

Deputy Headteacher News

World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March as you all know was World Book Day (or put another way a chance for the staff and children to come to school in fancy dress). It was lovely to see the children dressed in such a colourful variety of book character costumes. The children and staff really embraced the day, making it an occasion that, once again, I am sure they will never forget. Much to my delight everywhere I looked triggered a memory of story and adventure, seeing characters such as Fantastic Mr Fox, Willy Wonker, Goldilocks, Harry Potter, and my personal favourite The Boy in a Dress reminded me of the wonderful world that is hidden and waiting to be uncovered within the pages of a text. It was fascinating to see staff and children alike stay in character for the entire day.

The bedtime stories in the evening also went extremely well. It was fantastic to see so many children return to school to take part. All in all we had a great day celebrating books and reading. I would ask every parent to encourage and nurture this love of reading as it truly makes an enormous difference to the potential for children to achieve well at school. My thanks go out to all our staff who go the extra mile to organise these events and then to throw themselves into each occasion to make them so much fun. It makes for a great atmosphere in school and really helps to inspire children in their learning.

Forest Use Notice

Several times it has been noticed that children are using the forest area after school. The forest area is a brilliant learning resource that we are fortunate to have. We can use it with the children to promote outdoor education and to engage and motivate, whilst building lifelong skills. Preparation and maintenance of this resource takes a lot of time and dedication from our staff.

Recently we have experienced challenges when embarking on a forest school session. The area is made difficult to use when staff and children go out to use it and, for example, the log circle has been moved and the kitchen pans have been left around the forest. We always use the forest area with the children with adult supervision as with heavy items such as logs, it is unsafe without. Please can I ask that you ask your children not enter the area after school (the children are fully aware of this expectation) so we can continue to use this space within the school day, without the need to restore it before hand and ultimately ensure that the children remain safe and therefore significantly reduce the chance of an unfortunate accident. Thank you in advance for your support with regards to this. Have a great weekend.

School Sports News - Mrs Pearce

The Montpelier sports teams have had a busy week.

Football

Children from Year 3 and 4 took part in a friendly football festival held at Plymstock last Wednesday on the 3G pitch. The children were divided into 12 teams consisting of players from each of the schools that entered. Working together the boys played good quality football, well done.

Athletics

Last Friday the indoor Athletics team competed against another 15 teams across Devon for the last time in the level 3 Championships. The girls yet again showing a range of fantastic skills on the track and field, winning their heats with ease. The boys also putting in a great performance. The girls with another impressive score of 328, the most points scored by a team and the boys with 200 points, with 528 in total Montpelier finished in 3rd position overall, only 2 points from silver. Congratulations team I am very proud of all of you, your team work, dedication and hard work certainly paid off. Well done.

Diary Dates

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 - 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. Flexible booking available
www.thedens.co.uk

Dog Fouling

Unfortunately some owners are not as responsible about their pets as they should be. We have had reports of dog excrement on the pathways around school. It is unpleasant and can be a significant nuisance if not properly controlled.

This of course is a serious health risk to your children which is of great concern to us.

Hockey/ Netball

Both the hockey and netball teams reached the level 3 regional competition held at Torbay this week after winning the level 2 festival. The hockey team up against tough oppositions only managed to win 1 game, drew 1 and lost the others. While the netball team was in full flow, having to play 7 games in this competition was going to be extremely difficult, yet again nothing seems to faze these children, putting in strong performances winning 5 matches, drew 1 and lost 1. Waiting for the final results, Montpelier once again winning their group and in the semi-finals, the only school from Plymouth. The team playing wonderful netball won that match 3-0, now time for the finals, unfortunately today wasn't our day and lost in the final 5-2.

Basketball

The last competition of the week was the finals in the Basketball, having winning our heat a few weeks ago, we were up against the winners from the previous heats Drake, while on the other court 2 teams were fighting for 3rd and 4th positions. Not starting too great in the first quarter we were down by 10 points. Showing great determination the team managed to get the score closer at half time. Going into the final quarter Montpelier was winning 19-18, determined not to lose the lead the team played magnificently. Final score 31-22 to Montpelier. Another great performance from all children, congratulations.

No Hockey or Athletics club for the rest of this term, you all deserve a rest.

Any school sporting kit needs to be returned please.

Lipson Holiday Clubs

Monday 3rd April - Thursday 6th April
9.30am - 3.30pm. 7-12 year olds can make the most of the Easter holidays, get creative, and meet new friends whilst having fun! This Easter join Lipson for a variety of sports, street surfing, arts & crafts, cooking & an Easter Egg Hunt! For more info call 263284 or email rmilbourn@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk

Year 1 News

What a busy but fun filled week it has been! We love reading in Year 1 so we had a fantastic time on World Book Day. The children all looked brilliant in their costumes and creating our very own 'odd eggs' inspired by Emily Gravett's super story was egg-tremely egg-citing!! The egg theme continues as today we had a very, very special delivery! Over the next few months Year 1 will be raising a 'clutch' of chicks! They are currently living in their special incubator, ready to hatch in a few weeks time... We are so excited for the challenge, sense of responsibility and memorable learning experiences that this will bring and know that the children will make fantastic carers! Have a brilliant weekend

Year 2 News

What a fantastic week in Year 2! We had a very magical day yesterday, dressed in our World Book Day costumes - a huge thank you to you all for being so supportive. We have had a super time writing to Duncan as a coloured crayon. We hope you have a great weekend. The Year 2 Team.

