

Headteacher News

Mixing of Classes – A Questions and Answers Session – Wednesday 14th June at 5:00pm.

We sent a letter out to all parents on 21st April, explaining that we have introduced a new approach to how classes are organised for the start of Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5. It explained that from now onwards, at the end of their Foundation Stage year with us, we will review the three classes and create three new class mixes for the start of Year 1. Also, we will review the classes at the end of Year 2 and Year 4, with the intention of adjusting their composition for the start of Years 3 and 5 respectively. The purpose behind this new approach is to create balanced classes based upon the characteristics that are proven to impact upon academic achievement, such as: gender, ability, language acquisition, absence levels, behaviour, date of birth, special educational need and social background. There are currently classes with a disproportionate number of children who have, for example, social, emotional, and/or behavioural needs and this can have a significant impact on the class dynamic. There are also classes in which there are significantly more boys than girls (and vice versa) which can make it difficult for children in terms of friendship groups and preferred working partners. It only seems right, as we have the capacity to do something about it, to address the imbalance so that each of the classes has an equal distribution of children (according to the above characteristics).

Since announcing this change, I've received a handful of emails that have raised concerns and asked further questions. Thanks to those parents who have done so because, although we do think through how we will implement any change like this very carefully, it's always helpful to receive constructive feedback and also to further clarify anything that remains unclear. We did of course anticipate that there would be concerns regarding the change as it involves friendships between children. All of those coming towards the end of their Year 6 here are acutely aware of this friendship issue at the moment as some of them may not even be in the same school next year. At least with this internal change to how we operate, if they're not still in the same class, they'll be next door to each other and will still be able to play together at break and lunchtimes.

Montpelier does pride itself on the happiness of the children here and, no matter how we approach this, there will be a degree of apprehension. And whilst friendships and pupils being happy is very important to us, occasionally, decisions driven by what's best for their education, as a whole cohort of children, have to take precedence. Change such as this can always be unsettling but, in our experience, the anxieties are only temporary.

We are holding a parents' Q&A session next week (on Wednesday 14th June at 5:00pm) which will be an opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have and ask any further questions. Be mindful though that this Q&A session is **not** part of a consultation but a chance for further discussion about a change that **is** taking place for this September.

The inherent challenge with any changes we make is that parents always have very different viewpoints. There are some that are very happy with what's happening and want the school to make all the decisions regarding where their children are placed because we know how the children operate in school, and they feel it's good for their children to make new friends in the year group and that we are redressing any imbalances in the classes. Equally, there are others concerned that their children have close friendships and a potential move away from them would be upsetting. Their children aren't so quick to make new friends and they don't want this to negatively impact on their time in school. As always, I'd caution turning to social media to voice concerns as you don't receive the relevant answers that way. The most constructive approach is directly to school.

Please email me to let me know you'll be coming (so I know what size room to make available) and also send in your questions so that we can structure the opportunity and ensure everyone's questions are answered. Thank you.

Email: head@mpsplymouth.net or Tel: 216160

Diary Dates

Thurs 15th June 2017

- Class 5 & Year 5 Class photos
- Proms in the Playground 6-7pm

Mon 19th June 2017

- Race for Life event

Wed 21st June 2017

- Yr 2 – Trip to Wembury

Mon 3rd July 2017

- Foundation & KS1 Sports Day

Tues 4th July 2017

- KS2 Sports Day

Wed 5th July 2017

- Reserve Sports Day

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

Mon 4th Sept 2017

- Non-pupil day

Tues 5th Sept 2017

- First day of term

Mon 23rd – 27th Oct Inc.

- Half term

Wed 20th Dec – 2nd Jan Inc.

