decision. After a lot of thought the one thing I kept coming back to was the children's behaviour and the promotion of what is expected by all staff. An ethos like this does not happen by chance, it takes hard work, patience and understanding from everyone involved. And it is my opinion that credit for this should be given to the children, you as parents and the school's dedication, commitment and drive to model and implement the standard of behaviour that children at Montpelier are invited to show.

Going for Gold

The school has an established behaviour policy and children are aware of the expectations placed upon them. I have been informed that 15 months ago Montpelier introduced the gold system for rewarding positive behaviour. The children are engaged and motivated by this and as you are all aware significant achievements are rewarded and celebrated. I am aware that letters have been sent home accompanying a certificate that has been awarded. Initially, this was put in place to promote and inform parents of achievements and to encourage celebration of this success at home. Now that the system is established, and part of the everyday make up of life at Montpelier, the decision has been made to only continue to praise individuals with the certificate they receive in celebration assembly. In short, no letter will accompany a Going for Gold certificate, we will leave it up to the children to inform you of their achievements when they bring the certificate home.

Finally...

I would like to finish by saying I am very much looking forward to my future at Montpelier, the year has started brilliantly and I am sure it will continue in that way. Have a great weekend and I will see you all on Monday.

Foundation News

Foundation children have settled really well over the last two weeks, exploring all three classrooms and the outdoor area. Next week all children will join us from 8:40 - 12:45pm and are looking forward to staying for lunch. We hope you are able to join us:

- **Class M - Tuesday 22nd**
- **Class P - Wednesday 23rd**
- **Class S - Thursday 24th**

Can we please ask that each child has a pair of wellington boots in a named bag so that they can access the outdoor area in all weather, Thank you.

Year 1 News

The children have settled into classes for another full week of fun learning and were given a video message from Batman! He has asked them to learn one of his favourite stories; Max by Bob Graham. We wish to thank everybody who attended the meet the teacher meetings and you can find a copy of the messages on our Year 1 welcome page on the MPS website.

Year 2 News

Year 2 had a great week this week. Thanks to those that came to the 'Meet the Teacher' event. A letter will go out explaining what was discussed.

Year 3 News

It has been a busy week in year three with the children continuing to settle into their new classes and new routines. The children have started to explore the Stone Age further and even investigate rocks in Science! A highlight of the week was when the children found out about a boy who went time travelling to the Stone Age. They loved investigating the taped off time travelling hole in the schools grounds. The children will continue to explore 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura over the next few weeks and end the unit by writing their very own story to share with the other Year 3 classes in a Stone Age story 'Write Off'!

Thanks to everyone that came to 'Meet the teacher', it was great to meet you all. Thanks also to everyone who has already made a payment for the Kent's Cavern trip. Have a great weekend.

Year 5 News

Thank you to the parents who came to the 'Meet the Teacher' session on Thursday evening, we hope you found it useful. We hope the Seafaring Project is going well and remember your project needs to be returned to school by Wednesday 23rd September.

Diary Dates

Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct 2015 Inc.

- Half term

Fri 18th Dec 2015

- Last day of term

Mon 4th Jan 2016

- Non pupil day

Tues 5th Jan 2016

- First day of term

Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb 2016 Inc.

- Half term

Fri 25th Mar – Fri 8th Apr 2016 Inc.

- Easter holidays

Mon 11th Apr 2016

- Non pupil day

Mon 2nd May 2016

- Bank holiday

Mon 30th May 2016

- Bank holiday

Tues 31st May – Fri 3rd June 2016 Inc.

- Half term

Mon 6th June 2016

- Non pupil day

Year 4 News

Thank you to all the parents for joining us at 'meet the teachers', I hope you found it informative. We are in full flow with our learning and the children are working so hard. We are all excited about forthcoming Roman trip to Exeter next Tuesday.

Climbing Trees

and now for a moan... Climbing Trees! Following an accident in the first week of term may we remind parents that they are responsible for the supervision of their children, before and after school. Children should **not** be climbing trees or walking along the top of the climbing frame etc.

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

Here at Montpelier we know this is a charity close to many hearts and that as in previous years you support generously so once again we will be holding the 'World's Biggest Coffee Afternoon' on Friday 25th September from 2-3 p.m. will be selling cookies and doughnuts, tea and coffee and soft drinks with all proceeds going to Macmillan.

You will be able to collect your children from their classroom and enjoy a treat together before returning them to their classroom before the end of the day. Children will not be able to attend unaccompanied.

