



Headteacher News

The 16th to 20th November is nationally recognised as Anti-Bullying Week. Bullying is something that all schools take very seriously and, unfortunately, it is not just something that children and teenagers go through. It is well researched that bullying can cause long term upset to both the person on the receiving end as well as (interestingly) those that bully. It is not a child's fault if they are bullied and they should never be told to just ignore it, or to change who they are. It is the children doing the bullying that need to change their behaviour and their attitude. This is particularly true if the bullying is targeted at a pupil's gender, sexuality, race, faith, impairment or special educational need.

Identifying bullying is crucial as children will often remain silent about what is going on. Equally, it can become difficult because both children and adults sometimes misuse the term, using it to describe a situation where friendships may have broken down. We teach the children that bullying is 'behaviour by any an individual or group, **repeated over time**, that **intentionally** hurts another individual or group socially, physically or emotionally'. To help the children remember this, we teach them the abbreviation '**STOP**': bullying is if someone does something unkind to you **Several Times On Purpose** and that if someone does bully you, you must **Start Telling Other People**. Children frequently fall in and out of friendships at a young age and these 'fallings out', when children may say unkind things to each other, can often be misconstrued as bullying. It becomes bullying if it is intentional and repeated. 'I'm being bullied – my friend won't let me join in their game'. This, on one occasion, is very different from a child being repeatedly ostracised and excluded from joining in. Knowing and being able to identify the difference is crucial because resolving each will be approached very differently. Bullying will generally have a greater long-term emotional impact than having an upset within a friendship.

Children need to be supported to speak out if they, or someone they know, is being bullied. In an ideal world, there would be no bullying at all but the only way to really stop bullying is to acknowledge that it does happen from time to time and to maintain a talking culture in our school where any hurtful behaviour is quickly brought out in the open, discussed and dealt with. Parents may sometimes feel that things aren't resolved quickly enough but it is rarely straight-forward and can often take time to resolve – human interactions are always very complex, be they adult or children. We do always do our best though to sort out any problems that arise – the wellbeing of the children is always our absolute priority.

So, we'll be discussing all this with the children a lot next week so they may well bring it up in conversation at home. I thought it might be worth giving you the heads-up on it! Discussing it at home and being open about it is always a great idea.

Foundation News

This week the children have learnt about Remembrance and have done some super 'Poppy' art work. They joined the rest of the school to observe the two minute silence and were brilliant. Next week we will be doing some activities based around the Julia Donaldson books; The Gruffalo and Paper Dolls. We are always short of junk modelling materials so please could you raid your recycling (cereal and other boxes, cardboard tubes, cartons etc but please do not send in toilet rolls or egg boxes). Thank you

Year 1 News

We have an important visitor next week! The amazing Spider-man will be coming in to answer the children's questions. Hopefully you have received details of our Year 1 Christmas play. Spaces to watch the performance are limited to 2 tickets per child so please ensure you return your requests to your class teacher. The performances are on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday the 9th December with both starting at 9:30am. Siblings are watching the performance on the Monday during the full dress rehearsal.

Year 2 News

Another exciting week for year two. The children have been working hard learning about 2D shapes and their properties. Ask them what they know about rectangles, triangles and hexagons. Can they tell you what a five-sided shape is called? We had a visit from some Fire Fighters too. Can the children tell you how to stop, drop and roll?

Over the next few weeks, each year two class will be visiting the allotments at Central Park. Please ensure your child has welly boots and a warm, waterproof coat on the day of their visit.

2P - Monday 16th November, 2S - Monday 23rd November, 2M - Monday 30th November

Year 3 News

What a great week we have had in Year 3. The children have been working extremely hard across all subjects. They have been doing some fabulous work with division and multiplication this week in maths and their tales in English have been fantastic. Thank you for all the time and effort you put into helping the children learn them, it has had a massive effect on their writing. An amazing effort with the 'British Heroes' costumes for Children in Need the children looked fantastic. Have a lovely weekend from the year 3 team.

Diary Dates

Fri 4th Dec 2015

- Chocolate **Mufti**

Thurs 10th Dec 2015

- Christmas lunch

Fri 11th Dec 2015

- Christmas Fair

Fri 18th Dec 2015

- Christmas Jumper **Mufti**
- Text Santa Appeal

- Last day of term

Mon 4th Jan 2016

- Non pupil day

Tues 5th Jan 2016

- First day of term

Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb Inc.

- Half term

Thursday 24th Mar 2016.

- 'Wear a Hat' **Mufti** Day

Fri 25th Mar – Fri 8th Apr Inc

- 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

Year 4 News

Year 4 have had another exciting week. In maths we have been looking at multiplication facts building onto written methods to solve 2-digit and 2 digit calculations. In English the children have been innovating 'my grannies a bank robber' text, beginning to use taught features to make the text their own. During our topic and Science sessions we have been looking at the advancement of the Roman Empire and investigating how sound is made. Ask your child to share their learning with you!

