



## Deputy Headteacher News

Where has the time gone? I can hardly believe that I have been part of Montpelier for a whole year. It really doesn't feel like it has been that long, and a small part of me feels like I have been here a lot longer, (and I mean that in a good way). I can honestly say that when I look back on the past 12 months it is with fond memories and I am excited and very much looking forward to playing my part in Montpelier's journey.

## School Uniform

Here at Montpelier we have high expectations around the behaviour, attitude and attainment of all pupils. These expectations are essential to give every child the opportunity to fulfil their potential and strive to be the best that they can. They are ingrained in the culture and ethos of our school and it is something that as parents you buy into when you choose our school for your child. It is at this point that I would like to point out that we have noticed an increasing number of children wearing trainers to school as part of their daily uniform. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that trainers; even if they are black, are not school uniform. The expectation is that children wear black shoes. It is our intention over the next few weeks to monitor the children's footwear to ensure there is a policy of fairness for all and hopefully see a reduction in the number of children wearing trainers on a daily basis.

## SATs Week

Next week is SATs week across the country. Year 6 pupils everywhere will be sitting down to take their Reading Test, English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test and their Mathematics Tests. These are of course national tests that are used to inform secondary schools of pupil levels of attainment and also by the Department for Education to compare the results of all schools. It's the culmination of seven years of learning for these pupils, testing them on what they've acquired during their primary schooling years. We sincerely wish them all the very best for next week. Nerves and pressure undoubtedly rise during this time; some feel it more than others. It's up to us to reassure them to just try their best and not to worry too much. I just wish to remind all Year 6 parents (even though I'm sure they need no reminding) that their children could do with plenty of moral support during the week, a good night's sleep each night, and to make sure they are in school and here promptly to ensure we give them the very best opportunity to shine. I'd also like to remind all the other children to be mindful that the Year 6 pupils are taking these tests. To make sure they conduct themselves extra-quietly around the school during key parts of the day. Good luck to all – we are immensely proud of all the children and wish them every success during next week.

## Foundation News

This week the children have been doing some super outdoor learning in Maths. They have used natural materials for addition by counting on from a number. Next week we will be focusing our Literacy on the book, 'Room on the broom' and continuing work around the world with activities based on Spain.

## Year 2 News

The children have 'dazzled' the tadpoles with their fantastic writing this week. They have been writing non-fiction reports about the amazing sea creatures they created last week. In maths, we have been recapping written methods for subtraction and multiplication. The children have used number lines, arrays and the bar model to help them. In Science, the children have been observing how successfully their grass seed has grown. Ask them how they're getting on. We had a great response to last week's homework - well done!

## Year 3 News

We have been very busy finishing off our 'Heritage Hunter' leaflets in year 3 this week. All of the children are thoroughly enjoying our history topic- 'Plymouth Past and Present' and their amazing homework is displayed throughout the year 3 classrooms. Thanks for your support with this. Continuing our 'time' topic in maths, the children have moved on from learning the days of the months of the year, to being able to tell and compare different times. We would greatly appreciate you taking this learning even further at home. Next week we look forward to moving onto reading and learning the fictional story of 'Madagascar' before the children then get the opportunity to write their own versions which will be displayed at Peverell Library.

## School Game

Please can the children who completed the School Challenge bring in their sponsorship money.

## Diary Dates

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

- Bude residential

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016**

- Activity Week

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

- Bank holiday

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup> May - Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June Inc.**

- Half term

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

- Non pupil day

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

- Year Six Production

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

- Leaver's Celebration Disco

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016**

- Year 6 Leavers Lunch

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016**

- Leavers' assembly
- Last day of term 2:30pm finish (*Year 6 finish at 1.30pm*)

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016**

- First day of term

#### **Year 4 News**

Another busy week in Year 4. The children have been looking at measures in Maths this week. They started estimating and measuring weight, then moved onto conversions using grams and kilograms... Test their knowledge at home! In English, the children have been looking at dilemma stories. They have been making predictions to the stories based on the character personalities and behaviours. During Topic sessions this week, the children have been looking at why the Anglo-Saxons came to England, making links with why people move and settle in modern day times. Can I please remind you that the Clive Pig permission forms and payments need to be completed asap to confirm his attendance.

#### **Year 5 News**

It has been another busy week in year 5. The children have been calculating the perimeter and area of shapes and in English we have started our new unit of work on Greek Myths. We now have enough cardboard boxes etc., and thank you to those who have sent various articles in to class. Enjoy the weekend.

#### **Year 6 News**

This week the children learnt all about how animals adapt to their environment. In ICT they were shown how to use a new piece of software to create a multi-media presentation. Next week our amazing, talented year 6 pupils will have a chance to show off their knowledge in the national SAT exams. On Monday afternoon we will be having a year group hockey tournament and next Friday we will be having an Art day, so there is lots to look forward to - oh and don't forget the bacon butties! Children - we are so proud of you - go for it!

#### **School Lunch and Breakfast Club**

Firstly we would like to thank those of you who always pay so promptly, it's much appreciated. However, as the term has progressed the number of late payments has steadily increased. May we respectfully request that every endeavour is made to make payments in advance as per school policy. If you are experiencing difficulty please do contact the school office.

#### **Dentist & Doctor's Appointments**

Can we ask parents that, except in an emergency, all doctor and dentist appointments are made outside of school hours. In the event that this is not possible, then children should be collected from school as near to the appointment time as possible and then returned back to school straight afterwards. If the medical appointment is during the school day, evidence must be provided. A whole days absence is not deemed necessary for a medical appointment that occurs in the morning – the child would be expected to return to school in the afternoon, and vice versa. If children do not attend school regularly, they may not be able to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up. It's not only the academic work: missing out on the social side of school life can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships, a vital part of growing up. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery classes through primary school, will also help your child later on. Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher, and the other children in the class.

#### **Splash**

Congratulations to Mr Fielding 4P who was successful in gaining a top 8 position to completed in the Plymouth teachers Splash competition. A total of 37 teachers entered the competition and, after weeks of support from their pupils and staff in the form of collecting voting coupons, the top 15 hopefuls were put through their paces at a selection event in the Life Centre diving pool last week. Mr Fielding will commence training shortly in preparation for the final on July 2<sup>nd</sup> which will be a ticketed event raising money for the Plymouth branch of the Lady Taverners, who support young people, particularly those with special needs. They will use these funds to support sports project in the city. Each teacher will perform several dives at the event for a panel of judges and the winner will be crowned Splash! Champion. We will inform you once tickets are on sale.

#### **Music News**

Due to SATS, there will be no instrumental lessons next week apart from flute lessons with Miss JR. Also, Year 2 and 3 choir is cancelled on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Please can all outstanding instrumental payments be paid by Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you

#### **Plymouth Siblings Survey**

We are working with Health to develop additional support opportunities for young people in Plymouth who have a brother or sister with an additional need or disability. To assist us in achieving this, we are asking if parents / carers would kindly complete the Plymouth Siblings Survey. <http://www.surveymoz.com/s/RPXRU/> We are grateful for any thoughts or comments around the needs of siblings.

#### **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.

#### **Blankets**

Do you have any spare soft blankets that could be donated to the school? These will be useful, especially for First Aid.