



Headteacher News

Academy Conversion

You may have either forgotten about our move to become an academy school by April 1st or just thought that it's gone very quiet in that respect. There has actually been a delay in the process. You may well have been keeping tabs on developments regarding academies in the national press. You will know that the government now intends to have every school converting by 2020 with a view to every school being an academy by 2022. Following conversion, most schools will be part of multi-academy trusts, which would allow them to share resources, staff and expertise (this is what we are in the process of doing at the moment). There have been various concerns expressed in editorials and one of those is regarding the Department for Education (DfE) capacity to convert the huge numbers of primary schools that are not yet academies (over 14,000 schools). Now that they have passed a Bill to strong-arm schools into converting, they cannot actually keep pace with the numbers involved. We are intending to form a Multi-Academy Trust with Stoke Damerel Community College but need them to convert their current Single Academy status to a Multi-Academy one in order to be able to do this. Our conversion has been delayed because that Single to Multi-Academy conversion has not yet been successfully processed by the DfE. The length of that delay will completely dictate our own conversion date. I'll keep you informed as the situation develops.

Golden Learning Behaviour

Our fourth and final Golden Learning Behaviour character is currently being introduced to the children. Hopefully by now you know that this concept breaks learning up into four areas - the four R's of Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness and Reciprocity. These four learning dispositions (represented by our new zoo keeper characters) then breaks down into 17 different aspects (represented by animals - making it easier for the children to remember). So far, they have been introduced to 'Resilient Robbie' who manages his distractions, perseveres, becomes absorbed in what he is doing and is good at noticing things (see Issue 17). Next, the children were introduced to 'Resourceful Rafika' who questions things, makes links in her learning, uses her imagination, reasons well and also capitalises well when approaching new challenges (see issue 19). Then the children met 'Reflective Rory' who is good at both planning and revising his learning, distilling what he's learnt and also understands meta-learning (knowing how he learns best). These various attributes make our characters very effective learners.

Now we are introducing 'Reciprocal Rachel' who is great at 'Collaborating': working well with others, respecting and recognising their viewpoints and adding to and drawing from the strength of teams (Collaborating Crab). She is good at 'Imitating': not copying but constructively adopting methods, habits or values from other people she observes (Imitating Iguana). Rachel is 'Empathetic' and listens well: contributing to others' experiences by listening to them to understand what they are really saying and putting herself in their shoes (Empathetic Elephant). And, finally, she is 'Interdependent' because she knows when it's appropriate to learn on her own or with others, and is able to stand her ground in a debate (Interdependent Ibis).

Our aim is that the children will begin to understand all these various facets and processes involved in learning, and be able to discuss them and develop them further and thereby become better, more effective learners. It will take time for the children to fully understand the concepts involved but we are confident that this open approach to discussing how they learn will reap its rewards and enable them to not just pass exams but to become more curious, more willing to take a risk and give it a go, more imaginative, more creative, more thoughtful, more ready, willing and able to learn with and through others. Developing this adventurous spirit towards learning is what it's all about.

I sincerely hope everyone has a lovely Easter break. My thanks to everyone - the children, our staff, our parents and governors for making this spring term yet another very successful one at Montpelier.

Foundation News

This week we have been finishing our sea theme with making pirate earrings and painting of clay sea creatures (which hopefully made it home in one piece!). The children have also been writing about planting their sunflower seed and singing some Easter bunny subtraction songs! Next term we will be learning all about other countries around the world, beginning with Italy and making pizza's. We hope you all have an enjoyable Easter break with the children.

Year 1 News

What a fantastic end to a great term. We planted sunflowers during our 50 Things afternoon and have kept them in school to watch them grow as part of our science when we return in the summer term. Next term our topic will be all about holidays, so if you have any great pictures of your "Holibubs" then please send them in either through eSchools, email or to the class teacher. Have a great Easter break and we all look forward to hearing about what everyone got up to during the holidays.

Massive Maths Mission

Thursday 21st April will be a whole school maths fun day. We would like to invite you in to school at the end of the school day so you children can share their learning.

Missing hat - Loren Morgans in 5S is missing a pink baseball cap with the word 'Miami' written on it. She last saw it on her peg on Thursday lunch time. If anyone has seen it or knows where it is please inform one of the adults in 5S. Thank you.

Diary Dates

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 2 News

What a great week to round off an amazing Spring Term. The children showed us their creative skills during our Art Day on Tuesday. We found out about the artist Friedrich Hundertwasser and the children created their own masterpieces in his style. We will display them in school and then send them home for you to treasure. There are pictures on eschools.

