

**Deputy Headteacher News**

Lesson Observations; I wish to share some really good news with you. Over the past two weeks, Mr Holland, Miss Spragg and I have been going around the school to look closely at the quality of teaching and learning in our school. Quality first teaching is our main priority and we know as a team that this is the best way to ensure progress for your children. The teaching and learning we saw throughout the school was fantastic; it was pacy, engaging, challenging developmental, fun and, above all, highly effective. The staff are working incredibly hard planning, preparing and delivering some wonderful learning experiences for your children. I wanted to commend them to you and to thank them for their ongoing diligence and concerted hard work.

Bikes, Scooters and Safety.

I am very conscious that I may start to sound like a broken record, but I feel that a reminder of our expectations regarding the use of bikes and scooters on the school grounds is required at this time. During my walks around the school grounds in the morning and after school I have noticed an increasing number of children riding around the school grounds. Safety on the school site is of paramount importance to us. We have asked, in various ways, that pupils do not ride bikes or scooters around the school grounds. We love the idea of them using bikes and scooters to come to and from school; we strongly encourage this in fact. What we **MUST** have though is children dismounting and walking with their bike or scooter whilst on the school playgrounds. We have had too many collisions and minor accidents due to children charging around busy playgrounds at the end of the day. This is where I need your help. The children are under parental supervision at the end of the day. Please could you reinforce this requirement to consider everyone's safety? We can remind them, but it is almost an impossible task to check that this is happening and we would appreciate your support with making this happen.

I do hope you have a great weekend and we all look forward to the last week of what has been an exciting, challenging, rewarding, but long start to the new school year.

Parents Evening – eSchools

You are invited to meet your child's class teacher on Tuesday 3rd or Wednesday 4th November to discuss how your child has settled into their new class. Appointments will be of 10 minute duration. Punctuality is important. Where a longer discussion is required the teacher will offer a further appointment. Appointments should be booked via eSchools – you will have received your log on details earlier this week. If you have any issues with eSchools then please email support@mpsplymouth.net

Foundation News

This week some children have explored the Forest area and were very keen to create in the 'Mud Kitchen'. We have some budding Bake Off competitors! We will continue to use this lovely area of the school next week. Please keep a look out on the classroom doors and teacher/teaching assistant lanyards for the letter sound of the day.

**Year 2 News**

In English this week, we read *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers. Floyd, the main character, sent us a letter asking for some help to make the story even better. The children relished this challenge and are looking forward to writing their own versions of the story, over the next couple of weeks. In Maths, we have been using the bar method to help us with our taking away. Amongst other things, the children have thrown themselves into year 2 PE! They are getting much quicker at getting changed and organising the apparatus. Can they show you a travel, balance and roll sequence?

Year 3 News

Year 3 have been hard at work this week, exploring money, making Kents Cavern leaflets and finding out more about prehistoric beasts. They have now decided which prehistoric beast they may have discovered and will show you their findings next Thursday 3:20-4:00 in their classrooms! The children have also enjoyed exploring E-Schools this week and have discussed rules to keep safe. Homework will be saved on E-Schools this week (children can complete it on-line or complete a paper copy). Finally, many thanks for your support with their incredible prehistoric beast homework last week. Photos will soon be up on the website of the homework displays.

Year 4 News

Year 4 have been focusing on data this week in maths, looking at a range of graphs and charts, creating and interpreting them. In English the children have been innovating the 'Minpins' text. The main focus has been on creating tension for the reader, using a range of word groups to do this. In Science the children created open circuits and were set a challenge to investigate different materials to decide whether they were conductors or insulators. Have a fantastic weekend.

Diary Dates

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

Wed 21st & Thurs 22nd Oct

- PTFA break time 'Cookie Sale' 50p

Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct Inc.

- Half term

Friday 13th Nov 2015

- Children in Need - British Hero Mufti

Fri 4th Dec 2015

- Chocolate Mufti

Fri 11th Dec 2015

- Christmas Fair

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 Inc.

- Half term

Thursday 24th Mar 2016.

- Wear a Hat Mufti Day

Fri 25th Mar – Fri 8th Apr 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 Inc.

