



Headteacher News

Multi-Academy Trust

Many thanks to those parents who attended the Multi-Academy Trust consultation evening on Monday. It was a small turnout but we discussed lots, answered some very insightful and pertinent questions, and generally had a really good chat about things! It was nice to hear that the information that we've sent out and posted on our website has been very helpful and it was also nice to know that the evening clarified some of this further and provided that little further insight into why we are converting and the benefits it will bring the school and our pupils. Thanks also to Martyn Cox (Vice-Principal at Stoke Damerel) for joining us to further elaborate on what the relationship and collaboration will mean to us from Stoke Damerel's perspective. I'd like to remind you all that our consultation with parents and the community remains open until 4th March, so please do contact our Chair of the Board of Governors, Wendy Tout, either via school (if in writing) or by email at wendytout@mpsplymouth.net if you wish to make any representation regarding your views on conversion to an academy.

Golden Learning Behaviour

Two weeks ago, I introduced you to our new initiative for recognising, celebrating and encouraging excellent learning behaviours. This approach to teaching strongly supports our aim to more overtly help children to become better learners. This is about studying the techniques, skills and abilities the children need and - most importantly - can develop further, in order to become better at learning new things.

As I explained in Issue 17 of *The Beacon*, **Golden Learning Behaviour** is broken up into four key areas (or dispositions): the 4 R's of **Resilience**, **Resourcefulness**, **Reflectiveness** and **Reciprocity**. These four learning dispositions are further broken down into seventeen different aspects of learning (or 'learning muscles'): The children have been introduced to '**Resilient Robbie**' who **manages his distractions**, **perseveres**, becomes **absorbed** in what he is doing and is good at **noticing** things. All of these attributes make him a better learner. We represent each of these four learning characteristics with animals to make them easier for the children to remember (see Issue 17). In the next couple of weeks, children will be introduced to **Resourceful Rafika**. Now she **questions** things, **makes links** in her learning, uses her **imagination**, **reasons** well and also **capitalises** well when approaching new challenges (draws upon all her knowledge and the resources available to her). All of these attributes make her a very effective learner. Again, each of these characteristics is represented by an animal: the **Questioning Quail**, the **Link-Making Lion**, the **Imagining Impala**, the **Reasoning Raccoon**, and the **Capitalising Caterpillar**. As you can imagine, the children are frequently encouraged to question things and to use their imagination but, in the past, we haven't so openly discussed with them the notions of reasoning and capitalising and yet these are also key characteristics in terms of being an effective learner. This is why our **Golden Learning Behaviour** approach is so important. We really want the children to be the best all-round learners they can be and understanding all the various facets of how we learn is key to that. Please visit our website (www.montpelierprimary.co.uk) under 'Information' and 'Golden Learning Behaviour' to find out more about this. I will explain in more detail the other two R's (**Reflectiveness** and **Reciprocity**) as and when we begin to introduce them in school. Hopefully, if you ask your children, they'll be able to tell you about the ones they've been introduced to so far.

Foundation News

The children are getting very excited about performing 'What the ladybird heard' to you all. There will be a dress rehearsal on Monday to all of the KS1 children. They have done exceptionally well in rehearsals so hopefully it will all go to plan 'on the night'. Next Thursday will be red mufti. As the children will have to change in to their costumes can we PLEASE ask that all clothing is named and that they wear footwear that they can fasten themselves. Thank you.

Year 1 News

What a fantastic week the children have had with their learning! They have been busy solving word problems using the "Bar" method and using Unifix to make two digit number bonds. Thank you for supporting your child with the weekly maths challenge as the children have been excited to take the challenge in class on a Friday. Next half term we will be looking at changes in the past and so we will be asking if we can have a baby picture of your child. No doubt the children will have a laugh at the teacher's pictures as we have not changed much in 20 years!

Year 2 News

What an exciting week it's been! As a result of the children's brilliant news reports, Sunny has been returned safe and sound. Ask your child where he was found. Our classrooms turned into Pizzerias this week as we began our unit of work on fractions. We will pop some pictures on to eSchools for you to look at. It's great to hear about the different ways you've been learning your times tables. Keep it up. Have a great weekend.

Diary Dates

Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb Half term

Thursday 24th Mar 2016.