- Christmas holiday

Wed 3rd Jan 2018

- Non pupil day

Monty's Den

Monty's Den is our on-site after school care. Call on 07522 429599 for more information or to book a session. Flexible booking available.

www.thedens.co.uk



Foundation News

Despite the unpredictable weather, all classes were able to go 'Camping' and light a camp fire where we sang songs and toasted marshmallows! Please can you ensure your child has a pair of wellies which are kept in school. The children are very excited about the appearance of new role play areas which they will be exploring next week: Beach cafe, Minibeast garden and People who help us. As Sports day will soon be upon us, PE sessions will often be outside so all PE kits with plimsolls should be in school. Thank you.

Year 1 News

We hope that you've received the information about our upcoming superhero party on 19th July! Preparations began this week as we explored interesting shapes and vibrant colours in Art whilst designing some superb superhero masks. We've also loved reading a brilliant book this week called 'Charlie's Superhero Underpants'. This provided lots of entertainment as the children predicted where the pants may have landed after flying off the washing line! We hope you have a great weekend.

Year 2 News

What a great first week back! The children have settled fantastically and are showing the same, great enthusiasm towards their learning. This week we have been writing character descriptions for The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch characters, learning about the world's continents and oceans and have successfully released our butterflies. We are very excited for our trip to Wembury beach. The Wembury Wardens will be in next Monday to do a workshop with the children. Thank you for all the voluntary contributions and permission slips that have been returned so far. Unfortunately, the current funds we have received are insufficient. We appreciate that this can be a costly time of year for parents/carers but without enough voluntary contributions the trip will have to be cancelled. Obviously, we want to avoid this at all costs as we know how much the children are looking forward to it. If you are unable to make the full contribution, any donation that you are able to offer will be greatly appreciated. Have a great weekend.

Year 3 News

We have had a very busy few days back in school this term. We started our World War 2 project on Monday with children learning all about Evacuation and the effects that the war has had on the local area. This will be our focus for the rest of term and the children are really excited about this. In Maths, children have been learning how to calculate change, hopefully they will be able to put this to good use over the weekend. Many thanks for all your support and we look forward to an eventful and action packed Summer Term. The Year 3 team.

Year 4 News

What an exciting week Year 4 have had! We received a letter from Wallace and Gromit asking for our help to create some new inventions and write some explanations text for them. We learnt about the features of an explanation text while exploring the 'Teacher Pleaser Machine' and the 'Tidy Your Bedroom Machine'. In Maths, we secured our knowledge of the compact method for multiplication. In Science, we made our own circuit and learnt about circuit symbols. Thank for your continued hard work. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 5 News

The final term is upon us but the hard work needs to continue for the final few weeks. We have begun to look at mythical creatures in English so we can create a descriptive poem. In Maths this week we have been preparing for next year and assessing all the things the children can do well and those concepts which need to be a focus for next year. Well done to 5M for winning the 'Battle of the Bands' on TT Rockstars during the half-term break.

Bude Meeting for Year 5 parents/carers

In May 2018 we will be taking a group of Year 6 children on a residential trip to Bude for a week. We will be holding an information session at 3.30pm on Wednesday 21st June in the Key Stage 2 Hall. Please come along to find out more about the visit and to ask any questions you may have.

Year 6 News

Bude Lost Property

A huge thank you to parents for making sure the children's belongings were so well named, enabling us to reunite most stray items with their owners. We just have a couple of hoodies, socks and water bottles unclaimed. If you think they may be yours please check with the Year 6 Teachers.

Music News

Don't forget to return permission slips and buy tickets online for **Proms in the Playground** next Thursday at 6pm. (There is no more Thursday choir this term.) The last Year 2 and 3 choir will be on Tuesday 13th June) Looking for something to do on Sunday? Come and see the steel band perform at Devonport Park bandstand at 11am in aid of Children's Hospice SW

Our School's Race for Life

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to our Race for Life event.

You should now have received final details and "I race for life for..." cards for you to complete and wear on the day.

If you have not yet returned your registration slip to participate in our after school event at Central Park, on June 19th, please do so as soon as possible.

If required, additional registration letters and sponsorship forms can be collected from Julie Spencer or Jane Gilbert.

