

Headteacher News

A great start to the new school year: The end of the first whole week back and it's been superb. It can be both exciting and unsettling starting in a new year group and a new classroom with a new teacher. However, everyone seems to have settled back into the routines very quickly and have really cracked on with their learning. Of course that feeling of being excited and nervous is felt most of all by the children who are starting school for the first time. They have bowled us over with their confidence, their behaviour and their ability to take on board new experiences in their stride. Amazing: a star year group in the making!

Cardboard Boat Race: Take an expanse of water and then build a boat to cross it. Not easy at the best of times. Especially when your building material is cardboard. Nuts eh? It might sound like a recipe for disaster but, believe it or not, it can not only be done but it actually makes for a whole load of fun. Last Sunday, at Commercial Wharf the opening event of this year's Ocean City Festival was the cardboard boat race and Montpelier sent an intrepid team, along with Mr. Carhart, to design, build and race their boats. I think they found the biggest challenge was paddling their craft in the right direction rather than constructing something that stayed afloat. A huge 'well done' to our team though: Oliver Davies, Caitlin Kerswill and Isabelle Lobb (and also Maddison Nunn and Taylor Miller who took part in the building of the boat but didn't get to sail in her)!

Uniform: Just a quick 'thank you' from me regarding the presentation of the children. They looked fabulous on day one and they still look fabulous now. Wearing a uniform is a badge of pride and helps to establish and maintain our school identity. Our uniform reminds us that we're part of something bigger: that we're all in this together, a part of a team. It's also about teaching pupils to dress smartly and take pride in their appearance. Perhaps most importantly, a uniform means our children don't have to worry about peer pressure when it comes to their clothes. When everyone is dressed the same, worrying about what you look like isn't quite so important any more. Perhaps the only comment I have though is to remember to **name their clothing**. The children are brilliant at hanging their jumpers, coats and PE bags up in what are very busy corridors. With so much human traffic around the school though, clothing inevitably gets knocked off the odd peg or two. A named garment of clothing makes it so much easier to return it to the owner. Naming uniform takes a little time but it's not cheap to replace if it's lost for good.

Reading: Reading is the key to success in learning. I know that you know this but it's always helpful to remind ourselves of the importance of it. When just a few months old, a child can look at pictures, listen to voices, and point to things in the pages of a book. They learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to them stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. Even after they learn to read by themselves, it's still so very important for parents to read aloud with them. By reading stories that are on their interest level, but beyond their reading level, you can stretch their understanding and motivate them to improve their skills.

Although our lives are often very hectic, parents should try to read with their child (or children) at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time. Don't be discouraged if you skip a day or don't always keep to your schedule but I would ask that you read to your child as often as you possibly can. Taking the time to read to them on a regular basis sends an important message – that reading is worthwhile. And whilst we will do all that we can to teach them this crucial skill in school, continuous practise at home makes all the difference. It's one of the biggest boosts you can give your child academically and all it costs is a few minutes of your time each day. So please join with us in encouraging a love of reading at Montpelier.

Diary Dates

Fri 7th Oct 2016

- PTFA AGM

Mon 24th to Fri 28th Oct 2016

- Half term

Fri 2nd Dec 2016

- 3:15 to 5pm Christmas Fair

Mon 19th Dec '16 - Tues 3rd Jan Inc.

- Christmas Holidays

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb 2017 Inc.

- Half term

Mon 3rd - Tues 18th Apr 2017 Inc.

- Easter holidays

Mon 1st May 2017

- Bank holiday

Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June '17 Inc.

- Half term

Tues 25th July 2017

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

Wed 26th July 2017

- Start of the summer holidays



Monty's Den

Monty's Den is our onsite after school care. Call Tammy on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Sessions start from £6.50. Flexible booking available www.thedens.co.uk

PTFA News

The PTFA will be holding a drop in coffee time in the new cafe from 9 -10am and 2 - 3pm on Friday 23rd September. This is a time for you to find out about the role of the PTFA.

The AGM will be held in the Community Cafe on Friday 7th October at 9 am.

The Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 2nd December at 3.15- 5 pm. We will again need to help with running some fun stalls etc.

School Money Payments

Thank you to all those who always make timely payments. Disappointingly, debts are already being accrued this term and we would respectfully ask that every effort is made to make payments in advance in line with school policy please.

Year 1 News

It has been a busy week in Year 1. The children were shocked to discover a giant had left behind an enormous pair of glasses in our forest area. Fortunately, our crime scene notes lead us to the culprit... Ask your child to find out more! As well as solving this mystery, we have been making number Beanstalks, taking giants steps into the past and showing off our super reading skills. Wow! Enjoy a well-deserved weekend Year 1!

