

Deputy Headteacher News

Happy New Year to you all. January often signifies a new start. Resolutions are made (and broken by the time February is upon us), targets are set and aspirational goals are shared. It was lovely to welcome all the children back with their exciting news about family members they'd either visited or had visit, and all the wonderful presents that Santa Claus had brought them-the children have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share.

The Spring Term in my mind is the working term-a time to settle down, focus, push forward and apply what we know. As a school we are constantly reflecting on our practise: reading, researching, trialling and adapting to first and foremost ensure that your children receive quality first teaching and learning. At this juncture I have a few requests. I know you will continue to work with us, so your child can grow in confidence, with a love of learning, and a determination to be the best person they can be. I would like to ask that as parents and carers that you take a moment, to reinforce with your children, the importance of school and education. Placing emphasis on never giving up and having aspiration to succeed and strive to always try their best. In school we will do everything we can to help your child achieve their potential, but please remember that we operate an open door policy-we are here to help.

Can I also ask that you explain to your children that treating everyone with respect, being on time and in school every day, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school is important to you. These are also important life skills. The value you place on these will be the value your child holds. It was pleasing to see so many children returning to school, looking so smart in their school uniform, in the correct colours, wearing a tie in key stage two and in suitable footwear - remember trainers (even if they are black) are not part of our uniform.

I am very much looking forward to the new term. I have high hopes for the children at Montpelier and I have no doubt that you will be hearing all about the fantastic learning opportunities they will be experiencing over the coming weeks. Have a wonderful weekend, and it will be if Argyle beat Liverpool on Sunday.

Free School Meals, Service Children and Looked After Children

If you think you may be entitled to claim free school meals because of your income or circumstances it's essential you apply, even if your child is aged 4 to 7 and qualifies for Universal Free School Meals. This is because funding is granted to schools, based on the number of their pupils who are entitled to receive these free meals. For every pupil entitled to claim free school meals as a benefit, the school receives extra funding. This money is used in a variety of creative and innovative ways to help support individual pupils and the whole school community.

The school also receives extra money for:

- Children eligible for free school meals currently or during the past six years
- Children with parents currently serving in the armed forces
- Children in care and adopted children

It's really important that if your child is **ever** eligible for free school meals (however briefly) you should claim. For each eligible child, the school receives funding for the next six years, even if their parents go back to full-time well paid work! Children may be eligible if their parents/carers are receiving Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment Support Allowance.

If you are unsure then please contact the school office for guidance or advice. FSM forms are available from main reception – even if your child does not intend taking a lunch then the school can still benefit financially.

Service Personnel

Please notify school a.s.a.p. if you work in the armed forces or your child been in care or adopted.

There is a tight deadline as we have to complete a census by the end of next week or we lose the funding.

Thank you for your continued support.

Diary Dates

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb 2017 Inc.

- Half term

Fri 3rd March 2017

- Vista group photos - Year 6 and Foundation only.

Fri 31st Mar 2017

- 'Wear a Hat' mufti day - for Brain Tumour Research

Mon 3rd - Tues 18th Apr 2017 Inc.

- Easter holidays

Mon 1st May 2017

- Bank holiday

Wed 3rd May 2017

- Tempest Photos – Class groups and Year 6 combi photos.

Sun 21st – Fri 26th May 2016

- Bude Residential (Yr 6)

Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June '17

- Half term

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



Monty's Den

Monty's Den is our onsite after school care. Call on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Sessions start from £6.50. Flexible booking available www.thedens.co.uk

Charity Raffle and Jumble Sale supporting Children's Hospice South West

All Saints Academy Plymouth are organizing a Charity Jumble Sale and Raffle on Saturday 4th February from 10am – 2pm, in support of Children's Hospice South West, Little Harbour, Porthpean, St Austell.

Lost Property.

Last chance to check the lost property stash in the first aid room before it is disposed of on Wednesday 11th January.

Foundation News

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. Thank you for the lovely entries for '50 Festive Things'. Our new author focus this term will be Julia Donaldson and we will be using her stories as a starting point for lots of learning. Next week we are looking forward going to the theatre to see 'The Emperor's new clothes'.

Year 1 News

What a fantastic start to the New Year! We kicked off the week by getting stuck in to our new topic 'Into the Wild'! We followed some suspicious footprints which lead us to a new story and even made a clay hedgehog! We look forward to delving further into the new topic next week! Have a great weekend.