As a school we are mindful that there are families who aren't able to attend the 'family' run after school, so once again the school will be organising running events during the day for ALL children to get involved – KS1 will run a course on the school site in the morning, and Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will run/walk the 1 mile course set out in Central Park, during the afternoon.

The day will be 'mufti sportswear' including all or some pink, with suitable running shoes.

Many thanks, Race for Life Team

The Herald - Free Father's Day Greeting

In The Herald and online at www.plymouthherald.co.uk/notices on Saturday 17th June and will comprise of a simple greeting or poem of approximately 20 words. Book online by visiting:

www.plymouthherald.co.uk/bookonline

All messages will appear as below in the following format:

JONES Mark You are my super daddy! Happy Father's Day! Lots of love Thomas x x x

The messages are available to book now! The final deadline for placing messages will be at 17:00pm on Wednesday 14th June. However, we would highly recommend getting your notices in prior to Monday 12th June as after this date there is no guarantee there will be enough space. So please book early.

Devonport High School for Boys

Open Days

Tues 4th July 2017, 5 – 7.30pm & Mon 10th July 2017 9 – 11am

11+ Familiarisation session

Sat 10th June 2017 free of charge

Admission Tests

Sat 16th & Sat 23rd September

For more info Tel 01752 208787

Lipson Co-operative Academy

Open Afternoon


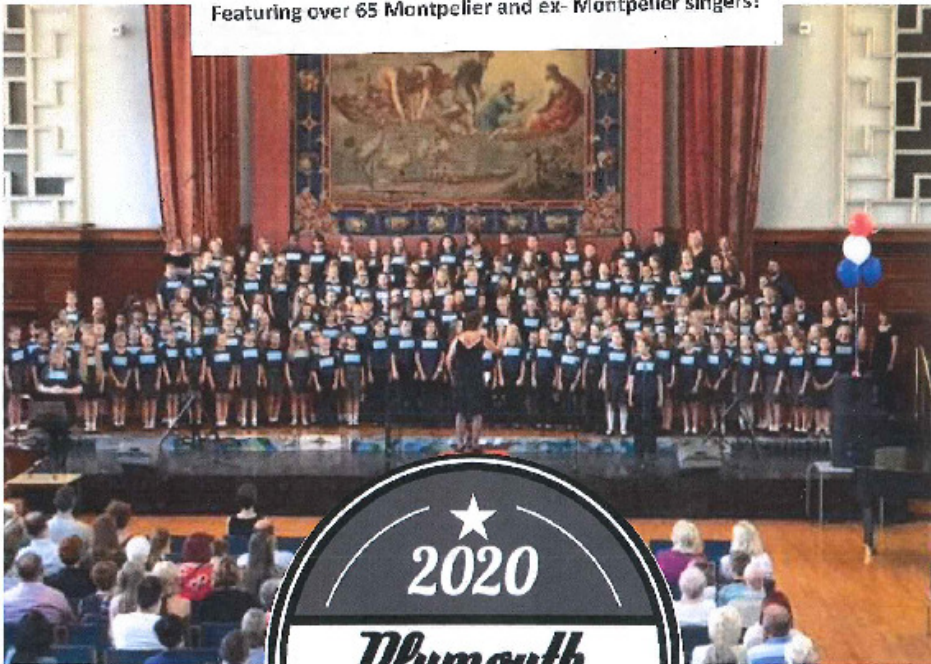
Thursday 22nd June between 4-7pm Tel: 01752 671318 or

www.lipsonco-operativeacademy.coop

LOST PROPERTY

Once again there are two bins full of lost property. Please make your way to the first aid room where it will be ready for you to claim anything that belongs to you.

Featuring over 65 Montpelier and ex- Montpelier singers!



Plymouth International Chorus
presents...

The wonderful sound of 180 young people
from Plymouth, Devon and Plymouth, Massachusetts

Come and celebrate Mayflower 400 with us!

Wednesday 28th June 6.30pm
Plymouth Guildhall, PL1 2BJ

FREE