



The Beacon

Learning together; achieving success

Academic Year 2014/2015 Montpelier Primary School Issue No: 1 Date 11th Sept 2015

Heads News

Back to School!

We're back! Where on earth did that summer holiday go to? And, naturally, the fine weather has waited until we've returned to school to show itself - typical!

It has been a fabulous first week back though. Perhaps the lovely weather has helped but everyone seems to have had a super break and have returned refreshed, enthused and keen to get learning. The children have been getting on really nicely in the playgrounds. Our class moves went seamlessly and all the children have got used to their new rooms and new teachers. I should actually say that the class moves went ALMOST seamlessly. One thing we forgot to do was inform certain parents where to drop off and pick up their children! Big apologies for that. With a number of entrances and exits and with the movement of some classes, we completely omitted to tell people where to expect their children to appear - sorry! I believe we managed to iron out these issues for Tuesday.

Our new Foundation Stage children have been amazing. Year on year they seem to be more confident, more excited and more eager to start school. They've had a great first few days and they all seem excited to be back to school after the weekend - long may that continue!

Welcome

I'd like to warmly welcome three new teachers to Montpelier. We have Miss Card in Foundation Stage (who shares Class P with Mrs Atkin) and also provides some cover for other classes across the school. Welcome to Miss Clegg who joins us in Year 2 (2M) and also Mr Robinson who becomes part of our Year 6 team (6S). They've all been made to feel very welcome and have already slotted into the team here perfectly. I'm very pleased that we've managed to acquire three such talented teachers.

Help!

We need everyone's help. We now have our very own after school club - Monty's Den. I say 'ours' but it is in fact independently run but operates within our school building and grounds. Since I first arrived at Montpelier, parents have been requesting such a provision so I'm really pleased that we have managed to secure this. With Monty's Den though comes a new requirement. We need to 'lock down' our site after school in order to ensure that all pupils attending the club remain perfectly safe - it's a security thing! Monty's Den, like us, take the care of other people's children very seriously and are understandably keen to ensure that our school site can only be accessed via the main entrance after school. Therefore we need to clear the school playgrounds at the end of the day as quickly as possible so that Zak, our Site Supervisor, can lock the various entrances. **I must ask that everyone make every effort to vacate the school site promptly once they've picked up their children in order for us to be able to secure the site.** Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Monty's Den.

Whilst mentioning Monty's Den, I'd just like to remind everyone of the in-house after school club provision that's now available here. You can find all the details at www.montysden.com.

Year 2 News

Wow! What a fantastic start to Year 2. The children have come back excited, refreshed and are buzzing with enthusiasm. We are all looking forward to becoming woodland explorers. The Year 2 team.

Year 5 News

The children have settled well into their new classes and have been working hard this week. They have started looking at forces in Science and have begun to look at their 'Seafaring Plymouth' topic. Homework for this week is a research project linked to their topic. Next week, homework will include spellings, Maths and either a topic of English based piece of work linked to work taught that week.

We look forward to seeing you at the 'Meet the Teacher' session on Thursday 17th September at 5.30pm if you able to attend.

Year 3 News

Wow! The children have all made a fantastic start to Year 3 this week, picking up where they left on in Year 2. They have got straight back into their learning and have enthusiastically embraced the challenges we have thrown at them, whilst settling well into their new classes. Stone Age day was definitely a highlight of the week and we would like to thank you for your support with the childrens' amazing costumes, it really did help to get them immersed in their time travelling journey. Once they had finally made it back to the Stone Age they all had a go at making jewellery, tools and even cooking on a fire! Check out the website for photos. We look forward to seeing you next Monday (5:00pm, in the KS2 Hall) for 'Meet the Teachers'!

Football

SB Frankfort FC are seeking children in school Years 2, 3 and 4 to join their development sessions which are held every Tuesday evening between 6 and 7:15pm at Manadon Vale playing fields, PL2 3SX.

The sessions are open to all abilities and is free! Any enquiries please contact Daniel Harris on 07837 067138

Diary Dates

Trutex Schoolwear first Thursday of every month 2:45pm - 4:30pm.

Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct 2015 inc

- Half term

Fri 18th Dec 2015

- Last day of term

Mon 4th Jan 2016

- Non pupil day

Tues 5th Jan 2016

- First day of term

Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb 2016 Inc.

- Half term

Fri 25th Mar – Fri 8th Apr 2016 Inc.

- Easter holidays

Mon 11th Apr 2016

- Non pupil day

Mon 2nd May 2016

- Bank holiday

Mon 30th May 2016

- Bank holiday

Tues 31st May – Fri 3rd June 2016 Inc.