Year 3 News

We have been really impressed this week by year 3's focus, hard work and enthusiasm for learning. In Maths we have been looking at place value and using lots of practical resources to help us. In English we have focused on what ingredients are needed to make the best sentence. We even had a Year 3 'Sentence Battle!' In reading all the children were really excited to find out about our new reading challenge to read their way around the world. A massive 33,000 mile journey! Thank you for your support already with this. It really does make a big difference when the children are heard regularly and are asked questions to both their reading achievement and enjoyment. We look forward to children getting to Rio- the next stop on their journey!

Year 4 news

This week has been a busy week for year 4, on Tuesday we introduced our new reading reward scheme to encourage children to read and share books with an adult. Children will both develop a love of reading and also their ability to understand the texts they have read is key and we hope this challenge will motivate the children to read even more than they ever have before.

Thank you for your support, it really does make a big difference when the children are heard regularly and are asked questions, to both their reading achievement and enjoyment.

During English we have been writing sentences about our Egyptian day, each year 4 class are battling to have the most dazzling writing and in maths this week we have been investigating numbers. Have a great weekend!

Year 5 News

The children have been working incredibly hard this week, getting to grips with the new Maths system and routines for each class. In English we have begun our work with the 'Moonfleet' novel, looking at the setting and characters.

We hope you are progressing well with your 'Seafarers Homework', which we look forward to displaying in the near future. Remember to read at home and learn your spellings. Have an enjoyable weekend.

Year 6 News

The first full week back in school has been a busy one in Year 6. In English, we took part in a celebrity treasure hunt, finding clues that gave us key facts about famous people. It was so much fun! We are studying various autobiographies, including Tom Daley's, and using them as a model as we work towards writing our own autobiography. We have started our 'Fight for Freedom' topic and are really looking forward to Thursday 22nd September when we are holding our Topic Day and we get to dress up.

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

Montpelier will be again supporting Macmillan Cancer Support by running a coffee afternoon on Friday September 30th from 2-3pm. You will be able to sign your children out of class and enjoy refreshments together. They need to be signed back in again by 3pm. There will be a raffle with generous vouchers from the Dock restaurant and Morrisons as prizes. Do come along and support in your usual generous way for this amazing charity. If you feel you can help in any way please speak to Jane Gilbert (PSA) or a member of the PTFA.

Meerkats - Family Separation Support.

Jane Gilbert (Parent Support Advisor) and Julie Spencer (Learning Mentor) will be running a support group for children who have experienced separation within their family. The aim of the group is to give the children an opportunity to talk about their feelings, understand their emotions and develop coping strategies.

The program will run for 6 weeks during this term and each session will have a play based activity, allowing children to have fun in a relaxed safe environment.

If you feel your child may benefit from this group, or you would like further information please email janegilbert@mpsplymouth.net or call 216160 and speak to Jane or Julie by Friday 23rd September 2016.

Jam Band

Jam Band will begin again on Wednesday 21st September. We will meet as usual in the KS1 Hall at the end of the day but we will finish at the later time of 4.15pm. Please collect in the usual way at the main entrance.

Secondary School Admissions 2017

'The Next Step Parent's Guide – September 2017' provides information for parents on how to apply for a secondary school place. Parents can find this information, together with an application form and a list of secondary schools in the City on-line at www.plymouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions or in the 'The Next Step Parent's Guide', available from the School Admissions Team, Windsor House. ***You need to apply for a school placement by the close of 31st October 2016.***

Primary School Admissions 2017/18

The 'Starting School in Plymouth 2017/2018' booklet provides information on how to apply for a school place, the admission criteria for individual schools and the timetable that the Admission Team will follow. Parents will be able to find this information, together with an application form and a list of primary schools in the City: on-line at www.plymouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions or from School Admissions Team, Windsor House. ***You need to apply for a school placement by the close date 15th January 2017.***

Foundation Class Photos

The Herald photographer came into school this week to take class photos. These will be available to purchase from <http://paulslaterimages.newsprints.co.uk> The supplement will be printed in the Herald from the 4th October.

Ear-rings

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. Again 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.

FREE ENTRY

Kiddi Krazee

Nearly-New Sale

Sunday 25th September - 11am - 3pm

Futures Inn Plymouth

Plymouth International Business Park



Everything for Babies, Children & Parents

FREE
Goody Bag
for the First
100 Visitors!

Guest
Appearance
from
Magical
Moments

FREE
parking!

Fantastic
Raffle

PLUS FREE Taster sessions for babies & children during the day by Born to Move Movement Classes, Balanced Babies, Baby Massage, Tatty Bumpkin & Baby Bumpkin, Frenchtastic and Spanishtastic.



Over 20 stalls selling
Pre-loved children's items &
local businesses showcasing
their products & services!

LIMITED space available, so
Book your stall NOW!

Visit our Facebook page
Email: kiddikrazeevents@gmail.com
or
Call Gemma on 07917646707



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