



Headteacher News

Golden Learning Behaviour

Most of you will probably remember that we introduced Going for Gold back in the summer of 2014 which aimed to recognise all those children who are always good and to more openly celebrate all those pupils that behave so well throughout the school. Since then, behaviour – which was already a great strength of the school – has improved even further. There remains a very small minority of pupils whose behaviour is sometimes unacceptable but they are an ever decreasing minority now thanks to the childrens' ongoing efforts to demonstrate great behaviour and to encourage and expect it of each other. Following the ongoing success of Going for Gold, we have started to introduce Golden Learning Behaviour. This aims to recognise, celebrate and encourage excellent **learning** behaviours and to openly teach children to become better learners. This isn't about studying new facts or building on knowledge so that the children know more 'stuff'. It's about techniques, skills and abilities the children need and (most importantly) can develop further, in order to become better at learning new things.

Golden Learning Behaviour is broken up into four key areas (or dispositions): the 4 R's (which is based on Professor Guy Claxton's 'Building Learning Power'): Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness and Reciprocity. These four learning dispositions are further broken down into seventeen different aspects of learning (or 'learning muscles'): Managing Distractions, Perseverance, Absorption, Noticing, Questioning, Making Links, Imagining, Reasoning, Capitalising, Planning, Revising, Distilling, Meta-Learning, Collaboration, Imitation, Empathy/Listening and Interdependence. By teaching children about these learning muscles and how to become better at doing each of them, we will be able to develop them into more effective learners – able to take on new things and develop their skills, abilities, knowledge and understanding much more effectively. To find out more about this, please visit our website (www.montpelierprimary.co.uk) under 'Information' and 'Golden Learning Behaviour'.

There's lots here that's new to the children so we will be introducing this gradually over time. Although the words used to describe the learning muscles are tricky, you will hopefully hear the children starting to use them when they talk about their learning at home. The first disposition being introduced is 'Resilience'. In order for the children to find it easier to remember, we have created characters. Resilient Robbie is the Zoo Keeper who looks after Managing Distractions Monkey, Persevering Penguin, Absorbing Alligator and Noticing Newt. Managing Distractions is all about recognising and reducing distractions; knowing when to walk away and refresh yourself and also creating your own best learning environment. Perseverance is about keeping going in the face of difficulties, channelling the energy of frustration productively - knowing what a slow and uncertain process learning often is. Absorption is about being able to lose yourself in learning - becoming absorbed in what you are doing; rapt and attentive, in a state of 'flow'. Noticing is being able to perceive subtle nuances, patterns and details in experience. These are all attributes we already use when learning but our aim is to more overtly recognise, identify, celebrate and encourage them and then begin to teach children how to become more proficient at each of them. Watch this space . . . !

Foundation News

Despite the rain, the children all thoroughly enjoyed going on a bear hunt and even experienced snow! Next week our literacy work will be based on the story 'What the ladybird heard' and we will be learning lots of new animal songs. During the last week of half term we will be inviting parents to watch a performance of the story, more details will follow in a separate letter.

Year 1 News

What an exciting week we have had in Year 1. We have had a visit from the Life Caravan where the children learnt with Harold the Giraffe about our wonderful bodies. Next week we will be visiting the university to take part in the "Open Wide Step Inside" program, where the children learn about looking after our teeth. Thank you for those who have supported the trip to Paignton Zoo by making their contribution. If we do not have enough contributions for this trip, then sadly we will not be able to go.

Year 2 News

We have been so impressed with the efforts made by the children with their homework. The recent research task was great, with children choosing to find out about explorers past and present. They ranged from Robert Falcon Scott to Bear Grylls! We have been inspired by the children's creativity on the arrays homework too. So far we have seen football cards, grapes, Moshi Monsters, and even dummies used to help the children with their multiplication! The home reading sticker charts are filling up fast - with a few children on track to earn a star reader prize this term. Finally it is clear that many of you have been learning your spellings, your hard work is evident in your Wow Writes. Keep up the hard work Year Two. Have a great weekend.

Diary Dates

Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb
Half term

Thursday 24th Mar 2016.