Year 3 News

Year 3 have had an action packed week full of fractions and the Three Little Pigs! The children really enjoyed World Book Day, they looked amazing and loved making their new 'Three Adventure Pigs' puppets and theatres. Thank you for all your support with their costumes and sending in boxes. It was also lovely to see so many of you coming in after school to enjoy their work from the day. If you didn't get chance to the children will be bringing their puppets home to re-tell their new stories this weekend!

Year 4 News

We have been really impressed by year 4's focus and enthusiasm for their learning this week. In Maths we have been finding equivalent fractions and converting fractions to decimals. In English the children have continued reading and discussing the story 'The Twits.' We have been planning and writing our own trick for Mr or Mrs Twit. On Thursday we had fun dressing up as book characters, it was great to see so many children returning to school for bedtime stories in year four. During our SPaG lesson we were investigating adjectival and adverbial phrases. In science the children had fun discussing digestion, finding out what happens to food when it is eaten. Thank you for your continued support and enjoy your weekend.

Year 5 News

What a fantastic response to World Book Day. It was great to see so many different characters and costumes, not only in year 5, but throughout the school. Don't forget to complete the 'River of Reading' homework and use your book voucher too.

On the 22nd March, year 5 will be holding a 'Frozen North Day' linked to our topic this term. More information will be available in the coming week.

Year 6 News

What a brilliant week we have had in Year 6!

On Monday, we spent the morning making cars. We used the designs we had made to build a structure and attempted to power it using a circuit with a motor. Some of us had great success and were able to create a car that moved!

The afternoon was spent at the Life Centre, fully enjoying our reward for all our hard work towards SATs. We had a fun session and loved taking time-out to play with our friends in the pool.

World Book Day was also great fun in Year 6. What amazing costumes you all wore! We loved looking at scary stories and creating a book cover for the short film 'Alma'.

Lost Property

Once again there is a vast quantity of unnamed lost property. It ranges from coats (there are 5), walking boots, cardigans, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, scarfs, drink bottles, lunch boxes and mufti clothes, possibly left behind from 50 things day. It is all in boxes in the first aid room so please come along and claim anything which belongs to you. It will remain in school until Friday 17th March, after which it will have to be disposed of.

Please please remember to label all your children's belongings, this allows them to be independent in the care of their property.

Why is it important for children not to miss school?

Every parent wants their children to get on well in life. Nowadays, it is more important than ever to have a good education behind you if you want opportunities in adult life. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school or alternative provision regularly.

If children do not attend school regularly, they may not be able to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for teachers to find the extra time to help a child catch up. And it's not only the academic work: missing out on the social side of school life – especially at primary school – can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships, a vital part of growing up. There is a clear link between absence and attainment.

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery classes through primary school, will also help your child later on. Employers want to recruit people who are reliable. So children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of getting a good job.

Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher, and the other children in the class. Children coming into school late need to sign in at the school office and indicate their lunch choice.

Twenty two pupils were late last week, 1 child was late 4 out of 5 days, whilst another was late on two of the days, the other 20 children were all late on one occasion.

Here's a reminder of the start and end times of the school day

Foundation	KS1	KS2
8.40 – 8.50am Doors open, register	8.40 – 8.50am Doors open, register	8.35 – 8.45am Doors open, register
10.50 – 11.10am Break	10.50 – 11.10am Break	10.50 – 11.10am Break
12.00 – 1.00pm Lunch	12.10 – 1.10pm Lunch	12.15 – 1.15pm Lunch
3.10pm Finish	3.10pm Finish	3.15pm Finish

*** Children should not arrive on the school site before 8:30am**

Some parents may find it hard to get their children to attend school – let the school know. As well as the Class Teacher, SENCO, Head Teacher etc. we also have a Parent Support Adviser, Jane Gilbert (Telephone: 07894 596204 or email janegilbert@montpelier.plymouth.sch.uk) as well as a Family Engagement Lead, Mrs Rachael Shotton (Telephone 07715 212129 or email rachaelshotton@mpsplymouth.net).

Research has shown that children who are not in school are most vulnerable and are easily drawn into crime. Those children who play truant are more likely to offend than those that do not. In primary schools less than 65% get good results in Maths and English in schools with an average of 15 days absence compared to around 90% in schools where the average is less than 8 days. Many parents are surprised how quickly their children accumulate 15 days absence. Every lesson in school matters - children who have time off find it difficult to catch up. The school must be notified on the first day of absence, for whatever reason, for a child's absence. We are charged by legislation to show the number of absences from school for the preceding academic year and these will be included on your child's annual report. All absences must be accounted for by letter, telephone or in person. If we do not receive notification from you then please expect a call from us sometime during that first day. There is a dedicated absence answer-phone so messages can be left 24 hours a day. Parents of children with persistent absence may also receive a letter requesting medical evidence for all future absence – i.e. a doctor's appointment card, prescribed medication or doctor's note/letter. Any absence without this proof will be recorded as unauthorised.

Dentist & Doctor's Appointments

Can we ask parents that, except in an emergency, all doctor and dentist appointments are made outside of school hours. In the event that this is not possible, then children should be collected from school as near to the appointment time as possible and then returned back to school straight afterwards. If the medical appointment is during the school day, evidence must be provided. A whole days absence is not deemed necessary for a medical appointment that occurs in the morning – the child would be expected to return to school in the afternoon, and vice versa.