



The Beacon

Learning together; achieving success



Academic Year 2014/2015 Montpelier Primary School Issue No: 3 Date 25th Sept 2015

Heads News

eSchools

In a few weeks we will be launching our new Learning Platform via eSchools. A Learning Platform is also often referred to as a VLE (a Virtual Learning Environment). It basically refers to web or internet-based systems for communicating digital aspects of learning. They allow users to access information, resources and activities as well as interact more directly with the school.

You may have noticed the eSchools tab at the bottom of our pencil menu on the front page of the website? Through this, parents will be able to access information such as attendance, letters home (no longer banished to the recesses of a child's book-bag!), consent forms, class projects & curriculum information, surveys & questionnaires. We will also be able to operate an online booking system for parent/teacher consultations – something parents have been requesting since I arrived at Montpelier. The children will be able to access lots too; class discussions & blogs, wikis & projects, homework & challenges.

This has been an ongoing project for us for some time now. It started when we redesigned the website last year using eSchools as our host. Since we returned in September, the staff have been familiarising themselves with the Learning Platform but it is all still very new to us. The class web pages will soon only hold summaries of what they will be covering over a term, with the greater detail about what's happening on a week-to-week basis being shared on the eSchools class pages. We'll also start to issue some pieces of homework through e-Schools and children will have the chance to respond to that homework online.

It will take us time to get used to using it and I envisage its use developing over the coming months. I have absolutely no doubt that we'll experience the odd teething problem – when you introduce something new like this, there are always issues. However, in the long term, I believe we'll come to value the functionality it provides for our pupils and the improvement in communication to and from school for parents. More details will follow soon. I'm intending 'launch day' to be Monday 12th October – in time to take advantage of the online booking facility for parent/teacher consultations. We'll issue instructions for how to access eSchools and provide a clear overview of what's available and how it works. There is a free downloadable app for smart phones and tablets that allows you to access eSchools (as well as being able to go online). Fingers crossed that it all works as it's meant to but, as always, any feedback from you as to how you're finding it would be extremely helpful.

Foundation News

The children have enjoyed staying for lunch this week and it was lovely for so many of you to join us. Next week we are blasting off into space as we begin our new topic. We hope you will be able to join our curriculum evening next Thursday 1st Oct 5.30-6.00pm.

Year 4 News

Year 4 had a wonderful time on their trip to Exeter this week, it was a fantastic learning experience. We were very impressed with the children's behaviour, they were great ambassadors for the school.

Year 3 News

It has been another busy week in Year 3. Testing rocks, learning about Skara Brae and representing numbers in different ways on the playground with chalk are just a few of the things the children have been up to! It is also great to see how well the children have done in the 'Cave In, Read a Book' challenge, with some caves now with two stickers! Next week the children are looking forward to their 'Stone Age Story Off' where they will have a chance to share their own stories with children from other year 3 classes. The winner will go on the Year 3 Star Writer board! Come in to have a look! The children will also be visiting Ham Woods as part of their 'Design a Dwelling' competition. Please let your teachers know if you can help!

Diary Dates

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

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 5 News

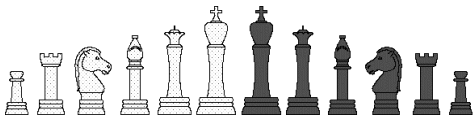
What a fantastic variety of 'Seafaring Plymouth' projects were returned this week. It was great to see that the children had engaged with the research with some fantastic models, posters and PowerPoints among the many methods chosen to show their knowledge. Well done to all of you.

Year 6 News

In science this week the children learnt all about how the heart works. This in preparation for next week's heart dissection! 6M have enjoyed looking after the school chickens and rabbits this week. The children's dance's (telling the story of slavery) are coming along nicely and they have been showing off their tennis skills in P.E. Please could you encourage your child to bring in a water bottle if they do not have one already as this avoids them leaving lessons for a drink. Please continue to send in any glossy magazines.

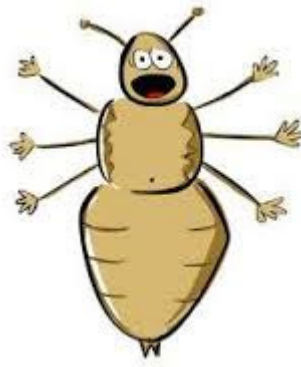
Lunchtime Chess

Chess club will start on Wednesday 30th September. It is run by students from DHG and will take place in 6P from 12.40-1.10 pm each week. It is open to any children who wish to attend from years 4, 5 and 6. Beginners welcome too. Please see Miss Shaw for a letter if you wish to attend.



Lego - Can you help?

The Golden Time Lego Builders need some more LEGO and they were hoping that you our fantastic school community could help. Do you have any LEGO you could kindly donate to increase our stocks please? If you can help us please bring in your donation to the school office whenever you can. Thank you.



Headlice -They're Back!

How to spot headlice

The most common places for headlice to lurk are in the hair behind your ears and at the nape of your neck.

If you still can't spot any lice, comb the child's hair with a special 'nit comb'. These are available from most chemists. It's easier to spot the dark brown headlice as they fall out if you comb the hair over a piece of white paper.

Now you need to treat your child. Headlice are tough – they can't be killed by washing with normal shampoo or normal combing. Because they reproduce so quickly, you've got to kill them before they spread. If your child has headlice, check everyone in the family. You'll need to treat everyone affected to get rid of them.

We would recommend all children with long hair have it tied back to help lessen the chance of catching headlice.

Devonport Naval Heritage Centre Open Day

Opening Times Sunday 27th September 2015, 10am to 5pm
Devonport Naval Heritage Centre are opening their doors to the public for another chance to take in the splendour of Britain's Ocean City's fantastic naval history.

A submarine themed open day including visiting exhibits from the HMS Raleigh Submarine museum, tours of the decommission nuclear submarine Courageous, river boat trips of the Naval Base and trips around the Devonport Naval Heritage Centre.

Free admission.

For more information, please call 01752 552907.

Eurocamp Deal

Sola Gogo Campsite-Vendee, 31 July 2016. 14 nights.

Facilities include-Direct access to private beach, waterslides at the park, toddler friendly, close to the resort centre,

Self-Catering: Plymouth-Roscoff return ferry. £2269 per family. Based on 2 adults and 2 children

Did you know??

Montpelier friends and family get exclusive rates on currency plus it's all commission free!!! Simply quote Montpelier at the time of transaction!!Off to the states? We're giving you \$50 free when you buy your currency from us -minimum spend £1000 on the holiday cash card!

Devon Soccer Schools in your area

Tuesday 27th October @ Tor Bridge High, Estover

Due to the success of the England Women Football team and the inspiration they provided for the women's game across the country, for the first time we will be running Girls ONLY Soccer Schools for 7-12 year olds. These session will be delivered by Yeovil Town FC ladies player Bow Jackson and will be bookable at the following venues:

Monday 26th October @ Paignton Academy

Tuesday 27th October @ Tor Bridge High, Estover

Wednesday 28th October @ Exeter Arena

Thursday 29th October @ Newton Abbot College

I have attached into this email our Soccer School flyer and our Plymouth area menu poster which would really appreciate if you could post around your school and if possible your website or newsletters to help inform your children and parents of the opportunity to Play the Arsenal Way this October Half Term and beyond.

I thank you for your support and look forward to welcoming your children during the October Break.

