

The Beacon

Academic Year 2018/19

Issue No: 01

Date 14th Sept 2018

Headteacher's Greeting

It has been an amazing start to the term! There is so much going on in school and there is such a buzz. As well as continuing with many established approaches to school life we are also planning in some new opportunities for pupils but also for families as well. This includes a new Harvest Festival assembly where we will fit in as many parents as possible, the start of regular parent forums, a 'meet the headteacher' evening, and a planned Toy and Gift assembly too. I won't even get started on Christmas! We are a school family and we need to make sure that we have as many opportunities as possible to come together, celebrate and have fun as well as work together, sharing ideas and making improvements. I will always seek to give you at least four weeks for any event although with the Harvest Festival I appreciate it is shorter notice than I would want. We were delighted to have an article in the Herald this week – please look on our website if you missed it. We want to be shouting from the roof tops what a great school we have. Thank you so much for the warm welcome you have given me. I am so happy that I am here. Mrs Hunter ☺

Foundation News

What a fantastic first week we have all had! We are very proud of the children and how they have settled, adjusted to school life and their enthusiasm to learn. We have enjoyed exploring both inside and outside - please remember to bring in a named pair of wellies for your child if you have not done so already.

Year 1

The children have settled in well to Year 1 and are all thoroughly excited to see what challenges lie ahead! The children were shocked to find that the classroom had been destroyed by what seemed to be a large animal of some sort! We then discovered that it was a friendly dragon! Ask your child about the special dragon eggs we found in the playground and the present of 'The Dragon and the Nibblesome Knight' story!

Year 2 News

After an exciting 'Rainforest Ranger Day' last week, the children have been busy taking on many new learning challenges and adventures in Year 2. We look forward to meeting you all next week during our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Monday 17th at 5pm. Have a super weekend!

Year 3 News

What an amazing first week back we have had in Year 3. Stone Age day was a brilliant success and all the children looked great in their costumes. There are lots of pictures of the day on the website so please take a look. The children haven't been working hard in English and Maths, very quickly getting back into the swing of things and showing off all the skills. Dates for the diary: Thursday 20th September - Meet the teacher evening from 5pm til 5:45 and Friday 21st September - Kents Cavern school trip. Many Thanks, The Year 3 team.

Year 4 News

Hello and welcome to Year 4! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are well rested and ready for the fun to begin. Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for putting in such a fantastic effort with the children's costumes for our Egyptian Quest Day. All of the children looked amazing and having these costumes just made it that extra bit special. If you have not yet returned your child's swimming form, please do so as soon as possible as swimming will commence on Monday 24th September. Have a great weekend and we look forward to meeting many of you at our 'Meet the Teacher' evening next Tuesday.

School Term Dates for 2018/2019

Mon 24th Sept 5-6pm – Year 5 Meet the Teacher

Mon 1st Oct – Harvest Festival.

Thurs 11th Oct – Parent 'Info Evening' – details to follow

Thurs 18th Oct – Tempest Individual & family group photos Foundation – Year 2, from 8am KS1 Hall.

Mon 29th Oct - Individual & family group photos Years 3 - 6, from 8am KS1 Hall.

Mon 22nd to Fri 26th Oct – Autumn Half Term Break 2018.

Thurs 1st Nov 9am – 10am Parent Forum with Parents – details to follow

Thurs 20th Dec – Last Day of Autumn Term 2018.

Fri 21st Dec 2018 to Fri 4th Jan 2019 – Christmas Holiday 2018.

Mon 7th Jan 2019 – Non-Pupil Day.

Tues 8th Jan – Spring Term 2019 Begins.

Mon 18th Feb to Fri 22nd Feb – Spring Half Term Break 2019.

Fri 5th April – Last Day of Spring Term 2019.

Mon 8th to Mon 22nd April – Easter Holiday 2019.

Tues 23rd April – Non-Pupil Day.

Wed 24th April – Summer Term 2019 begins.

Mon 6th May – Bank Holiday.

Mon 27th to Fri 31st May – Summer Half Term Break 2019.

Wed 24th July – 2:30pm end of term finish (**Yr6 finish at 1.30pm**)

Thursday 25th July 2019 – Non-Pupil Day.

Year 5 News

What a wonderful first full week back. The children have loved learning about our new topics, and have already produced some fantastic work demonstrating some golden learning behaviours. In English the children have been looking at the different features authors use to engage the reader through language. In Maths they have been investigating number systems; ordering, comparing and rounding numbers. It's been a super start to the new year. We would like to invite you along to our 'meet the parents' evening on Monday 24th September at 17:00. We look forward to seeing you. Have a wonderful weekend. The Year 5 Team.

Year 6 News

What a first week back in Year 6! The children have settled in to routines quickly and have produced lots of work. We have been very impressed with their attitude to learning.

We look forward to meeting you all at our 'Meet the Teacher' session which will be on Monday 17th September at 4:30 in 6P.

