**Headteacher News**

**Parent-Teacher Consultations**

Hopefully you are all aware of the upcoming parent-teacher consultations on Tuesday 28th and Thursday 30th March. I wish to urge every parent to take this opportunity to touch base with their child’s class teacher. These opportunities aren’t just a formality, they’re intended to provide you with a personalised insight into your child’s learning; how they’re progressing, things to celebrate, areas where we may have small concerns, or recommendations for additional support at home. Before meeting with the teacher, it’s always worth discussing school with your child; ask them how they feel about their learning at the moment and if there’s anything specific they would like you to ask about. It might be worth noting down any questions you may have or areas you’d like to discuss - that way you won’t miss anything, as it can sometimes all feel a bit rushed (as we have so many parents to see). During the meeting, don’t hold back from writing anything down if you want - there’s often a lot to take on board and notes are useful to remind you later on once you’ve returned home. Also, as I’m often going on about it, whilst academic performance is obviously important, there are many other aspects of your child’s day-to-day school life that you may not get to know about, like social interactions, so do feel free to ask about any of this too. It’s also a good idea to ask our staff how you can help to support your child at home; learning is a three-way contract between the children, school and home and it always happens best when we’re all working together towards the same goals. Finally, parent-teacher consultations are the regular, arranged times for us to meet with you but you are more than welcome to make contact with us at any time, whether this is at school drop-off or pick-up times, or via email or phone if you can’t make it into school. This is especially important if, for any reason, you are unable to make either of the parent-teacher consultation dates we have set aside this term. I would also recommend that after you’ve had the meeting, take a few moments to talk through what you’ve learnt from the experience with your child - the feedback is really useful for them and can help to further improve their performance in school. I hope this doesn’t all sound too much like ‘teaching grandmother to suck eggs’; I only wish to ensure that we all get the very most out of this valuable opportunity.

Whilst on the subject of parent-teacher consultations, I’m aware that there’s been one or two issues regarding booking a slot using our e-Schools portal via the school website. We introduced this online service following requests from parents to ensure the booking process was more convenient and fair by not requiring you to come into school to make the appointment. I think the eSchools service provides that, so please forgive the occasional technical glitch that may be experienced. If you do have any problems with it, please feel free to contact [support@mpsplymouth.net](mailto:support@mpsplymouth.net) or our office staff who will be more than willing to help you with the process.

**School Meals**

I need to inform you that the price of schools meals is set to increase, from £2.00 to £2.10, from Tuesday 18th April. This will affect almost all of the primary schools in Plymouth but the price still remains amongst the lowest in the region despite this increase. It is only a 10p (5%) rise or an additional 50p per week, and is the first price increase in six years. It comes as a result of recent rises in food and ingredient prices, something we’re all experiencing with our own household shopping. CATERed, who provide the school meals, is a co-operative trading company that is jointly owned by 67 of our local schools, together with Plymouth City Council. Since CATERed was formed, back in April 2015, they have demonstrated their passion to provide high quality, great tasting and appetising school food to children and young people across the city and this has been reflected in their use of fresh, seasonal, local and organic ingredients for the dinners. They’ve also been ethically minded, working with their suppliers to ensure that animal welfare is a priority. They also source as much food as possible locally and from within the south west, thereby supporting local growers and producers. Despite the increase, I hope you still feel that the school meals service offers a fantastic choice, great value for money and helps children be ready to learn. Do remember that pupils in all year groups *may* qualify for benefit-based Free School Meals based on the eligibility criteria around levels of household income set by the Government. If you’re unsure about whether you qualify for this, please do contact the school to find out more.

**Diary Dates**

**Fri 3rd March 2017**

* Vista group photos - Year 6 and Foundation only.

**Fri 17th Mar 2017**

* Mufti – chocolate donation for Easter Fair

**Fri 24th Mar 2017**

* Easter Fair – after school

**Fri 31st Mar 2017**

* ‘[Wear a Hat’ mufti day](https://www.braintumourresearch.org/wearahatday) - for Brain Tumor Research

**Mon 3rd-Tues 18th Apr 2017 Inc.**

* Easter holidays

**Mon 1st May 2017**

* Bank holiday

**Wed 24th May 2017**

* Tempest Photos – Class groups & Year 6 individual photos.

**Sun 21st – Fri 26th May 2016**

* Bude Residential (Yr 6)

**Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June ‘17**

* Half term

**Tues 25th July 2017**

* Leavers’ assembly
* Last day of term 2:30pm finish (*Yr6 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 on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Sessions start from £6.50. Flexible booking available [www.thedens.co.uk](http://www.thedens.co.uk)

**An Open Invitation**

Year 5 and 6 parents are invited into school to meet Mrs Wendy Tout, Chair of Governors, on Wednesday 1st March between 2pm - 3pm in our Cafe Connect.

