

# The Beacon

Academic Year 2014/2015 Montpelier Primary School Issue No: 4 Date 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2015

## Deputy Headteacher News

### Time is flying...

I can't quite believe how fast time is going. It only seems like yesterday that we returned to school for the start of a new academic year. As we approach the end of the fourth week you begin to realise how precious time is and the notion that every minute counts becomes increasingly important. With that in mind I would like to tell you that I have had the privilege of seeing your children enthused, engaged and motivated by the wonderful learning opportunities that are on offer to them and I am hoping you are also hearing about the fantastic things they are taking part in.

### Being Visible

It has always been (and will continue to be) my intention to be as visible as my commitments allow. Over the last two weeks I have attended a Plymouth Deputies meeting, a two day safeguarding children course, a teaching school conference and have been involved in school inset which has resulted in my time on the playground at the beginning and end of the day being greatly reduced. I hope that this will change next week and will take every opportunity to say hello.

### Safety and Security

As mentioned at the end of last term it is of the utmost importance to all the staff of Montpelier that your children are safe and that the school site is secure when they are with us during the school day.

As a school we have made a conscious effort to tighten up on the time that we open the doors at the start and the end of the day. I would like to remind you that at the end of the school day the only access into the school building is the main entrance. All other exits will be locked and closely monitored by the staff at the school. The school gates will be open by our Site Manager Zak Morgan from 15.00. Please be patient and allow time for this to happen as we have six entrances across our school site. At the end of the day the children will be shown out by their teacher or teaching assistant and they will be available at this time if you wish to speak with them or indeed they need to speak with you. After each class has been dismissed the door will be closed to ensure that our schools building is secure. I ask that if you wish to enter the building at this time, even to use the library, you use the main entrance in the same way that you would throughout the school day. In addition the school gates will be closed from 15.30. This will give enough time for all children to leave the school site safely. I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## Foundation News

Thank you to so many parents who came to our curriculum evening last night. We hope that you found it informative and have taken away some ideas on how you can support your child's learning at home. The children have enjoyed learning about space and will be working in their Space groups next week. Can they tell you whether they are a rocket, planet, star or astronaut?!

### Year 1 News

Well done to all children who have settled well into Year 1 and have produced some super learning. This week we have helped Thor find half of his pizza toppings and have been busy innovating our Max story by changing characters and special powers. Next week we look forward to sharing with you all our learning about E-Schools and blogging.

### Year 2 News

We've had a fun-filled week in Year Two. The children have started to learn some poems off by heart, ready to perform to the rest of the year group. Can they remember any parts to share with you? We had fun using our senses to explore the forest area, collecting words and phrases to use in our own woodland poems. Check out the website for pictures. Who will win the poetry competition and be lucky enough to have their poem engraved on to wood?

We've also continued our great work as number detectives, investigating the many patterns on a number square. Wow... Have a relaxing weekend!

### Year 3 News

This week Year 3 have been working really hard. They have been writing their Stone Age stories, making their own fossils and building dwellings in the Urk Valley! (Ham Woods) Thanks for all the parent support with the visit. Next week the children will start to learn about prehistoric animals that lived in the Stone Age and they will also be visiting Kents Cavern. Please bring back permission slips ASAP if you have not already done so.

### Year 4 News

Year 4 have been focusing on subtraction this week in Maths, using the formal written method and exchanging with ease! They have applied this to money and word problems, challenging themselves with up to 4 digits. In English they have been writing their independent 'cracking contraptions'. The machines have been extremely imaginative... why not ask your child to tell you more!

### Minecraft

Entries are coming in for Mr B's Schools Minecraft competition so if you would like to enter please send in as quickly as you can. Check out <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyRZ67ubXx-3C1s0-NcdCQ/videos>. This weekend sees Devcon2015 at the Plymouth Guild Hall where Mr B will be running a sharing experience with Minecraft. A few lucky children will also be supporting Mr B and we look forward to sending others throughout the coming year.

