

The Beacon

Academic Year 2017/18

Issue No: 19

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The Beacon at a Glance

- **Year Group News** – Find out what has been going on.
- **Headteacher's News** – Non-Pupil Days & School Closures.
- **Other News** – Sport, Music, E-Safety, Phonics.

Headteacher's News

Last week we mentioned that Monty's Den might be able to provide a childcare service on the Non-Pupil Day on Friday 16th March. We've only heard from 3 parents so far regarding this. Unfortunately, with such a small demand, Monty's Den would not be able to offer such a service. So, if you are considering this as an option, please inform us. The cost would be £25.00/full day (07:30-18:00), £13.00/short day (09:00-16:00). If interested, please send a brief email to admin@mpsplymouth.net. If demand increases, Monty's Den will advertise this offer on The Beacon. Regarding closure to pupils, we have been informed by PCC Electoral Services that they require Montpelier as a polling station on Thursday 3rd May. Ordinarily, this would involve school closure for safeguarding reasons. However, Governors and I met with representatives from the Electoral Team and successfully negotiated additional polling staff and security staff to ensure access to the polling room remains secure. As a result, we will hopefully NOT have to close the school on that day. Governors are conducting a final review of the arrangements at their next meeting on 21st February and will decide whether they feel the additional staffing provided means we can remain open. Furthermore, Electoral Services has also agreed to review the use of Montpelier and, hopefully, we will not be used as a polling station in future years.

Foundation News

The children have done some fantastic writing about pets which we look forward to sharing with you at parents evening next week. Please log on to eSchools to book an appointment if you have not done so already. Next week we will be doing lots of learning around guinea pigs and the story 'The snail and the whale'.

Year 1 News

Year 1 received a very exciting letter from a little friend called Herbie the hedgehog. He has helped us to write exciting sentences this week. In maths, we have met 'Multiplication Man' who has helped us learn how to find groups of twos and fives.

Year 2 News

This week Year 2 have been celebrating the birthday of our very own T-Rex. To help him celebrate we explored materials, melted chocolate to make cakes and froze ice to make slushies. We've also enjoyed solving some tricky subtraction calculations and writing diaries from the viewpoint of Mary Anning! What a busy week!

Year 3 News

Year 3 have had an extremely busy week of learning! We have been finding fractions of numbers in maths and focusing on diary writing in English to prepare us for our Mount Edgcumbe diary next week. A huge thank you to the parents of 3M and 3P who have helped with the trips this week. The children had a brilliant time and have lots of stories to share. Reminder - 3S have theirs next Tuesday so wrap up warm and bring a change of footwear as it will be muddy! Have a great weekend.

Year 5 News

This week, Year 5 loved their 'Expedition Day' on Monday. They carried out a range of jobs in their chosen roles; including preparing vegetables and cooking stew over a fire, building camps in challenging conditions and using their carpentry skills to even build mini-rafts! Many thanks for your support in ensuring children had appropriate clothing.

Competition Time

Radio Plymouth and Otter Nurseries are running a competition with primary schools to give away two raised beds with compost and plants so that schools can 'grow their own' this spring and summer. To enter, children need to design a scarecrow using whatever materials they like, there are no limitations! Closing date Thursday 28th March. Please give all designs to Mrs Castles. GET CREATIVE. See below for template.

Key Diary Dates

Mon 12th – Fri 16th Feb Inc. – Half term

Fri 16th March – **Non-pupil day**

Fri 30th Mar – 16th Apr Inc. – Easter holidays

Mon 7th May – Bank holiday

Mon 28th May – Bank holiday

Tues 29th May – Fri 1st June Inc. – Half term

Fri 20th July – End of term - 2:30pm finish (**Yr6 finish at 1.30pm**)

Mon 23rd July – First day of the summer holidays

Trutex Schoolwear (Billacombe Rd) pop-up shop at Montpelier - first Thursday of every month 2:45pm - 4:30pm.

The Schoolwear Shop (Mayflower St) pop-up shop at Montpelier - third Thursday of every month 2:45pm - 4:30pm.

Year 6 News

In English, we are learning how to write a persuasive travel guide. This week, the children showed just how persuasive they were by writing a sales patter - to sell a pen to their teacher!

Recall – Magnetic Putty

BBC News - Amazon removes magnetic putty from website over arsenic fears <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-42830755>

Music News

Last Friday, 15 excited Year 5 pupils travelled to Birmingham to sing in a choir of 6500 at the Genting Arena. They had rehearsed the songs with Miss JR since September and had the time of their lives singing their hearts out, dancing and generally having a wonderful time. They were a pleasure to take and it was a delight to see the joy on their faces for the whole trip!

E-safety drop-in

We would like to invite you to our E-safety Drop-in on Tuesday 6th February 2018, for the international 'Safer Internet Day' in the Café Connect from 2:30 to 3:45 pm. Our neighbourhood PCSO Chris Pooley will be joining us for the drop-in. During this time Chris will be able to answer any of your e-safety concerns. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday. Thank you.

Phonics Workshop

Thank you so much to all of the Foundation parents who were able to attend this week's Phonics Workshop. It was lovely to see so many of you. Hopefully you found the workshop useful. I'm looking to organise more workshops and resources for parents so any feedback would be appreciated. If there are any areas of reading or writing you would like more information on please email me. daniellejones@mpsplymouth.net.

World Book Day

It's that time of year again...

During the week of 1st March, there will be lots of events taking place to celebrate World Book Day. These will include children: coming to school dressed as their favourite book character, attending Bedtime Story sessions and completing a variety of reading quizzes and challenges. There will also be opportunities to swap and purchase books in school. More details to follow...

Football News - Devon Schools County Champions!

It has been a great few weeks for Montpelier Football. Last week, they came runners up in the Plymouth Schools Cup. This week, they took part in the Bettinson Cup and won the Plymouth qualifiers and Thursday evening went to Paignton and won the Devon qualifiers! Huge achievement for the boys who played great throughout. A fantastic effort to Cole Fisher, Sam Hengle, Liam Carr, Corradi Crossfield, Lucas Phillips, Aaron Barrett, Brody Pawley, Charlie King and Carter Killone.

Mr Carhart and Mr Robinson.

Sport News

No Athletics or Cross Country afters school next week due to other competitions.

Netball - Over the last few months, the Netball team have trained hard preparing themselves for the level 2 competition held at Marjons. This event is held annually for all primary schools in Plymouth and surrounding area over 4 days, the winners from each group will then be invited back for the finals. Our first day was Thursday, playing 5 games winning 4 and drew 1, winning our group and through to the final the following day. Knowing this was going to be tough, the team played extremely well winning 2 matches and lost 3, finishing in 4th position overall. The hard work had definitely paid off. Team you were all amazing, you did yourselves proud. You have now qualified for level 3 Devon School Games held in Paignton. Congratulations.

Basketball - Congratulations to the Basketball team, they competed this week and finished in joint 1st position just missing out by 1 basket to play with Plymouth Raiders. Kit Any outstanding sporting kit to be returned ASAP to Mrs Pearce please.

Devon Schools County Champions!



Montpelier Primary School - Design a Scarecrow

