

# The Beacon

Academic Year 2017/18

Issue No: 08

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## The Beacon at a Glance

- **Year Group News** – Find out what has been going on.
- **Headteacher's News** – Being the best learners we can be.
- **Other news** – Maths Fun Day, Tempest Orders, Music News.

## Headteacher's News

Our pupils, your children, are becoming better learners. Even better than they were before. Our focus on learning behaviours, and the various attributes that make effective learners, is really helping to develop their understanding of the learning process and what they need to do to become better at it. And it's very personal and very individual. For some, they know they need to – and are getting better at – focusing within lessons, some are developing their ability to work better within a team, others are building on their ability to persevere when challenges present themselves, and there are those who are becoming much more adept at independently finding ways to help themselves when they become stuck, or enter the 'learning pit' as we call it. All of these, and more, are proving invaluable in their ability to be the best learners they can be. Well done everyone!

## Foundation News

Our space activities have continued this week and the children have produced fantastic alien blow painting pictures and drawn their own by following instructions. Next week we will use the story 'Aliens love underpants' and fireworks to inspire the children.

## Year 1 News

Wow what a fab week it has been in Year 1! This week we travelled back in time and looked at Guy Fawkes and why we celebrate Bonfire Night. We also wrote our own acrostic poetry about Fireworks! It has certainly been a fun-filled week of writing amazing acrostic poetry and delving into super subtraction in Maths!

## Year 2 News

The children have returned from half term with lots of energy, ready to take on a whole host of new challenges. The first came in the form of a letter from the fantastic 'Deadly 60' presenter Steve Backshall! He informed us that one of his reporters was unwell and that he needed us to step in as report writers. We look forward to learning new skills to take on this challenge in the following weeks!

## Year 3 News

It has been a very busy first week back in year 3, the children have settled in well and we look forward to a great term. The children became palaeontologists on Wednesday looking at dinosaur fossils dating back as long as 198 million years ago. If you have any old, plain bedding that you are looking to throw away, please could you bring them into school for our Stone Age Fashion Show next week? Thank you, Year 3 team.

## Year 4 News

Hopefully everyone had a good half term break. This week Year 4 have been exploring in Central Park. We were looking at habitats and the changes to the environment and how these could be dangerous to living things. Have a great weekend and remember to stay safe and follow the firework code!

## E-safety workshop

The E-Safety team would like to invite all Year 4, 5 and 6 parents to an E-safety workshop. Our neighbourhood PCSO Chris Pooley will be leading the workshop, sharing ideas on 'keeping your child safe on-line'. Children will be attending the first part of the workshop, which will look at online safety across social media platforms.

- Year 4 parents **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** - 14:30
- Year 5 parents **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** - 14:30
- Year 6 parents **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** - 14:30

We look forward to seeing you.

## School Sports Kit

All school sports kit to be returned ASAP to Mrs Pearce please.

## Key Diary Dates

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Flu immunisation (Foundation to Year 4 Inc.)  
**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2017** – **Non-pupil day**  
**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017** – **Tues 02<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2018 incl.** - Christmas hols  
**Wed 03<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2018** – **Non-pupil day**  
**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018** – **Non-pupil day**  
**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Mar – 16<sup>th</sup> Apr 2018 Inc.** – Easter holidays  
**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank holiday  
**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank holiday  
**Tues 29<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June Inc.** – Half term  
**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> July** – End of term - 2:30pm finish (**Yr6 finish at 1.30pm**)  
**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – First day of the summer holidays

## Year 5 News

Year 5 have been working on our columnar methods of addition and subtraction this week and using the inverse operation to check our answers. In English we have begun to look at our 'History Mystery' of the Marie Celeste. Bikeability will begin on November 13<sup>th</sup>. You will be informed of the times your child will be taking part and the arrangements for bikes, clothing and drinks etc., in a letter next week.

## Year 6 News

This week, in French, the children have learnt the days of the week. Ask them to sing the song!

## Music News

Enrolment in instrumental lessons for the spring term happens automatically and a new payment request will be sent in January unless you wish you to give notice to cancel lessons. To cancel, you must inform Miss JR (jessrowe@mpsplymouth.net) for brass, drum, flute, ukulele or violin lessons or Mrs Berna (ginnymusic@yahoo.co.uk) for guitar, piano, clarinet or keyboard lessons by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November to avoid being charged again in the spring as we have to give notice to the tutors.

## Tempest

Tempest orders to be returned to school by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. After this time, orders will be returned unprocessed.

## Anti-bullying week (13.11.17 - 17.11.17)

The message of Anti Bullying Week this year is all about 'All different, all equal' We at Montpelier Primary School want to help children to understand how important it is that every child feels valued and included in school, able to be themselves, without fear of bullying. During this week (13.11.17 - 17.11.17) it would be great if your child could wear odd socks for the week to promote and share the important message of 'All different, all equal'. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Maths Fun Day

On the 5<sup>th</sup> December the whole school will take part in the annual Maths Fun Day. On this day parents are invited in at the start of the day to find out more about maths at Montpelier and join their children in a maths lesson.

## Football News

With the football season finally underway the year 5/6 boys and girls have all had their first taste of competitive football. The year 5/6 boys have had a great start winning all 3 three of their games. Wins of 14-4 and 20-2 in the league, see them top of the league. They have recently played their first round match in the Plymouth Schools Cup and made it through with a fantastic 25-0 win. The girls have also played their first match; it was great to see such enthusiasm for girl's football in the school. Unfortunately, they lost but I am looking forward to seeing them improve as the season progresses. A big thank you to all the boys and girls that have taken part this year so far.