

The Beacon

Academic Year 2018/19

Issue No: 20

Date 15th Feb 2019

Hello from Mrs Hunter

I can't believe that we have hit the half way mark for this year. Every day I learn more about our school, our children and our families and every day I become more excited about what we are achieving and the journey that we are on. Last week we had colleagues from ISP come and work with us to review how we are doing as a school and they were so impressed with all that is going on and what the school is achieving. We just need Ofsted to come in now so that we can show them too! Many of you have told me how much you are enjoying and appreciating the new things that we are doing. Today is the day that the children find out who is who in the 2019 cast of The Book of the Jungle. While some children will be disappointed that they have not got the part they dreamed of, others will be over the moon and many have told us that they are excited just to be part of it.

Many of you will be aware that we have our guinea pigs in Foundation. We are keen to now increase our school pets. We are therefore looking for some families who would be interested in becoming 'Chicken Champions' so that we can reintroduce chickens to the run that we have. We need families who would be prepared to go on a rota to look after the chickens at weekends and holidays if this is going to be possible. Please let us know if this is something that you can support us with. We are also looking to get a tortoise! This will be a very small tortoise who to begin with will live inside in our school reception. If anyone knows of an unwanted 'table top' tortoise house (please see the attached photo) then let us know. We know that not all children are able to experience having pets at home for a variety of reasons and we value the additional dimension that they bring to school life for many of our children.

Have a fabulous half term and we shall see you back on Monday 25th February where the days will be even longer and, hopefully, warmer.

Mrs Hunter ☺



School Term Dates for 2018/2019

Mon 18th Feb to Fri 22nd Feb – Spring Half Term Break 2019.

Wed 13th March – Foundation & Year 6 Vista Class Photos

1st April to 5th April - The Big Pedal

Fri 5th April – Last Day of Spring Term 2019.

Mon 8th to Mon 22nd April – Easter Holiday 2019.

Tues 23rd April – Non-Pupil Day.

Wed 24th April – Summer Term 2019 begins.

Thurs 2nd May – PTFA Quiz Night

Mon 6th May – Bank Holiday.

Mon 27th to Fri 31st May – Summer Half Term Break 2019.

Wed 12th June – Tempest Class photos & Year 6 individuals

Mon 1st July – KS1 (Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2) Sports Day starts at 10am

Tues 2nd July – 9:30am Years 3 and 4 / 1:15pm Years 5 and 6

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

Thurs 25th July 2019 – Non-Pupil Day.

Tues 3rd Sept – First day of term



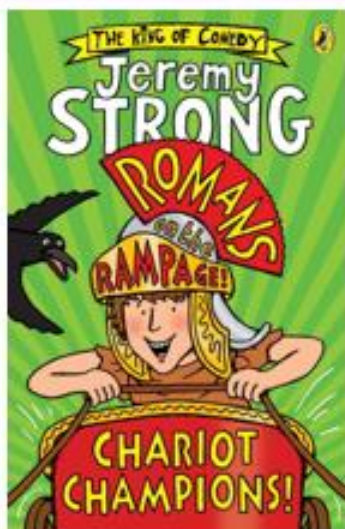
We are very excited that World Book Day is almost here.

Children are invited to come to school, on this day, dressed as their favourite book character or simply in mufti ready to read!

They will also be invited back in to school, in their pyjamas, for some bedtime stories.

More details, including some DIY fancy dress ideas, to follow.

BOOK
OF
THE
WEEK



Thanks to Mr Robinson and some of our Year 4 children for recommending this week's book.

Romans on the Rampage is a laugh-out-loud story written by the king of comedy, Jeremy Strong.

Perilus is a Roman boy who is crazy about chariot racing. He loves to practise in his own homemade chariot and dreams of riding in the Circus Maximum himself one day.

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

Mother's Day message within the Herald

Join thousands of other schools across the country in paying tribute to mums, grandmas, and guardians with a FREE Mother's Day message within the Herald.

The messages will appear in the Herald's special Mother's Day supplement and online at www.plymouthlive.com on Saturday 30th March and will comprise of a simple greeting or poem of approximately 20 words.

How To Book

Book online by visiting: <https://plymouth.bookanad.com>

Select Family notices, then Mother's Day, then Mother's Day greetings.

The messages are available to book now so you can plan this activity with your classes after half term.

The final deadline for placing messages will be Weds 27th March at 12noon. However, we would highly recommend getting your notices to us prior to Monday 25th March as after this date we cannot guarantee there will be enough space in the supplement. So please book early

Athletics

The last Indoor Athletics will be on Monday 25th for those children that have qualified for Devon. The following week will be mixed tag rugby for years 4, 5 and 6, please collect a permission letter from Mrs Pearce the first week back. Hockey will continue on Tuesdays, and Cross Country on Wednesdays for the year 3 & 4 girls who are competing for Plymouth at the Devon Games. Any outstanding kit needs to be returned asap.

