

The Beacon

Academic Year 2018/19

Issue No: 33

Date 14th June 2019

Hello from Mrs Hunter

Since becoming Montpelier's Headteacher I have introduced a variety of changes. For parents these have included increased opportunities to attend special assemblies, parent information evenings and also the creation of Parent Forum and the regular sharing of news on the official Facebook page. The increased number of Pupil Voice groups this year has ensured that our children have a recognised avenue with which to share their ideas and preferences and there have been many occasions where I have informally sought parent opinion – either by putting out a request in The Beacon or chatting with people on the gate or at Parent Forum.

While these methods cannot tell me what every parent in the school thinks is does give me a good indication. For example, I shared my intention to change the summer term reports at two Parent Forums and on both occasions this was met with universal agreement. (We have tried an evening Parent Forum but we had no one who wanted to attend so have left it as a day time session). There are other times when I have had to ask for parent feedback. An example of this is the recent dialogue that we have had with you regarding getting a school assistant dog; this is a strict requirement of the charity Dogs Helping Kids who we want to work with. There are other decisions that as a school we make on behalf of the school family based on our professional opinion. An example of this is our decision to mix classes at the end of each year.

A few parents have asked me if there is any guidance as to when I seek parents' opinion and when I don't. I am afraid that there is no hard and fast rule on this – we make changes and developments and tweaks daily. We are the largest primary school in Plymouth with approximately 80 staff, 660 pupils and 1000 parents and so a practical approach is needed. What I can assure you is that I always make the best decision that I can at the time with the information that I have available to me. I use my professional judgement, draw on the twenty plus years of experience I have of working in schools and seek the opinions of my colleagues. I know that some decisions I make will not please everyone: that would be impossible. But I will always make those decisions with the best interests of all our pupils at heart. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Hunter ☺

Proms in the Playground

We are looking forward to Proms in the Playground on Tuesday, 6pm-7pm featuring our fabulous choirs with a programme of sing along, feel good music. Have you bought your tickets from school money yet? Entrance is through Parker Road for the concert which will be held on the Adventure Playground.

Year 2 choir has now finished for the year. Thursday choir has finished for all those children not singing in the Plymouth International Chorus. Thanks to all who have attended.

No Wednesday Steel Pan on Wed 19th June, back to normal on the 26th, which is the final rehearsal of the year.

Monday steel pan continues as normal until the last rehearsal on Monday 24th June.

Changes to Sports Day

Please note that Sports Day for Year 5 and Year 6 will now be on Monday 1st July at 1:30pm. As you know, we like to give parents as much warning as possible of the dates key events are held on. Because we use the DHSG field, we book our sports day a year in advance. Unfortunately, in the last week we have become aware that many of our children in Year 6 have their secondary school transition date on the same day as their sports day. To try to avoid any disappointment for our pupils missing their final sports day (including the 'infamous' year 6 tug of war) we have decided to rearrange the event. We apologise profusely for the inconvenience this may occur particularly to the year 5 parents, but hope that you all will understand the reasons behind this.

We want to create many happy memories for all of our pupils, especially year 6 as they leave our school family, part of this is them being able to participate in sports day. We thank Mrs Pearce, DHSG and Mr Robinson for pulling out all the stops to achieve this. We may need to ask for parental help on the day to count team points but will contact you about this next week.

We now only hope for good weather!

School Term Dates for 2018/2019

Tues 25th June – Parent's Evening for Years 1 to 6

Thurs 27th June - Parent's Evening for Years 1 to 6

Mon 8th July - Race for Life

Fri 28th June – Sweet and chocolate mufti for Summer Fair

Mon 1st July - KS1 (Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2) Sports Day, starts at 10am / Years 5 and 6 Sports Day starts at 1:30pm

Tues 2nd July - 9:30am Years 3 and 4 Sports Day

Fri 5th July – PTFA Summer Fair

Wed 10th July - Foundation Parent's Evening

Thurs 11th July - Foundation Parent's Evening

Wed 24th July - 2:30pm end of term finish (*Yr6 finish at 1.30pm*)