- 'Wear a Hat' Mufti

Fri 25th Mar – Fri 8th Apr

- 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

Fri 22nd July 2016

- Last day of term

Wed 7th Sept 2016

- First day of term

Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a fantastic week this week. For classes that the weather has allowed to go, the Mount Edgcumbe adventure was brilliant. The children loved going on the boat over and then being persevering penguins to climb up the hill to see the stunning view back to Plymouth. Keep an eye on E-Schools for photos. Classes that have not been able to go on their adventure yet will hopefully be able to next week. You will be informed by class teachers when this will be. Many thanks for all adult supporters on the trip and for your understanding with the weather! Have a great weekend. The Year 3 Team

Year 4 News

Year 4 have been working extremely hard in English this week, innovating stories from other cultures. In Maths the children have been building on their skills with addition and subtraction using the columnar method, linking this to investigative activities. During topic sessions this week the children have been working together to identify the Worlds climate zones... ask them about their learning!

Year 5 News

This week in year 5 the children have been reading and interpreting timetables, working out travel departure and arrival times and the duration of the journey. In addition, they have begun to write their non-chronological reports using their impressive knowledge of the Vikings and created a Viking quiz using 'Scratch' in ICT. Don't forget to practice your tables on TT Rockstars.

Year 6 News

The Year 6 team would like to invite all parents to a talk on the 10th February at 5.30pm in the KS2 hall. This will be a chance to hear about changes to the SAT's, what the children can expect during SAT's week, as well as an opportunity to ask any questions.

Sainsbury Vouchers

Please send in all Sainsbury Vouchers. There is a box in main reception. Thank you.

Year 6 News

This week children began to plan their imaginary planets - what imaginations they have! We can't wait to read their finished non-chronological reports. All three classes braved the cold to take part in an exhilarating Tag Rugby session and our 'Around The World' dances are now well underway. 6P and half of 6S went all 'masterchef' this morning at SDCC, creating some delicious soups. We hope you enjoy tasting them. 6M and the other half of 6S will do this next week, don't forget to bring a sealed container to carry the soup home in. Please continue to check out eschools regularly - we have put some links on to some spelling games this week.

School Games

Netball

Congratulations to the year 5/6 netball team that competed in the Plymouth festival at Marjons on Tuesday. The team played 5 matches, winning 4 and losing 1, finishing in 2nd position within our table. This was a very difficult event in which Montpelier played extremely well. Well done team, you all should be very proud.

Bronze ambassador

On Wednesday, 9 students gained their level 1 of becoming a Bronze Ambassador at SDCC, these students showed fantastic leadership skills, and will hopefully become sport leaders in the future.

Kit

Have you returned your kit after a sporting event? Unfortunately a variety of Montpelier sporting clothing has gone missing. Being involved in many events it is important that everything is returned, not only do we look smart but also easy to identify. Please return to Mrs Pearce. Many thanks



Children's Dance Workshops

Stiltskin Arts are running free taster sessions next Monday for two new after school classes at their Soapbox Theatre in Devonport Park. The first is Boyllet - ballet for boys (6 to 8yrs) and the other is a mixed Creative Dance class (8 to 12yrs). For more details and to reserve a place email info@stiltskin.org.uk

Laura's Linguistics Spanish Tutoring.

Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest in the Spanish tuition that has been offered from Laura's Linguistics Spanish Tutoring. This is a fantastic opportunity and one we are keen to put on. As mentioned last week, each session will cost £4 and will run after school for 1 hour. The proposed start date for the tuition will be the week beginning 22.2.16. If this is something you would like your child to be part of please let me know.

Mr West

Job opportunity at Playbox Preschool Pennycross Methodist Church Pridham Lane, Peverell Plymouth PL2 3PZ

The purpose of the post is to work part time on a casual basis, to cover practitioner's sickness and training. At some point in the future to work some temporary, set hours, to cover for a one to one worker for children with additional needs.

Level 2 or 3 in childcare would be desirable, however we will look at all applications received.

Hours of work will be between Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 4pm term time only
Pay £7.20 - £7.90 per hour

For full job description and application form please email
sheila@playboxpreschool.co.uk

Bude Payments

The next Bude payment of £50 is due by Monday 1st February 2016 bringing monies paid to a minimum of £250. Please contact Mrs Simpson on 216160 if there is a problem with meeting any of the deadlines.

Trutex Uniform Shop

The Trutex Uniform 'Pop-up' Shop will be in the school reception on Thursday 11th February from 3:00 – 4:30pm selling school uniform.