

The Beacon

Academic Year 2021/22

Issue No: 04

Date 1st Oct 2021

Hello from Mr West

Reading is at the heart of Montpelier, it permeates through everything that we do. It is our belief that reading is the key that will unlock the world of learning.

As your child grows, daily reading **will help the brain make connections between the written and spoken word, widening vocabulary in the process.** In fact, reading, spelling and vocabulary are critically important to a child's lifelong achievement.

I know that this is not new news, but it's always helpful to remind ourselves of the importance of it. When just a few months old, a child can look at pictures, listen to voices, and point to things in the pages of a book. They learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to them stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word.

Although our lives are often very hectic, please try to read with your child (or children) as much as you can. Taking the time to read to them on a regular basis sends an important message – that reading is worthwhile. Whilst we will do all that and teach them this crucial skill in school, continuous practise at home makes all the difference. So please join us in nurturing the love of reading that so many of our children already possess.

School Term Dates for 2021/2022

Fri 8th Oct – MPS Poetry Day *more info to follow*

Mon 18th Oct – KS1 Tempest photos

Mon 18th -21st Oct – Year 6 Bikeability

Fri 22nd Oct – Mufti (Go Outdoors)

Mon 25th – Fri 29th Oct Inc. – half term

Mon 1st Nov – KS2 Tempest photos

Mon 1st – 4th Nov – Year 1 Balance Ability

Wed 23rd Nov – Toy and gift assemblies

Fri 26th Nov – Mufti (Dress to impress)

WB Mon 6th December – Christmas lunch week 7th – 10th more info to follow

Mon 6th Dec – Christmas Tree Festival

Tues 7th Dec – Yr1 Nativity

Wed 8th Dec – Year 2 sleepover

Thurs 9th Dec – Year 1 Nativity

Fri 10th Dec - Foundation sing-a-long

Mon 13th Dec – Carols around the tree

Wed 15th Dec – Christmas Carol Service

Thurs 16th Dec – Wishes around the tree *more info to follow*

Fri 17th Dec – Christmas jumper day

Fri 17th Dec - Wishes around the tree

Mon 20th Dec 2021 – Mon 3rd Jan 2022 Inc. – Christmas holidays

Tues 4th Jan 2022 - non-pupil day

Mon 21st – Fri 25th Feb – half term

Mon 11th – Fri 22nd Apr Inc. – Easter holidays

Mon 2nd May – Bank holiday

Monday 30th May – Bank holiday

Tues 31 May – Fri 3rd June Inc. - Half term

School Term Dates for 2021/2022 continued

Mon 6th June - non-pupil day

25th & 26th July - non-pupil days

27th July – start of the summer holidays

Music News

We're now up and running with all our music clubs! It's great to have so many pupils singing in choirs and/or playing in the steel pan club! Already, the sound is fantastic! There's almost 250 different children involved in our music extra-curricular activities! Many thanks to all the staff who have assisted me with supervising the masses or helping with our exit routine. Without their help, we'd have to limit numbers.

Miss JR

50 Things to do before 11 3/4!

If you are an Outdoor Learner, Avid explorer or just wanting to get outdoors, the 50 Things to do before 11 and 3/4 is an activity that will be great for you and your family.

Kindly put together by the National Trust, this scheme has been put together to encourage outdoor learning and exploration.

Please find attached the 50 Things to Do poster which you can start with your family. A great opportunity would be to start with No.6 'Welly Wandering' at Saltram's Pumpkin trail which starts soon!

Here is the link for more information, along with a search option for more local

events: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/50-things-to-do-before-youre-11-3-4-activity-list>

Have fun exploring,

Mr Wright

50 things to do before you're 11 3/4

How many have you done?

We've been working closely with kids just like you to put together this list of the best things to do before you're 11 3/4. (Although lots of them are still great fun even when you're 81 3/4.) You'll find fun things to do for every kind of outside place, from mountains to sea, forests to fields. So what are you waiting for? Get out there and see how many you can do!

1. Get to know a tree
2. Roll down a really big hill
3. Camp outdoors
4. Build a den
5. Skim a stone
6. Go welly wandering
7. Fly a kite
8. Spot a fish
9. Eat a picnic in the wild
10. Play conkers
11. Explore on wheels
12. Have fun with sticks
13. Make a mud creation
14. Dam a stream
15. Go on a wintry adventure
16. Wear a wild crown
17. Set up a snail race
18. Create some wild art
19. Play pooh sticks
20. Go paddling
21. Forage for wild food
22. Find some funky fungi
23. Get up for the sunrise
24. Go barefoot
25. Join nature's band
26. Hunt for fossils and bones
27. Go stargazing
28. Climb a huge hill
29. Explore a cave
30. Go on a scavenger hunt
31. Make friends with a bug
32. Float in a boat
33. Go cloud watching
34. Discover wild animal clues
35. Discover what's in a pond
36. Make a home for wildlife
37. Explore the wonders of a rock pool
38. Bring up a butterfly
39. Catch a crab
40. Go on a nature walk at night
41. Help a plant grow
42. Go swimming in the sea
43. Help a wild animal
44. Watch a bird
45. Find your way with a map
46. Clamber over rocks
47. Cook on a camp fire
48. Keep a nature diary
49. Watch the sunset
50. Take a friend on a nature adventure