## Diary Dates

**Trutex Schoolwear** first Thursday of every month 2:45pm - 4:30pm.

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015 Inc.**

- Half term

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015**

- Last day of term

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016**

- Non pupil day

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016**

- First day of term

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Feb Inc.**

- Half term

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Mar – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Apr 2016 Inc.**

- Easter holidays

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Apr 2016**

- Non pupil day

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

- Bank holiday

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

- Bank holiday

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup> May – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 Inc.**

- Half term

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

- Non pupil day

Dates for  
the Diary:

### Year 5 News

It has been another busy week in year 5 with the children working hard in all the subjects this week, especially their multiplication and division methods and writing their narrative story in English.

Thank you for all the Buckland Abbey trip permission slips which have been returned to school. Please may we request any outstanding slips are returned to your child's class teacher at your earliest convenience. Should you need a replacement letter please ask one of the Year 5 team.

The children enjoyed the visit of Father Simon, who came in to talk about colour in the Christian year. The children were enthralled and asked some very pertinent questions.

#### Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Many Thanks for supporting our Macmillan coffee afternoon last week. We raised an amazing £452.44

Raffle prizes were won by Amelia Ashton 1S £30 Barbican Pasta bar voucher, Karen Hartill £20 Voucher for the Dock Cafe Bar, Julie Spencer Lemon Drizzle cake. The winner whose guess of 555 came closest to the actual number of 576 spots on the cake was Molly Hurrell who won £30.

A huge thank you to the PTFA, parents and staff who worked hard to serve the refreshments. We also want to thank The Barbican Pasta Bar, The Dock Cafe and Bar and Lynne Lucas for their donations to the raffle.

Jane Gilbert, PSA

#### Chickenpox - What to do

To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off school until all their spots have crusted over.

Chickenpox is infectious from one to two days before the rash starts, until all the blisters have crusted over (usually five to six days after the start of the rash).

If your child has chickenpox, try to keep them away from public areas to avoid contact with people who may not have had it, especially people who are at risk of serious problems, such as newborn babies, pregnant women and anyone with a weakened immune system (for example, people having cancer treatment or taking steroid tablets).

We would be grateful if you could **inform school as soon as possible** as we have staff & children with a weakened immune system. Thank you.

#### Lip Balm

A reminder that children are discouraged from bringing lip balms/Chapsticks into school. These are very often glittery coloured and resemble lipsticks/makeup – which are not permitted.

There is a risk to those with allergies, as well as the spreading of germs (cold sores, impetigo etc). They are also a cause for distraction during lessons.

### Year 6 News

Wednesday the children took part in an exciting science lesson. They were able to dissect a heart, label the parts and find out about how the heart works in a practical, fun way. They used drama to represent the circulatory system, taking on the role of a blood cell! On Tuesday 6P and 6M enjoyed their session led by a Plymouth Argyle representative on 'respect.' 6S have this to look forward to next week.

#### 'Schoolmoney'

There is now a computer in main reception for parents wishing to log on to [www.schoolmoney.co.uk](http://www.schoolmoney.co.uk) and pay for dinners, breakfast club etc. The admin team will be available to assist should you require it.

May we ask that parents are mindful when paying for Breakfast Club and Dinners that you click on the correct item as dinner payments go to Catered, whereas the Breakfast Club/trips/music funds are paid into our school account.

### Taekwon-Do

Taekwon-Do classes suitable for whole family - Get fit, have fun and make new friends. Tuesday YMCA Plymouth 6.00 -7.00pm and Thursday All Saints Academy 6.00 -7.00pm also

Little Puma's - a specialised fun filled martial arts learning programme for 4- 7 olds. If your son or daughter:

Doesn't stick with things, has a short attention span, has a hot temper, Lacks confidence, Needs positive role models then send them to us! Tuesday 5.00 - 5.45pm at YMCA Plymouth. First 2 classes FREE!

For more details contact Ms Sue Raven 07740863242 / 01752 417087

#### Thank you

A big thank you to the Dad who kindly handed in a handbag to the Year 6 staff. A very grateful owner and bag are now reunited.

*Please take this Beacon with you to qualify for the offer below*



**YMCA PLYMOUTH**

## 1 FREE GROUP FITNESS CLASS

Try one of our group fitness classes **free with this voucher!** Choose from a range of cardio, strength, dance and specialist classes.

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