Year 2 News

Firstly, Happy New Year! The children have settled back into their routines fantastically! It has been wonderful hearing all about the brilliant time they have had over the Christmas break. Have a great weekend. The Year 2 Team

Year 3 News

Hope that everybody had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. The children have come back to school with lots of enthusiasm and energy and it has been great to hear about all the amazing things that they did. We had a brilliant first day back, learning all about Sarah Outen and her fantastic adventure around the world. We will be learning all about her exhibition and incorporate this into our next topic of 'Plymouth to Plymouth'. It was great to see that so many children read over the Christmas period, we know that this is a busy time of year but it was amazing to give out so many reading rewards. We look forward to a very successful term and we are already very excited about our next school trip to Mt Edgcumbe in the next coming weeks. Thank you once again for all your on-going hard work and support, the year 3 team.

Year 4 News

Wow! The children have all made a great start to 2017 in Year 4 and have all settled well into their classes. Our 'Investigating Italy Day' focusing on Pompeii was the highlight of the week. They studied pictures of volcanoes and recorded questions about them, listened to the story called 'Escape from Pompeii', acted out scenes from the story, ordered the main events, created our own volcano by using mentos and diet coke, before we created our own paper mache volcano. We look forward to make our volcanoes erupt soon! Next week we are going to be working in the forest area on Monday, please can the children have a pair of old shoes or wellies to wear in the forest. Thank you. Enjoy your weekend.

Year 5 News

We would like to start by wishing everyone a happy 2017. It was great to see the children come back so enthusiastic after the Christmas break and keen to get started on their new term.

Children should have come home with their spellings for this term and their Viking project homework to be completed over the next 3 weeks.

Just a reminder that the after school club, for those children involved, will begin again on Tuesday 10th January.

Year 6 News

Welcome back! We hope you have had a good holiday and had plenty of rest. This term is going to be a hard one but we are prepared for some hard work!

In English, we have started to look at newspaper reports. It would be beneficial to share appropriate stories with your child and discuss the type of language used.

Next week we will be starting to look at fractions in Maths. The children will be learning to recognise their value, find equivalent fractions and write them in their simplest form and solve calculations involving fractions.

On Friday, we started our new topic 'If the World Were a Village'. Ask your child what they learnt!

Music News

Thank you to the Green Squad for performing so well with Plymouth Area Police Choir on the last night of term. It was a great concert that put everyone in the Christmas spirit. There were lots of lovely comments from the audience about the high standard of singing. Thanks also to all the parents who came along and Miss Spragg and Mrs Morley who came to help out.

Well done to the choir members from 4X who sang at the Vicarage Nursing Home just before Christmas too. Organised by a local PCSO, they were bowled over by your enthusiasm and behaviour. Well done everyone! Instrumental lessons will start again next week. Payment requests will be sent out by Monday at the latest. Please could we ask for prompt payment to enable us to pay the tutors. Next week, Monday, Steel pan starts again.

Outstanding Payments

Thank you to all those who cleared their outstanding debts from last term. Unfortunately, despite reminders, some debts remain unpaid. It is school policy that payments for lunches and breakfast club are made in advance. For those who still have outstanding payments please ensure **all debts** are settled immediately or contact the office.

Jam Band

Jam Band will begin again on Wednesday 11th January from 3.15-4.15 pm. Why not pop in to Cafe Connect before you collect your children and have a relaxing coffee.

Meerkats - Family Separation Support.

Jane Gilbert (Parent Support Advisor) and Julie Spencer (Learning Mentor) will be running a support group for children who have experienced separation within their family. The aim of the group is to give the children an opportunity to talk about their feelings, understand their emotions and develop coping strategies. The program will run for 6 weeks during this term and each session will have a play based activity, allowing children to have fun in a relaxed safe environment. If you feel your child may benefit from this group, or you would like further information please email janegilbert@mpsplymouth.net or call 216160 and speak to Jane or Julie by Friday 13th January.

After School Sporting Clubs

Indoor Athletics will begin on Monday 9th January.

Due to the cold weather netball will be put on hold till further notice. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Café

A reminder that our Café Connect is open Tuesdays 14:00 to 16:00, Wednesdays 14:00 to 16:00, Thursdays (Service Families **ONLY** 14:30 – 15:15pm) 15:15 to 16:00 open to all, and Fridays 14:00 to 16:00

