



Headteacher News

Academy Conversion

On Tuesday of last week, the Board of Governors received a letter from the Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP (Secretary of State for Education) which informed us of her consent for Montpelier to convert to an academy and provided us with the Academy Order that we needed in order to proceed with the process. You may have realised that this presents a slight delay as we had aimed to convert for the start of this summer term. However, the application process to convert took longer than anticipated as the DfE is not only finding the number of current applications a challenge to process but are also remaining highly selective in approving applications. Montpelier, Stoke Damerel Community College and their studio school (Scott Medical & Health College) really had to securely demonstrate how our partnership would benefit each school and the pupils and students within them.

Having received the Academy Order, the Montpelier Board of Governors then met on Wednesday of this week to consider all representations made from stakeholders throughout the consultation period before finally taking the decision whether or not to proceed with the conversion. I can happily inform you that the Board unanimously agreed to proceed with our conversion. Montpelier will become an academy in the coming few months. There remains one final delay to us finalising an actual date, and that is an agreement with the Local Authority (Plymouth City Council - PCC) regarding the school buildings. As an academy, we will take on all the responsibility and liabilities for the school buildings and grounds. Montpelier school, being of post-war construction, has a few issues and it is very important that the Board of Governors establishes and agrees its current condition with PCC prior to hand-over. Once this agreement has been reached, our conversion date will be finalised. I will keep you informed of developments.

As I have mentioned previously, this represents a change mainly at a strategic school organisation and management level rather than anything that will directly affect the children day to day. If you haven't found an opportunity to read the information regarding the conversion that is available on our website, please do take a few minutes to do so - there's a lot of detail within it but it's worth the read (www.montpelierprimary.co.uk/website/academy). There's a variety of information to look through so you can choose how informed you want to be; just get a general picture or know every detail - it's up to you.

What is important to know is that, as stated in the original letter I sent out, any change we pursue is only ever to further improve the school. When we finally convert, the school name, our logo and the uniform will not change. Montpelier will remain as a non-selective, local, state-funded primary school for the children in this area. And, although we are entering into a collaborative partnership with Stoke Damerel Community College, it will not - in any way - curtail our pupils' options regarding their choice of secondary school. We actually see this as an opportunity to further improve transition arrangements into all the secondary schools we feed into. The strategic benefits will come in the form of shared governance, leadership, management systems, staffing, finances, purchasing, contracts, service provision, procurement, etc. All those things that go on in the background and are crucial to the running of the school but which are rarely evident to you or the children.

Foundation News

The children have done so well this week taking part in Balanceability. Their skills and confidence grew at an amazing rate. They ended the week with Bike Day which included Bike maps, Bike hunts, Role play Bike shop, Bike Bingo, washing their bikes as well as riding them proficiently around a course! Next week we will continue our 'Globetrotting' around the world and learn about China. Please could we ask that you ensure your child has a pair of plimsolls in their PE bag- as the weather hopefully gets warmer we intend do some PE sessions outside. Thanks.

Year 1 News

Thank you for all the photos of the children on their holidays and there is still time to send them in! You can send them all to Mr Bennetts - nathanbennetts@mpsplymouth.net We have been busy learning and writing about Where the Wild Things are so we look forward to sharing their amazing writing. In maths we have been using number lines and bar models to show our workings. There are a range of '[Maths Moments](#)' clips on YouTube showing how we use number lines and the bar model in the classroom. A couple of our Year 1 children were actually the models in these great maths strategy clips! Keep a look out for them.

Scooters and Bikes

Please can we remind you that once on school site, all scooters and bikes must be dismounted and wheeled through the playground. We have again, had reports of several near misses with children and adults whilst in the playgrounds.

Diary Dates

Mon 2nd May 2016

- Bank holiday

Sun 22nd May 2016

- Bude residential

Mon 23rd May 2016

- Activity Week

Mon 30th May 2016

- Bank holiday

Tues 31st May - Fri 3rd June Inc.

- Half term

Mon 6th June 2016

- Non pupil day

Thurs 14th July 2016

- Year Six Production

Wed 20th July 2016

- Leaver's Celebration Disco

Thurs 21st July 2016

- Year 6 Leavers Lunch

Fri 22nd July 2016

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

Wed 7th Sept 2016

- First day of term

Year 2 News

We're well on our way with our Water Warriors topic. The children are enjoying having tadpoles in their classrooms and checking their progress each day. They have created pieces of work this week to show their understanding life cycles and what the tadpoles will turn into. We have also found out about a Water Warrior from the past. Ask your child if they can tell you about why we remember Grace Darling.

