

# The Beacon

**Academic Year 2019/20**

**Issue No: 8**

**Date 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2019**

## *Hello from Mr West*

There is no better place to be during the working day than in school. There are parts of my role that take me away from Montpelier, but this week I have had the pleasure of witnessing the children return following the half term break and flourish in their classroom environments, have opportunities to learn new skills and share moments that will undoubtedly allow them to grow as people. The weather might be miserable but the children certainly are not. Smiling faces and children asking how my day has been has become a daily experience. From this, I draw two conclusions – that the children are happy and therefore we must be doing something right.

Being happy is fundamental. In a world that is fast paced with access to everyone and everything being at the swipe of a screen, being happy should be the prerequisite for everyone. Happiness for me is in the small things with children a wonderful reminder of how simple life should be. They appreciate the little details, take in the experiences afforded to them and enjoy the moment they are in – something we should all do more often and something I hope you can do over the weekend.

We have so many wonderful experiences to look forward to throughout the coming weeks, so sit back, relax and enjoy what is always a wonderful time of year. Have a great weekend, it certainly is deserved and I look forward to doing it all over again next week.

## *Tempest Photograph Orders*

Photograph orders need to be in by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, after this time orders will not be placed and monies will be returned to you unplaced.

## *Change of menu*

Please note that due to our 'Service Lunch' on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November there will be a change of menu that week. Monday 11<sup>th</sup> will be roast chicken or veggie pie and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November will be pizza or spinach & sweet potato curry.

## *School Term Dates for 2019/2020*

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Nov** – PTFA Quiz Night

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Non-Pupil Day

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 6pm Montpelier Choirs' Carol Service, Plymouth Methodist Central Hall

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2020 Inc.** – Christmas Holidays

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Non-Pupil Day

**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Feb Inc.** - Half term

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> March – Mon 13<sup>th</sup> April Inc.** – Easter holidays

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup> April** – Non-Pupil Day

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank Holiday – ***please note the change of date***

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> May** - Yr6 SATs

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – Yr 6 Bude

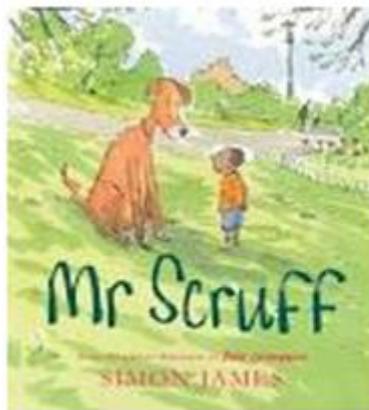
**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> May** - Half term

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> June** – Non-Pupil Day

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> July** – end of term

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – First day of summer holidays

# BOOK OF THE WEEK



I was lucky enough to meet with Simon James this week and hear him talk about his newest book – Mr Scruff. Hearing him talk about the writing and illustrating process and seeing the many, many sketches, which led to the final copy, made me love the book even more!

A rhyming story, children will love, with an underlying message of friendship and finding a partner who might not be who you expected.

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

## Foundation parents and carers

We would like to invite you to find out more about maths in the Foundation Stage and 'Maths Moments at Home'. The event will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 5:00-6:00pm and is for parents and carers only.

You will be pleased to know there will be no maths test! During the hour, you will have the opportunity to use the maths equipment your child plays with at school and take away with you simple ways you can support your child with their maths development at home. You will receive a 'Maths Moments at Home' booklet and access to maths videos, which show how children progress in maths.

We look forward to seeing you next week!

## Sports News

Wednesday saw our first Warm up Indoor Athletics competition held at SDCC. This event saw 7 teams, 2 from Montpelier, Green team (year 6) and White team (year 5). The races started with the Green team dominating the track and the White Team trying to earn valuable points on the field events, time to swap over to see what the White team can produce on the track. The children's hard work paid off, winning all races in their heat. Waiting for the results, we knew it would be close for both our teams. Congratulations to the White Team for winning overall with Greens in 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Cafe Opening

From next week the Cafe will be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 3.15-4pm. We ask for a small donation to help replenish stocks. Do drop in and keep out of the cold while you are waiting for children to finish after school clubs.

The cafe is also open this term on:

Tuesday from 8.45-9.30am for KS1 Parents and Thursdays from 8.45-9.30am for Foundation Stage parents. Do pop in and say hello when you can.

Jane Gilbert, Parent Support Advisor



**Friday 15th November**

**Mufti day: Wild and Wacky Sports Fancy Dress!**  
**Voluntary donations for Children in Need.**

**Children's Bake Off: Children to bring into school their cake creations on Friday 15th November. Throughout the day all children will have the opportunity to vote for the best looking cake!**

**Please join us at 3.15pm in the KS1 and KS2 hall to buy a slice of cake.**

**Competition time! There will be a whole school optional Pudsey homework competition with a 50p entry fee. We will send the homework out on Friday 8th November, to be returned by Thursday 14th November. Winners will be announced on Friday.**

# A Message from Monty!



Hi Parents and Carers,

We all know that it's really important to have conversations with your child/children about making good choices when online, but it can be difficult to think of engaging ways to do this.

There is a great series of three animations called 'Jessie and Friends' which are designed for families to share together and help teach children to recognise situations which might worry them when they are online.

Each animation has been specifically created for different age groups from 4 - 7. There are also storybooks to accompany each animation.

The animations and storybooks can be found here

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/>

Advice for parents and carers about using these animations can be found here

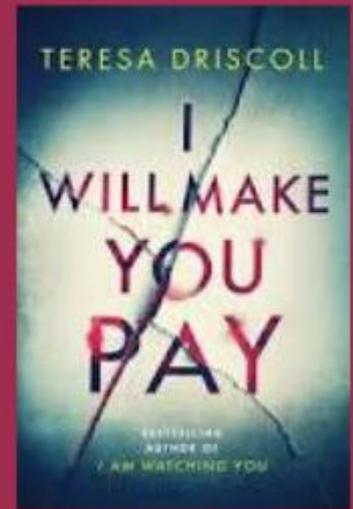
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/>

Have fun sharing them,

Monty



## An evening with Teresa Driscoll



*An evening with bestselling author and former BBC Spotlight presenter, Teresa Driscoll*

Central Library

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start

Teresa is the author of Recipes for Melissa, Last Kiss Goodnight and I Am Watching You. Her latest novel **I Will Make You Pay** has recently been published. Free tickets are available to book online.

### *Mini Elmer Tour*



Our Schools Library Service Elmer has returned from Mount Edgumbe where he was part of the Mini Elmer trail and starting this month will be touring all Plymouth Libraries.

He's currently at Plymstock Library and will be visiting other libraries throughout the city over the coming months. This month you can see him at Devonport (from 5 November), Plympton (from 18<sup>th</sup> November) and Estover (from 29<sup>th</sup> November).

For other events visit

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/libraries/activitiesandeventslibraries>