**Library News and World Book Day**

Welcome back after half term! Just a few things to keep you in the loop about the library and World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March.

Currently there is a timetable for lunchtimes when year groups can explore the library. Next week and thereon, we will also be re-opening the library after school to everyone including parents on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:15pm - 3:30pm. So come and explore a range of wonderful new picture books, stories, poems and non-fiction texts with your child!

With World Book Day fast approaching, we ask if you have any pre-loved but unwanted children’s books lying around at home gathering dust, then please send them into school the beginning part of next week. Along with the remaining books that were culled from the recent library stock check, they can then be donated onto others who can read and enjoy them. Just send them down to Mrs Dyer in 4S. During the World Book Day events, classes will be taking part in ‘The Big Book Off’ challenges. More details for ideas can be found at: http://www.worldbookday.com/big-book-off/ - look for the ‘Parent’ section. If you do complete any of these activities together, feel free to send your work in to Mrs Dyer in 4S. There will be the opportunity for your hard efforts to be displayed around the school to spread the message of ‘Reading for Pleasure!’ A ‘Reading Rivers’ homework will also be sent home this week to complete with your child.

Finally, after school on World Book Day, from 3:15pm-3:45pm there will be a chance to enjoy a showcase of your child’s work. Simply head to their classroom to see what challenge/s were completed in ‘The Big Book Off’. Look out for a display showcase of the whole school’s challenges that were completed that day in the following weeks and check our website for photographs and clips from the day.

**Year 4 News**

The children have all made a great start back after the half term holiday. This week in English we have been reading the story of ‘The Twits’. We have been discussing, expanded nouns, verb tenses and possessive apostrophes. During maths we have been investigating fractions, looking at equivalent fractions and decimals. During our topic lessons we were investigating earthquakes. We are so pleased with the support you are giving your child at home with their reading. Please remind them to put their reading record and their reading book in their school bag every day. Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy your weekend.

**Year 5 News**

Welcome back to everyone as we start another term. This week, the children have been continuing to create their Viking webpages in ICT. While in Maths, we have been continuing our fractions work looking at mixed numbers and improper fractions. In English, our focus has been paragraphing and cohesion between those paragraphs.

Remember to practice your spellings, continuing reading at home and have an adult sign your Reading Record.

**Year 6 News**

It has been a very spooky week in Year 6. We have been learning the skills for writing suspense stories with mysterious characters and scary plot twists. This will be the theme of our activities on World Book Day next week. We are looking forward to our fun-filled day on Monday. We shall be building and racing our own electric-powered cars before going swimming at the Life Centre. Please remember to bring any junk-modelling materials you can on Monday as well as your swimming costume and towel. Have a lovely weekend.

**SB Frankfort U9s Football Club**

SB Frankfort U9s Football Club (school Year 4) are seeking to add 2 players to their team, if you have a son or daughter who would be interested please contact Ken on 07928 315993.

**Foundation News**

Thank you to all our parents for meeting us for Parent Consultations this week. Next week we are looking forward to making Pancakes and celebrating World Book Day. The children are to dress up as a book character on Thursday and they will be creating lots of stories with themselves as the main characters! We would also love to see them coming back to school for Bedtime stories at 5.15pm.

If you have any utensils, pots, pans, colanders etc. that we could add to our ever popular ‘Mud Kitchen’, please pass them to your child’s teacher. Thank you!

**Year 1 News**

It has been a fantastic first week back after a nice break. Lots of the children returned with their consent forms for our Dartmoor Zoo trip, thanks for filling these in so promptly. Talking of zoos, we had a surprise visit from a big, brown bear this week! After we spotted the bear sneaking through the forest, we decided we needed to investigate! A book was left and inside was a fantastic poem which we have loved learning. We look forward to finding out what challenges the bear has in store for us next week! Another highlight this week was painting our clay hedgehogs. The children were excited to find out about colour and tone as well as waiting for these to dry so they could give them a new home! Have a great weekend.

**Year 2 News**

Another fantastic week in year 2. This week the children found out that they would be writing their very own Amazing Dinosaur story to post home. To help us use more adventurous vocabulary in our stories, we have been identifying new words and looking at glossaries in non-fiction books. We have also begun our brand new big maths challenges - look out for a letter in book bags for more details. Have a fantastic weekend.

**Year 3 News**

What a busy and amazing first week back we have had. The children have been set a challenge to write their own 3 little pig’s story and it would be great if they had the chance to learn the original over the weekend. In maths, we have been continuing our work on fractions and ordering and this made them all very hungry talking about pizzas and cake. We would like to thank everybody for all the effort with the costumes for our America Day the children looked amazing and had a great day. Many thanks, the Year 3 team.