- Half term

Mon 6th June 2016

- Non pupil day

Year 5 News

The children are looking forward to the visit to Buckland Abbey next week. You should have been notified as to which day your child will be on the trip if they are in 5S, whether they will be will 5M on Tuesday or 5P on Thursday. If you need confirmation, please check with the class teacher.

We have had many 'Bikeability' consent forms returned to school, but there are still some outstanding forms. Could be we please ask that these are returned before the half term break.

Year 6 News

Ask your children how the digestive system works and they should be able to explain in detail after this week's practical science experiment. They got thoroughly involved, and there were some excellent reactions at the final stage of the process!

See our eSchools homepage for pictures. We have asked the children to bring in their favourite book on Monday so please remind them to do this.

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 31st 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.

PTFA Cookie Sale – Change of Date

The PTFA 'Cookie Sale' will be at break time on **Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd October**. Please note the change of date from that advertised in last week's Beacon. Cost: 50p a cookie.



Chinese Mandarin Club

My name is Lie Zhao and I am offering a fantastic opportunity for your child to learn Chinese Mandarin at Montpelier. Lele Mandarin Club offers a fun-packed and enjoyable experience for your child which includes four areas of learning: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Chinese culture will also be introduced during festival seasons. The club is open to all year groups and runs on a Tuesday after school from 3:15-4:00pm. Fees: £5 per child. I am offering a free taster session on 20th October so if interested please email me in the first instance

mandarinclub2015@gmail.com or call on 309586 / 07979946699. Give it a go!

MTA Vacancies

We are recruiting casual Meal Time Assistants. If you are interested please call our School Business Manager or email beverleybell@mpsplymouth.net for an application form.

Illness

The school should be notified on the first day of absence, for whatever reason, for a child's absence. We are charged by legislation to show the number of absences from school for the preceding academic year and these will be included on your child's annual report. All absences must be accounted for by letter, telephone or in person. Please expect a call/text from one of our Administrators if we do not receive a call explaining the absence first thing on that first day. There is a dedicated absence answer-phone so messages can be left 24 hours a day.

If your child has had diarrhoea or has been vomiting in the past 24 hours, please keep him/her at home until the child has been symptom-free for 48 hours.

If your child is experiencing itchy, watery eyes (often symptoms of conjunctivitis), please keep your child home until the condition has improved (no pus or crusting) and treatment has begun.

If your child exhibits an unexplained skin rash, again please keep your child home until the condition has been evaluated and treated. E.g. impetigo - lesions must be crusted or healed, no wetness or pus. For chickenpox – all blisters must be crusted; period of exclusion from school is a minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash.

Community Cultural Charity Event – Don't Miss Out Halloween Special

University of Plymouth are kindly donating the Roland Levinsky Building on Saturday 31st October 2015 for a community cultural charity event. The event will be raising monies for **Motor Neurone Disease (MND)** Association Plymouth Group, Plymouth Food Bank and Make a Wish Foundation. There will be craft stalls, food stalls, live music (stage to perform on), drinks (SU bar) and an art competition! A great opportunity for you to get involved and have a great day. The art competition is open to all and there are two £50 first cash prizes. One for under 12s and for 12+. Judging takes place at 16:30 on the day.

All money raised in Plymouth will be kept locally.

The day starts at 12 noon and finishes at 19:30.

If you want to have a craft stall, showcase your musical or art talents or anything else please do let Steve know stevewalton2009@googlemail.com copied into this email. Please find enclosed the art competition application form.

UPCOMING MUFTI DATES

Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day - Mufti

As part of Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day next **Fri 23rd October**, the children will be taking part in an inter-house relay race. We would ask that the children dress in their house colours instead of wearing school uniform. They will not be changing into PE kit for this, but will be required to have their trainers / plimsolls in school. The children are asked to bring in some 'loose change' to contribute to the cause, which they will be placing on giant outlines of the number 79 on the playground.

Children in Need - British Hero Mufti Friday 13th November come dressed as a British hero – past or present, fiction or non-fiction. All proceeds to Children in Need.

Chocolate Mufti

There will be a 'Chocolate Mufti' on **Friday 4th Dec 2015**. All donations for the Christmas Fair tombola stall on Friday 11th December.

Marine Academy Plymouth - October Half Term - Sports Activities Football Club

Monday 26th October – Thursday 29th October. 10am – 4pm. ages 4 – 11. £40 for 4 days. Early booking advisable. For more information call 01752 213951