Year 5 News

The children enjoyed the visit from the Fire Service on Wednesday, who spoke to the children about fire safety, in and around the home. The children showed their knowledge of hazards and it was unfortunate the firemen couldn't spend longer but their arrival was delayed due to an emergency!

Next week the children will be taking part in the 'Bikeability' activities. Your child should be aware of their group timings but if you need any further information, please check with the class teacher. Please make sure your child arrives at school with appropriate clothing and any required medication.

In the near future year 5 will be having a D&T day and we would like to request any 'junk' to be sent in from home. We are looking for cardboard/cereal boxes, empty tubes/Pringle containers, plastic bottles etc.

Year 6 News

This week the children have finished their 'escape' stories. We have been amazed by the outstanding quality of this work. Well done children! In science the children designed and completed an experiment to find out who had the biggest lung capacity. Please remember to send the children to school with a coat; packed lunch, and a hat for the boys, on Wednesday for our trip.

Christmas Tree Competition

You could win a Christmas tree and decorations for Montpelier Primary School in Radio Plymouth's decorate a 'Christmas Tree competition' with Otter Nurseries. Attached is a template for children to decorate.

Return to the school office by Wednesday 25th please.

We can't wait to see your entries; last years were amazing!

Trutex 'Pop-up' Shop

The Trutex Schoolwear 'Pop-up' Shop will be returning to school on the 4th February

PTSA Train to Teach Event

Did you know that applications to join the teaching profession have declined by 27, 000 in the last twelve months? And that the numbers of teachers quitting the profession is at a 10 year high?

The Shadow Education Secretary has predicted that this recruitment shortfall, combined with the growing Primary school places publication crisis means that England now faces a shortage of 30,000 of the required number of qualified entrants – 'a perfect storm'.

PLP are hosting a 'Train to Teach' event at High View School on Tuesday 24th November from 5:00pm - 8:00pm. They will share all routes into teaching for both primary and secondary candidates and for both undergraduate and postgraduate routes.

To book your place please log on to:

<https://www.swts.org.uk/portal/ptsa/courses/primary/event/ptsa-train-to-teach-event-24-11-15>

Festive Jumper Day

Friday 18th December will be 'Festive Jumper Day'. Children and Staff will be able to come to school wearing a festive jumper for a suggested donation of £1. As a school, we have received requests from a variety of different charities asking us to hold this event for their cause. The School Council have chosen to raise money for Text Santa as this means the proceeds go to Macmillan Cancer Support, Save the Children and Make-A-Wish UK.

Please don't feel that you have to buy something new, perhaps you could decorate an existing top with a Christmas decoration or simply wear something in a festive colour.

Many thanks for your support

Miss Harris, Mrs Jones and the School Council

Christmas Craft & Gift Fayre

Friday 20th November Boringdon Park Golf Club have their Jeremiah's Journey Christmas Craft & Gift Fayre at Boringdon Park Golf Club, Plympton.

Experience a truly magical, festive evening full of mince pies & mulled wine, browsing over 40 high quality stalls showcasing the perfect gifts for your loved ones.

Treat yourself to beautiful hand-crafted gifts, hand painted ceramics, cards, jewellery, homeware, textiles, toys, art, & lots of festive treats, enjoy incredible music from The Palace Theatre Philharmonia & Choir throughout the evening.

Don't forget to get festive in their Christmas Photo Booth courtesy of Liberty Pearl Vintage Photo Booth!

With Free entry, Christmas workshops & loads of fun activities for the children it is the perfect event to get you in the Christmas Spirit!

Bikeability

All of year 5 children will be taking part in the Bikeability programme starting on Monday, please make sure your child has the appropriate clothing. This programme will run rain or shine.

Montpelier School Games

Dodgeball

Children from year 4 to 6 had the opportunity to work alongside and against other schools in this year Dodgeball festival held at Heles. It was great to see the confidence grow with each game and showing great enthusiasm and skills in this up and coming event. Well done.

Football

This year's second football festival again was a success, with both of our teams showing fantastic team work and sportsmanship. The A team drew one match and won 5, winning the festival overall with an impressive 20 goals. The B team also showed determination finishing in 4th place. Well done boys, your behaviour was impeccable.

Indoor Athletics

Wednesday was the time for our athletics team to shine, and shine they did! Both teams – White and Green had to compete in several running races from a 1 lap to 6 lap relay. The Green Team, both boys and girls winning all of their running races gaining maximum points. The boys winning 2 and 2nd in the other field events, whilst the girls finished 1st in 1 and 2nd in the other 3 events. The White Team determined to put up a fight with 1 first place, 6 2nd and 5 3rd places. A fantastic effort by all children involved, the hard training certainly paid off. The White Team finished in 3rd position overall, only 8 points behind 2nd place, the Green Team won the event with a lead of 62 points and qualified for the finals in February.

Congratulations you all should be proud of your achievement.

Thank you to those parents that came to support.

Children in Need

Thank you for your generous donations we raised a massive £508.18 for a very worthy cause.

The children and staff looked great in their costumes too.