- 'Wear a Hat' Mufti

Fri 25th Mar – Fri 8th Apr

- 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

Fri 22nd July 2016

- Last day of term

Wed 7th Sept 2016

- First day of term

Year 3 News

The children this week have been working incredibly hard writing about their amazing trips to Mount Edgcumbe. Many thanks for your support with this especially in 3X as we had to rearrange it many times due to bad weather. The children have learnt many new things this week such as new methods in maths and how to take their pulse in science. Thank you once again for your ongoing support. Year 3 team.

Year 4 News

Year 4 have started a new unit in English; Adventure stories - Terrors from the Tomb. We have been looking at and working with a variety of texts, writing reports on findings, as well as writing a diary extract from Howard Carter. In Maths we have been practicing our estimating, as well as solving problems involving money. The children have all been working extremely hard and we are so proud of their efforts again this week.

Year 5 News

We have had a number of impressive Viking topics returned early and we are looking forward to seeing the others. Remember you have until next Wednesday to hand in your projects. In class this week we have been creating and solving kenning poems in English, linked to our topic this term. In Maths we have revisited ordering and comparing fractions. The Year 5 parent meetings will be on Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th February, don't forget to book your visit using e-schools.

Year 6 News

All the children have now made their soup at SDCC. Check out eschools for pictures. 6S and 6M have enjoyed taking part in a Seder meal to further their understanding of this Jewish tradition. 6P are looking forward to this next week. Don't forget the SAT's talk on Wednesday 10th at 5.30pm in the KS2 hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lost

Grace McDonald (2S) has lost her grey fingerless gloves, with My Little Pony motif on. Please inform the school office if you know of their whereabouts. Thank you.

School Lunches - Change of Menu w/c

Mon 8th February 2016

Monday 8th Feb - Celebrating the Chinese New Year.

A Chinese option consisting of
Sweet & Sour Chicken
Chicken Curry

Spring Rolls

Vegetable Noodles

Egg Fried Rice

or Jacket Potato or Wraps

Tuesday 9th Feb - Pancake Day

Pancakes for pudding with either sugar and lemon or chocolate sauce

Wednesday 10th Feb - No Change

Thursday 11th Feb - No Change

Friday 12th Feb - Valentine Lunch

Pepperoni or Cheese & Tomato Pizza
or Jacket Potato or Wraps

Music News

A huge well done to the steel band who played superbly at Plymouth Pavilions on Saturday afternoon. It was a truly fantastic performance to be proud of! Many thanks to all the families for their support.

Thank you to all those who have paid for their child's instrumental lessons. Parents with payments outstanding are being contacted today as lessons will stop if payment is not made by Monday. Please note that when you signed up for lessons you agreed to the terms that a half term's notice is needed via email or in writing to cancel lessons.

With this in mind, please let Miss JR know by Friday 12th February if your child no longer wishes to continue after Easter.

Quiz Evening, Raffle, Auction with fantastic prizes

Saturday 5th March 6:45pm start at the Jan Cutting Centre, Scott Business Park, Beacon Park Road. Fundraiser for children who have Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and attend Montpelier Primary School. Entry £3 per person. Teams of up to 6 people. Please bring your own snacks and drinks. Sorry no alcohol permitted at the venue.

To enter a team, please hand in your entry fee in an envelope to Montpelier School reception, with the following details on the front: Team name, contact name and telephone number, email address. Please ensure all entries are in by Monday 29th February. For further info please email
Carla.nicole.watts@gmail.com

Easter Holidays Cruise

P&O Cruises, 1st April 2016 for 7 nights.

Full Board. Includes entertainment programme for children, Kids Club, children's meal times. Sailing from Southampton. Balcony Cabin. £1889 per family. Based on 2 adults 2 children

Call in to book at Thomas Cook at Old Town street, or call us on 01752 875333 or email on thomascook-plymouth3@thomascook.com

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2016 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 9th February with the slogan 'Play your part for a better internet'.

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

The UK Safer Internet Centre – a partnership of three leading charities; Childnet, the South West Grid for Learning and the Internet Watch Foundation – provide resources for children, schools and families, and tools for getting involved at www.saferinternet.org.uk.

During the day each class will be looking at some of the resources related to the day, and the related messages, as part of our school's ongoing e-safety education.

As a parent /carer please visit the website and have a look at the great resources including the specific advice for you about talking to your children about e-safety and other materials to help address any concerns you have. It is well worth visiting.

HeartSWell Wear it Red Day - Mufti

On Thursday 11th February everyone at Montpelier will be invited to wear red to school. We kindly ask that the children bring in some 'loose change' to contribute to this great cause. There will be giant hearts around the school for any donation to be placed. If you would like to find out more about the charity please visit www.heartswell.org.uk.