The Beacon

Academic Year 2019/20

Issue No: 17

Date 31st Jan 2020

Hello from Mr West

It can be shocking and upsetting to learn that your child has been intentionally physically or emotionally hurting others; and even more distressing to discover that your child may have been on the receiving end. When this behaviour is repeated several times on purpose the perception shifts from being a one off - something out of character - to bullying. This is aggressive behaviour that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power or strength.

At Montpelier, we take this issue extremely seriously. Our duty is to provide a safe and secure environment for the 652 children and their extended families that have chosen to attend our school. Anti-bullying education is an active part of each child's learning from the very first day they step through the door. We use the acronym S.T.O.P (several times on purpose and start telling other people) at Montpelier and I am confident if you asked your child to explain its meaning, they would be able to do so.

Preventing and stopping such behaviours involves a commitment to creating a safe environment where children can thrive, socially, emotionally and academically, without being afraid (something we believe we have and something we are extremely proud of).

Part of this commitment is also understanding the rational for the behaviour in the first place. Children do so for many reasons. Some do it because of personal insecurities; picking on someone who seems emotionally or physically weaker provides a feeling of being more important, popular, or in control. And some, as difficult as it is to comprehend, do it because they simply lack the understanding that it's unacceptable to insult and make reference in a negative form to individuals who are different because of size, appearance, race or religion. As difficult as it may be to process, our commitment is to both parties. Ensuring children feel safe and supported, if on the receiving end of such behaviour; and have understanding of the consequence of actions if they are the perpetrator.

The most crucial factor, from our perspective, is being able to act at the earliest opportunity, essentially, right away. If such behaviours are not stopped it can lead to more aggressive antisocial behaviour. In the case of a victim or perpetrator, it can interfere with success in school and the ability to form and sustain relationships, which is a vital element of child development.

Parental voice is crucial to help us deliver our end of the commitment to eradicate such behaviour. Let your child know that this behaviour is unacceptable; please reinforce the message the children hear from us. Tell your child to start telling other people, push the message that no one has the right to hurt others, make them aware that issues will be dealt with and these aggressive behaviours will not be tolerated.

Your support with this is greatly appreciated I do hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Parents Evening

Reminder - Parents Evening will be held on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th February. If you have not already signed up for your ten-minute appointment then please do so via eSchools.

School Term Dates for 2019/2020

Tues 11th - Parents Evening Thurs 13th - Parents Evening Mon 17th - Fri 21st Feb Inc. - Half term Wed 26th Feb - Parent Forum Mon 30th March - Mon 13th April Inc. - Easter holidays Tues 14th April - Non-Pupil Day Fri 8th May - Bank Holiday Mon 11th May - Yr6 SATs Sun 17th - 22nd 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



I'm so excited that Mrs Elliott's Stargazers Club will be sharing this book.

It's an extraordinary pop-up book that reveals the secrets of the most famous fairy-tale villains: giants, wolves and witches.

Lift the flaps to see the devilish tricks inside each villain's head, what's beneath their disguise and who was the victim of their last meal (now comfortably settled inside their stomach!)

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

Football Kit

The school is running short of football team kit. The grey Nike shirts with black shorts and socks are very low in number (from 15 when new down to 9) and the green shirts with white shorts and green socks are also low in number too. Please return them if you have used them to Mr Robinson as soon as possible



Headlice

Head lice - they're back!! Keep checking your child. Do not share items that touch the head like combs or towels. Avoid head-to-head contact. Tie up long hair.

Head lice are not particular – they like dirty hair, clean hair, long hair, and short hair: what they don't like is lots of combing – as they get easily injured. They also dislike conditioner as it makes the hair shaft too slippery to cling onto.





HEAD LICE ALERT

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HAIR TONIGHT!!

TO CHECK

Check the scalp for insects or eggs. Use a fine-tooth comb on wet hair then comb through the hair in sections looking for eggs or lice, repeat over a few days.

TO TREAT

Wet the hair and scalp with conditioner or use chemical shampoo/ lotion (containing insecticide) – this will kill the lice and eggs. Using a fine metal comb, or special head lice comb you can get from a chemist, go through the hair in sections to comb the lice and eggs out.

Always re-treat 7–10 days after the first treatment, to kill any head lice that may have hatched from eggs that survived the first treatment.

TIPS

Check and treat the hair every night
Please tie up long hair for school
If your child has head lice please check everyone in the family home
Do not share hairbrushes, towels, hats/ scarves etc.