As you will be aware these events take a lot of effort so If you are able to help with the setting up and running of this event please let Jane Gilbert or a member of the PTFA know. Many hands make light work! Once again we thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you on the day.

Minecraft

We will hopefully be running the very successful and popular Minecraft club this year. We have had new Chrome books installed and we are busy looking at a ways to access Minecraft from these brand new computers. There is a Plymouth schools competition that Mr Bennetts has organised. Check out the Minecraft webpage and Youtube channel for more information,

[http://www.montpelierprimary.co.uk/we](http://www.montpelierprimary.co.uk/weBSITE/minecraft/82033)

[bsite/minecraft/82033](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyRZ67ubXx-3C1Is0-NcdCQ)
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyRZ67ubXx-3C1Is0-NcdCQ)

Lost Property

Just to remind you there is still lost property from before the summer holidays awaiting retrieval. If you have lost anything do come and have a look as it will be disposed of at the end of next week. Please do label your children's clothes to make it easier for them and us to identify what is theirs.

Calling all vets!

We are looking for a vet who would be willing to give some of their free time to check over the school pets (2 rabbits and 7 chickens). We will be able to accommodate a time that suits you including evenings and weekends. Please contact the school if you are able to help.

Year 6 News

We've got off to a busy start in year 6 with our learning. On Wednesday the children thoroughly enjoyed our 'topic day.' They completed a range of activities including: a drama workshop, a story telling session, an overview of the slave trade in America, as well as making a clay pot. In English the children have examined a variety of auto-biography openers and will be studying Tom Daley's as a model. Head's Up: Please could you start to collect any glossy magazines that you might have at home. We especially need pictures of faces for the children to make Picasso style collages soon. Could we also ask you to send in any kitchen roll tubes next week as these will be used as part of our science learning next week.

Fantastic 4's Football, starting this week!!!

Marine Academy Plymouth, Plymouth Herald's Community Club of the year, are on the lookout for the upcoming stars of the future.

Part of the FA approved community Introduction to Football Programme these sessions combine ball and space awareness with games to improve coordination, motor skills and confidence in addition players have the chance to improve social skills by working alongside other children in a safe yet fun environment.

Sessions are lead by Age Specific FA qualified CRB coaches in a fun and professional environment.

Fantastic 4's (Reception) 4.30-5.30pm & Soccer Tots (Year 1) 5.30-6.30pm. Both sessions will run throughout the winter in our sports hall facilities, so there are plenty of opportunities to turn up and play.

Staff Car Park

May we remind parents that the car park in North Down Road is for STAFF ONLY. As such the gate will be locked at 8:30am each morning. We would also like to remind parents that they should keep to the pedestrian areas around the carpark and not walk across the carpark itself.

Music News

If your child is having instrumental lessons, please pay for these as soon as possible to avoid having lessons stopped.

Miss JRs clubs for Year 4-6 start again from next week. Sign up forms have gone out. Please download additional forms from the website.

Children's University Wildlife Ramble

Join our local Children's University for this wildlife ramble at Ford Park Cemetery on Saturday 19th September 2015. The walk, led by John Boon, Chairman of the Ford Park Cemetery Trust, starts at 10am and runs for an hour and a half. It's for young people aged five to 14 years (all children aged 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult). Meet outside the Visitor Centre car park in the cemetery grounds (free car parking spaces available).

Spaces are limited so booking is essential. To book your free places for this lecture contact Linda Barretto on 01752 307489 or email linda.barretto@plymouth.gov.uk.

The Children's University is a national initiative, which is run locally by Plymouth City Council with the help of local organisations.

Children can go to different learning lectures and activities outside of school hours through the programme. For every event they attend, they get time stamped into their learning passports, which they save up to earn bronze, silver and gold certificates.

They are presented with their qualifications at a 'graduation ceremony' held annually to celebrate their achievements. Learning passports can be bought for £3 at the lecture, from participating schools or from any Plymouth City Council library.

Children's University Graduation Ceremony

The Children's University 2015 Graduation Ceremony will be held on the evening of Monday 9th November in the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. To make sure that any child whom has accumulated at least 100 hours of learning or more receive their invitation please bring their passports to school for the attention of Jane Gilbert before September 25th. Hours up to and including the closing date of 25th September will determine the category that the graduate will be placed in at the graduation.

Children, who attended the 2014 graduation ceremony, last year, may receive an invitation this year to recognise additional hours.