MacMillan coffee afternoon, Friday 28th September 2018

Help us support Macmillan Cancer Support

Once again we are pleased to be able to support this amazing charity and invite you and your children to join us between 2 & 3 pm. Please sign in at main entrance, collect your child/children from their classes and enjoy some time together while raising funds for MacMillan.

To make the afternoon pleasurable for all we pass responsibility to you for your children and ask that they remain with you during this time. Please return them to their classes by 3pm. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation, please send it to school on the day via your child's class.

If you would like to help with this event please speak to Jane Gilbert PSA or a member of the PTFA.

Children's Hospice South West

Bubble Rush Newnham Park Sunday 23rd September. Bubbling fun at a 5K run, sign up finishes on Thursday 20th September. If you have any questions please do call me on 01726 871800

School Uniform

A requirement of the Governors is that children attending Montpelier wear the approved school uniform. By accepting a place at Montpelier Primary School we assume that parents will support our policy of school uniform.

Boys

Dark grey trousers or shorts
White shirt & school tie or a white polo shirt
Green pullover or green V-necked school sweatshirt

Grey socks
Sensible shoes - fashion shoes, trainers or boots are not permitted for Health & Safety reasons

Girls

Grey pinafore or skirt or dark grey trousers, dark grey smart knee length culottes.
White shirt & school tie or a white polo shirt, green pullover, cardigan or green school V-necked sweatshirt
White socks
Tights - school colours or white, beige or black
Hair bands/ribbons - plain & in school colours
Sensible shoes - fashion shoes, trainers or boots are not permitted for Health & Safety reasons
DURING SUMMER (OCT ½ TERM - EASTER) – green & white check dress

Footwear:

Children should wear shoes and NOT trainers to and from school and during the school day. The appropriate footwear for P.E. and games is indicated below. 'Fashion' shoes and trainers, i.e. large tongues, multi coloured laces, high ankle shoes/boots are not acceptable in any circumstances. Flat practical sandals are permissible, not open toed, are permissible when worn with socks. Sandals should be white, black, or brown in colour – not Jelly Beans. There is no preference to colour for coats. Parents are reminded that very dark colours pose a safety problem on winter mornings/evenings.

P.E. Kit

White 'T' shirt, black or white shorts, white socks, plimsolls (Foundation do not need plimsolls until later in the term – a letter will be sent home informing you when they are required).

Boys & Girls – Year 3 onwards - plain track suit for the winter.

Parents should note that only listed items should be worn for P.E. activities. All of the items of clothing are available from – 'National Schoolwear Centre', Mayflower Street, Plymouth or The Trutex Uniform Shop, Unit 3 & 4 Sugarmill Retail Park, Plymouth – these are the recognised uniform stockist for Montpelier Primary School.

Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled. Lost property is kept in receptacles strategically placed around the school. If you are considering having your child's ears pierced, please do so at the beginning of the summer holidays. In KS1 children are permitted to wear discrete studs during P.E lessons. However, for Health & Safety reasons in KS2, all jewellery including ear-rings must be removed for all P.E. sessions; this is due to the increased physical nature of activities undertaken. When worn in school ear-rings should be small studs. If your child's ears have been recently pierced (within the last six weeks) and their ear rings cannot be taken out then your child must wear plasters over their ear rings. Due to Health and Safety reasons children must bring in their own plasters from home and be able to apply them themselves, this cannot be carried out by a member of staff. Nose rings or other piercings are not deemed suitable. It is not desirable for children to wear other jewellery to school. Jewellery and watches are often lost and are the responsibility of the child and not the school.

Tattoos or body art, whether temporary or permanent, are not permitted - unless covered by school uniform at all times.

Non- natural hair colours or extremes of haircuts / styles are not permitted.

Winter uniform should be worn, including ties for Years 3 - 6, from October half term through to the start of the Easter holidays.

Summer uniform can then be worn after the Easter holidays up to October half term, if preferred.

School Money

Thank you all for your patience over the last few days whilst we experienced problems with school money. Hopefully the issues have now been resolved. Thank you also to those parents who regularly pay in advance and keep their accounts clear. May we take this opportunity to remind everyone that payment for school meals and breakfast club should be in advance as per school policy as unfortunately, debts are already mounting. If unable to make payment for whatever reason please contact the office.

Music News

Instrumental lessons are up and running. We have a whopping 136 pupils learning an instrument in school this year! Any outstanding lesson fees to be paid by Monday at 8am or lessons will be cancelled.

Choir News

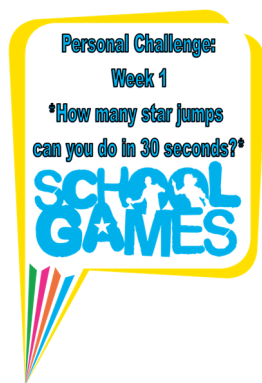
Letters have now gone to all Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils interested in singing in Thursday Choir. It starts on Thursday 20th. Mislaidd the form? Find it here... <http://www.montpelierprimary.co.uk/website/choirs/4499>

Next week Miss JR will give out letters for the Year 2 and 3 choir which starts on Tuesday 25th September.