Thanks for joining us for our maths workshops this week, we hope you found it useful. We finished the week with another '50 Things' activity - good luck growing your sunflowers! Happy Easter.

Year 3 News

Wow, what a busy but exciting term it has been for Year 3. Rock-climbing, orienteering and creating their own adventure island, have been just some of the many highlights. It was lovely to share the children's adventure stories with you this week. The children have worked extremely hard over the past term and have all risen to the many challenges we have set them. Thanks as always for all your support, it is much appreciated and has made a great difference to the children's learning. Next term, we look forward to starting our- 'Heritage Hunters' topic and doing a local history study on Plymouth. Have a great Easter, the Year 3 Team

Year 4 News

The end of term is upon us and the children have certainly earned this one! In Maths this week, children have been working very hard developing their understanding of division methods using their multiplication knowledge. In English, the children have been polishing up their information texts using lots of Ancient Egyptian facts they have learnt over the term. With the recent push on spellings, it is clear the children have been practicing hard with the support from you at home. Thank you for your continued efforts with homework, have a fantastic Easter holiday. Year 4 team.

Year 6 News

Thank you to all the parents that collected recycling and sent it in; the children have really enjoyed making their villages this week. They have made us so proud with their attitudes to mock SAT's, trying their best in every test. Thank you year 6. Enjoy a well-earned break!

Year 5 News

Another term comes to an end and we look forward to the Easter holiday. It has been a busy final week with children having an art day on Wednesday and completing their setting and character description in English this week.

Just a reminder that on the first day back we will begin our swimming sessions at the Life Centre, so children will need to bring their costumes and a weatherproof coat everyday regardless of the weather. A further reminder will be sent by text, before the children return to school. Enjoy your Easter holiday!

Music News

Just a reminder that Miss JR's after school music clubs start from the week beginning Monday 18th April- no clubs the first week back. However, all instrumental lessons will start during the first week back. Thank you.

Sports Relief Total Raised

Thanks to your generosity I am delighted to inform you that we raised a total of £482.33 and 5 Euro cents. The money raised will go towards the incredible projects Sport Relief, with 50% funding projects in the world's poorest communities, and the other 50% used to transform lives right here in the UK. Thank you again for your donations.

Bude Payments

The final payment of £55 is due on the 28th March – this brings the total to £355.

Your child's place is at risk if these stage payments are missed. Please contact Mrs Simpson on 216160 if there is a problem with meeting any of the deadlines.

Bude Talk

Please note that there will be a talk to parents regarding this year's trip to Bude on Wednesday 13th April at 5.30pm in the KS2 hall. Essential paperwork will be given out and you will have a chance to ask any questions.

Do you want to Make a Difference for Nature?

Various activities taking place between 29th March and 8th April. Further information call 307760 or email steppingstones@plymouth.gov.uk

Danger

The yellow zig-zag lines outside the school main entrance are there for a reason. These road markings have been proven to significantly prevent accidents between motorists and children by keeping key road and pedestrian areas of schools clear of traffic. There is a restriction from waiting, stopping and parking (even if it is to pick up or drop off children to school) on these yellow zig zags. Parking on yellow zig-zags outside schools puts children's lives at risk. I ask that we all demonstrate thought and consideration for other people's children by not parking, stopping or waiting on these yellow zig-zag lines. And, if you are caught out, would you mind please admitting your guilt and moving on rather than attempting to justify and abuse anyone pointing out the thoughtless and careless act.

Parents' should also refrain from parking on the pavement or across our neighbour's driveways. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

The following car was reported to us for parking on the pavement making it awkward for pram users etc to pass – WG15 AHU.

Montpelier School Games

Athletics

Yesterday 12 children from year 3 and 4 took part in an Indoor Athletics competition at the Life Centre. They had to compete in a range of activities from running, jumping and throwing. First of the track was the girls 1+1 lap relay, the girls with fantastic sprints skills finished the race in 1st position, this then became a trend, where the girls won their sprint races overall. The boys started their events in the field with standing long jump and triple jump, showing determination putting in fantastic distance. It was then their turn on the track once again putting in a fantastic performance. This time the girls were competing in the field events with Amelia King putting in a phenomenal 5m 98 with her standing triple jump. The last race of the day was the obstacle relay, both teams finished in first position. Congratulations you should be extremely proud with your achievements and the training that you have put in, it certainly showed.

Well done team you finished first overall fantastic effort, you are our future athletes for Montpelier Primary School.