Thurs 25th July 2019 - Non-Pupil Day

School Term Dates for 2019/2020

Tues 3rd Sept – First day of term

Mon 21st to Fri 25th Oct – Half term

Fri 29th Nov – Non-Pupil Day

Fri 20th Dec – Fri 3rd Jan 2020 Inc. – Christmas Holidays

Mon 6th Jan – Non-Pupil Day

Mon 17th – Fri 21st Feb Inc. - Half term

Mon 30th March – Mon 13th April Inc. – Easter holidays

Tues 14th April – Non-Pupil Day

Fri 8th May – Bank Holiday – *please note the change of date*

Mon 11th May - Yr6 SATs

Sun 17th May – Yr 6 Bude

Mon 25th – Fri 29th May - Half term

Fri 26th June – Non-Pupil Day

Wed 22nd July – end of term

Thurs 23rd July – First day of summer holidays

School Book Fair

After School Mon 12th, Tues 13th and Weds 14th June.

KS2 Hall

Every book we sell enables us to buy a new book for the new library.

Look out for the 'Favourite Book Competition' for a chance to win a £5 voucher to spend.

School Sports Kit

Have you any outstanding sports kit? If so it needs to be returned ASAP to Mrs Pearce.

After School Sports Club

Please note there are no Sporting after school clubs this term.

Plymouth Armed Forces Day – Saturday 29th June, Plymouth Hoe

Join us on Plymouth Hoe for a fantastic fun day celebrating our Armed Forces. There will be activities for all the family to enjoy and get involved in, from exploring military vehicles, weapons displays and vintage fire pumps, to tackling the Royal Marine's obstacle course, or the Army's climbing wall. Explore the dynamic displays in the Royal Navy village and experience the interactive visual suite on the new Royal Navy Type 26 Frigate. You can even meet a military pony!

There will be lots of interesting and interactive displays within the Veterans village, with over 75 organisation and charities offering information, support and advice on a wide range of issues.

Enjoy the spectacular air display featuring the RAF Red Arrows, who are returning to Plymouth for the first time since 2012. There will also be a flypast from a Royal Navy Merlin, RAF Spitfire and a display from the Sea Fury T20. The exciting arena programme will see highlights including the Tri-Service Field Gun competitions and the awesome unarmed combat display by the Royal Marines. Up to 20 schools will be participating in the thrilling Junior Field Gun competition throughout the day on their dedicated arena area.

There will be live music throughout the day, including the Military Kids Choir, Military Wives Choir, The Band of HM Royal Marines Plymouth, City of Plymouth Pipe Band and the Rock Choir. We are delighted to have the Plymouth Music Education Hub providing a spectacular programme of live music from 11am to 3pm on their dedicated stage. The entertainment continues into the evening, with a free concert. Dance the night away with One Step Behind, Europe's biggest tribute to Madness, a Tom Jones tribute act, HM Royal Marine Function Band, Plymouth and Scarlett Lee, the 2018 X Factor runner-up.

For more information including the event programme, visit: www.plymoutharmedforcesday.co.uk

**BOOK
OF
THE
WEEK**



When the government refused to allow 3000 child refugees to enter this country in 2016, Nicola Davies was so angry she wrote a poem. It started a campaign for which artists contributed drawings of chairs, symbolising a seat in a classroom, education, kindness, the hope of a future. The poem has become this book, movingly illustrated by Rebecca Cobb. A brilliant example of how stories allow us to discuss challenging topics with children.

If you have shared a book with your child and would like to recommend it, please email me. daniellejones@mpsplymouth.net

Schoolmoney Debts

Thank you to all those parents who regularly pay in advance and keep their accounts in credit. May we take this opportunity to remind everyone that payment for school meals and Breakfast Club should be made in advance as per school policy. Unfortunately, debts are mounting and at this moment in time are over £1,200. All debts need to be paid by next Friday please, after this time all debts will be passed on to Mrs Hunter.

If you are unable to make payment for whatever reason please contact Mrs Simpson in the school office.



Girls - Football Sessions



School Years 1, 2, 3 & 4

FREE TASTER SESSIONS

When: Thursday Evenings 6:00pm

Where: Central Park, Outside Life Centre on the grass

Just turn up and play or contact us on the below options

Players of all abilities are welcome

For further details Contact - Ian Nicholls 07880 346 380

www.plymouthphoenixgirlsfc.co.uk

Plymouth Phoenix Girls FC — A girls only football club.