- Half term

Mon 6th June 2016

- Non pupil day

Year 4 news.

What a fantastic week it has been! The children have already been showing off their skills and positive attitudes. Everyone seems to have settled in really well and have adopted the new expectation with ease. Well done.

Music News

Welcome back everyone! It is lovely to see so many children learning instruments this year-over 120! There has been a delay to the text/email going out to ask you to pay for instrumental lessons, you should now receive this on Monday afternoon. Prompt payment by Friday 18th Sept would be very much appreciated. Guitar lessons start next week on Tuesday or Thursday depending on which teacher your child has.

Look out in next week's Beacon for details of the music clubs starting again. Permission slips will be given out next week to advise of start dates. To give you a rough guide they will be as follows

Monday: Year 6 steel pan; 3.15pm-4pm

Tuesday: Year 2/3 choir; 3 15pm-3 45pm,

Wednesday; Year 5 steel pan 3 15pm-4pm

Thursday: Year 4/5/6 choir 3.15pm- 4 15pm

Any queries, please contact Miss JR; jessrowe@mpsplymouth.net

Lost Property

Hopefully most of the lost property from last year that is named will have made its way back to you this week. However we still have a vast quantity of uniform, coats, hats PE kits, boots and shoes which are unlabelled.

We will have to dispose of unclaimed items shortly, so if you have lost something do pop in to see if you can identify anything. You will need to speak to Jane Gilbert, to view this as the lost property bins have been emptied to begin the new school year.

MOST IMPORTANTLY please make sure your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their full name and class which will help keep them united and avoid extra expense to you.

Year 1 News

Well done to all the Year 1 children who have settled into their classes this term. We shall be running a "meet the teaching team" on Wednesday 16th September in the children's classrooms at 5:00. This is an opportunity to meet the teams teaching your children and to find out information about learning within Year 1. Don't forget that on Friday the 18th September the children and Year 1 team will all be dressed up for our "Superhero Day".

Illness

The school should be notified on the first day of absence, for whatever reason, for a child's absence. We are charged by legislation to show the number of absences from school for the preceding academic year and these will be included on your child's annual report. All absences must be accounted for by letter, telephone or in person. Please expect a call/text from one of our Administrators if we do not receive a call explaining the absence first thing on that first day. There is a dedicated absence answer-phone so messages can be left 24 hours a day.

If your child has had diarrhoea or has been vomiting in the past 24 hours, please keep him/her at home until the child has been symptom-free for 48 hours.

If your child is experiencing itchy, watery eyes (often symptoms of conjunctivitis), please keep your child home until the condition has improved (no pus or crusting) and treatment has begun.

If your child exhibits an unexplained skin rash, again please keep your child home until the condition has been evaluated and treated. E.g. impetigo - lesions must be crusted or healed, no wetness or pus. For chickenpox – all blisters must be crusted; period of exclusion from school is a minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash.

Dentist & Doctor's Appointments

Can we ask parents that, except in an emergency, all doctor and dentist appointments are made outside of school hours. In the event that this is not possible, then children should be collected from school as near to the appointment time as possible and then returned back to school straight afterwards. If the medical appointment is during the school day, evidence must be provided. A whole days absence is not deemed necessary for a medical appointment that occurs in the morning – the child would be expected to return to school in the afternoon, and vice versa.

If children do not attend school regularly, they may not be able to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up. It's not only the academic work: missing out on the social side of school life can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships, a vital part of growing up. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery classes through primary school, will also help your child later on. Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher, and the other children in the class.

Mr Clarke's Friday Club

Friday Club meeting is on today, but it will be starting at 6.30pm from now on due to Montys Den being on site until 6pm.

Meerkats - Family Separation Support.

Jane Gilbert (Parent Support Advisor) and Julie Spencer (Learning Mentor) will be running a support group for children who have experienced separation within their family. The aim of the group is to give the children an opportunity to talk about their feelings, understand their emotions and develop coping strategies. The program will run for 6 weeks during this term and each session will have a play based activity, allowing children to have fun in a relaxed safe environment.

If you feel your child may benefit from this group, or you would like further information please complete the form below and return by Friday 18th September.

.....
FAO Julie Spencer or Jane Gilbert - Meerkats - Family Separation Support Group

Name of parent/carer: Child's name:..... Class.....

I would like my child to be considered for this group Yes/No

I would like you to find out more about this group Yes/No

Contact number:..... Convenient time to call:.....