Have a great weekend
The Year Two Team

Year 3 News

We've had another fantastic week in year 3, the children have worked incredibly hard learning about Plymouth's past and present. In maths, children have been learning about time and hopefully they should be able to show you an interesting way of remembering the days of the months of the year. We have had lots of amazing homework projects given in this week and we thank you for all the time and effort put into these. Many thanks for your ongoing support. We look forward to next week when we will be finishing our leaflets about the history of Plymouth.

Year 4 News

Another busy week in Year 4. This week in Maths the children have been continuing to identify vertical and horizontal lines of symmetry in regular and irregular shapes, which finishes our unit of geometric reasoning. In English the children have been planning their independent persuasive letter to Plymouth City Council, to help save Ham Woods! Ask your child to tell you more about their learning this week. Thanks for all your continued support. Have a fantastic long weekend.

Year 5 News

It has been another busy week in year 5, with some of the children completing the swimming sessions. We have been impressed with the improvement and confidence of so many of the children in the swimming pool.

The children have created a mythical beast sonnet in English and in PSHE have been learning about a variety of drugs and the affect they have on the body.

We are still in need of cereal boxes and cardboard or any other similar recycling items.

Enjoy the Bank holiday.

Year 6 News

This week the children have been working hard planning their mystery stories, using our Cluedo Day for inspiration. Check out eSchools for pictures of the day. In science we have been learning all about how plants have adapted to their environment. 6P were the final class from year 6 to have their 1st Aid training - what a valuable skill to have!

Montpelier School Games

Quads Kids

Well done to everyone who attended the QuadKids event on Tuesday at Brickfields. Each child had to compete in a sprint, 600m run, throw and long jump. Despite the cold, wind, rain, hail and sunshine, you all prove to be up and coming excellent athletes. With 14 teams entering this event, Montpelier finished in 5th position overall. A special congratulations to Niamh Eyres who finished 2nd out of 56 girls, only 4 points behind the overall winner.

Football

On Wednesday 2 teams, "Green" and "Blue" from year 3 and 4 competed in this year's football festival at SDCC, both teams showing fantastic skills that impressed the Argyle scouts. With 9 teams entering this popular event both teams knew it was going to be tricky, the Blue team won 3, lost 3 and drew 2 finishing in 6th position overall, while the Green team won 7 and lost 1, scoring 41 goals and only conceding 2, finishing in 2nd place. Congratulations to both teams you were amazing.

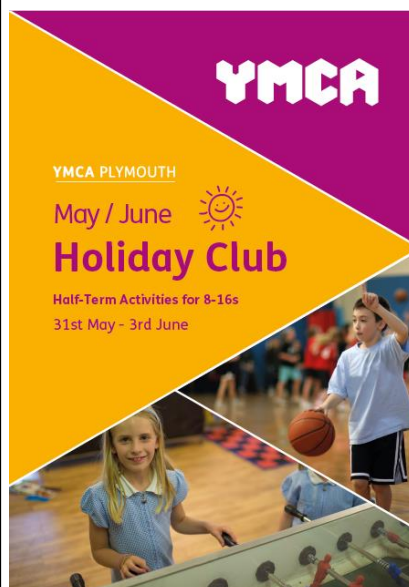
Hair Cut Fundraiser

Just to announce that on Saturday 14th May Nuala Eyres in Year 1 is having her hair cut off for a children's charity that makes wigs for terminally ill children. If you are interested in supporting her fundraising efforts please contact Leigh (Mum) on 07948 967026



Maths Moments at Home

Hopefully you have all received your 'Maths Moments at Home' booklet and have found it useful for supporting your child in their maths development. Don't forget to have a look at the maths videos at goog.gl/UaPhH8 to see children completing calculations at the different stages.



Holiday Club is a great way for young people to get the most out of their break in the school half-terms and holidays. Open to ages 8-16 we organise activities such as street surfing, arts & crafts, climbing, sports and trips to adventure parks. We're proud of our reputation for delivering fun and safe holiday activities in Plymouth for over 40 years.

For more information, please contact the YMCA:

- 01752 201918
- stacey.f@ymcaplymouth.org.uk
- ymcaplymouth.org.uk/HolidayClub