Gardening Club

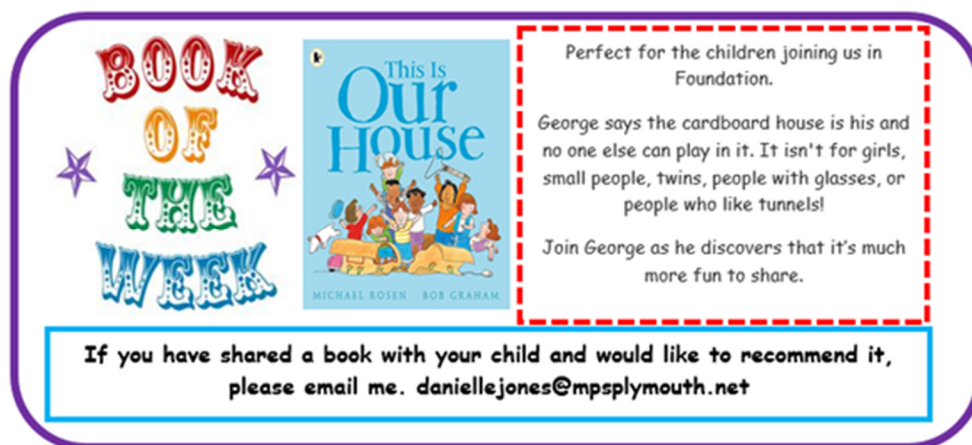
Gardening club is run by Mrs Castles and will be starting on Monday 17th September. We meet outside the canteen at 12:30. If you are interested, come along and see what we do on Monday.

School Games – Personal Challenge



Every week, all Plymouth Primary School children are being invited to attempt a 'personal challenge' to beat their own scores and those of children from other schools. Practise doing the challenge at home as training for making a good score in school. This week: how many star jumps can you do in 30 seconds?

Book of the Week



Lost Property

It is reassuring to see new uniform being worn to school this term clearly labelled with your child's name. This not only means you won't be losing expensive clothing but will help your children stay independent in looking after their belongings. If you have not labelled clothes yet please do consider doing this. Our PTFA will benefit from your buying from planet label-link in the website under PSA, but there are many other places you can buy easy to use labels or indeed use a permanent marker. Don't forget to label everything, uniform, PE Kits, coats, water bottles, lunch boxes, in fact anything they can become separated from including mufti clothes. Thank you in advance for your support with this, as much school time is wasted looking for unmarked clothing. As a post note to this, I have an unlabelled minions PE bag and contents, and an Adidas and Slazenger navy blue zipped sports tops in my office waiting to be claimed. They will be disposed of in the near future if unclaimed.

Jane Gilbert. PSA

Football Club

Football club will start on Monday 24th September from 3:15 - 4:15pm. All children who have expressed an interest should have got a letter today. Please can these be returned by Wednesday 19th September to Mr Robinson or Mr Carhart. Depending on numbers we may have to do a rotation as numbers are limited. It won't be selected as first come basis.

Ivybridge Open Evenings

Open Evenings on Wednesday 19th or Tuesday 25th September at 6pm in the Dining Hall.

Notre Dame Open Evenings

Open Evening on Wednesday 19th September 4-7pm

St Boniface Catholic College Open Evenings

Open Evening on Tuesday 18th September 6pm, refreshments at 5:30pm.

Jeremiahs Journey Christmas Craft & Gift Fayre

Annual Christmas Craft & Gift Fayre at the Boringdon Park Golf Club between 10am and 3 pm on Sunday 18th November 2018

FREE Bell Boating Session

Sunday 16th September between 10am – 12pm Plymouth City Council's Short Breaks Service and Sports Development Unit have arranged for a FREE bell boating session at the Mount Batten Centre for disabled children and their parents/carers.

Please note that booking is essential and places are limited to one child and one adult per family (with both needing to take part in the activity). Children must be over the age of 8 to take part and be comfortable participating in water based activity. Please note that those with a physical disability will be able to take part but will need to be able to sit unaided in the boat.

If you could circulate to anyone that may be interested that would be much appreciated. To apply for a space you must either call 01752 307008 or email myself – ben.kerswell@plymouth.gov.uk.

Short Breaks September Bell Boating



- ☐ Sunday 16th September
- ☐ 10am – 12pm
- ☐ Mount Batten Centre, PL9 9SJ
- ☐ Free



This September, Plymouth City Council's Short Breaks Service and it's Sports Development Unit have arranged a FREE bell boating session at the Mount Batten Centre for disabled children and their parents/carers

Places are limited to one child and one adult per family (both must take part in the activity)

If you are a parent or carer of a disabled child aged 8 to 18 who lives within Plymouth and who would like to find out more, or to register your interest, then please email Ben.Kerswell@plymouth.gov.uk

These events are part of the Plymouth City Council Short Breaks offer for disabled children.

To be eligible to access these events your child must live in Plymouth and have a diagnosis of a disability and attend a special school or support centre. Although they may still be eligible if they attend a mainstream school and are supported by an EHC Plan.