Year 6 - How to Train Your Dragon

Congratulations to our 8 reading reward winners from Year 6 for this half-term: Lauren W, Angelina W, Alfie W, Ziva W, Oisin S, Phinn G, Roxy F and Freya B.

These children enjoyed a trip to cinema to see 'How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World'. Next half-term, there's another brilliant prize planned so keep reading Year 6!

Tommy's Charity Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone that supported our cake sale this week. We made a fantastic £346 for Tommy's charity! Well done to all the charity reps who helped make some delicious cookies to sell. Here are some photos of our fun afternoon! Good luck to Mrs and Miss Tapp on their half marathon run in March. You can do it!



Polar Bear Explorer

Have you become a Polar Bear Explorer yet? Polar Bears need our help and they've brought an important message to Plymouth this winter. 20 Polar Bear cubs have been let loose across Plymouth's Waterfront and they're hiding in Sutton Harbour, The Barbican, Hoe, Millbay and Royal William Yard until March 3rd.

Each cub has a Bear Fact with them, telling us about the Arctic and the oceans, how plastic is affecting their home and how we can all help. Your task is to become a Polar Bear Explorer and find each of the Polar Bear cubs with their Bear Facts

Download the Polar Bear Explorer brochure https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/dbimsgs/PBE%20Booklet_web.pdf

and write down the key word from each of the cubs' Bear Facts. You can also download the map from https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/dbimsgs/map-pages_smaller.jpg

WWF, Greenpeace and the National Marine Aquarium have each helped to inform the Bear Facts.

Once you've found all 20, complete the Explorer form with your details and make your pledge to help Polar Bears by reducing single-use plastics at home, at school and in the workplace.

Deliver your Explorer form to one of the Arctic Post Boxes at either the National Marine Aquarium, the Barbican Tourist Information Centre or Bistrot Pierre.

You can also post it to: Polar Bear Explorer, Plymouth Waterfront Partnership, Ballard House, West Hoe, Plymouth PL1 3BJ or enter online here.

Free family fun and prizes to be won! Go to visitplymouth.co.uk for full details and a list of prizes.

Duke of Cornwall Half Term Offer - Show a member of the Duke of Cornwall team your explorer form to receive a complimentary hot chocolate or soft drink to enjoy in their Lounge bar.

For each adult drink purchased, a complimentary hot/soft drink will be provided for a child. Offer is valid during half term week (18 -24 February)

Polar Bear Explorer Workshops – Tuesday 19th & Friday 22nd February, Barbican Tourist Information Centre

If you haven't completed the Explorer trail yet, these one hour workshops could be perfect for you:

- Learn the Bear Facts about single-use plastics, Polar Bears and our oceans in an interactive learning session
- Complete the trail form and make your pledges
- Make your own Polar Bear mask
- Receive a Polar Bear Explorer certificate
- Colouring in for children of all ages
- Free hot chocolate and squash provided

19th February: 9.30am-10.30am, 11am-12 noon, 1pm-2pm, 2.30pm-3.30pm

22 February: 12.30pm-1.30pm, 2pm-3pm

To book your place for one of these workshops, please click here <<https://visitplymouth.cmail19.com/t/d-l-nuyhiit-jlkduittm-y/>>

[<http://i5.cmail19.com/ei/d/DE/59D/5EC/221233/csfinal/sea-99028a028a04513c.jpg>]

National Marine Aquarium Half Term Trail

Take part in this family activity, following the journey of a plastic bottle, ending up in the Arctic. Find the seven points around the Aquarium to fill in your trail sheet.

Your trail sheet will ask you to make a 'plastic pledge', similar to that of the Polar Bear Explorer. The Aquarium will collect all the plastic pledges and display them with the recycled plastic Polar Bear sculpture.

[<http://i6.cmail19.com/ei/d/DE/59D/5EC/221233/csfinal/250714suttonharbourboatFX23216-1-2-990000079e04513c.jpg>]



Montpelier Primary School

School Term Dates 2019/20

	September-19					October-19					November-19					December-19				
Monday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31
Wednesday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	
Thursday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	
Friday	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	

	January-20					February-20					March-20					April-20				
Monday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Tuesday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Friday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	

	May-20					June-20					July-20					August-20				
Monday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	
Thursday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	

The school year comprises:

Teaching Days (statutory)	190
Professional Development Days ¹	5
Occasional Days ²	5
sub-total	200
School Holidays	53
Bank Holidays	8
Saturdays & Sundays	105
Total	366

School Terms:

term	start	end	days
1	2 nd Sep 2019	18 th Oct 2019	35
2	28 th Oct 2019	20 th Dec 2019	40
3	6 th Jan 2020	14 th Feb 2020	30
4	19 th Feb 2020	27 th Mar 2020	28
5	14 th Apr 2020	22 nd May 2020	28
6	1 st Jun 2020	23 rd Jul 2020	39
Total			200

Notes:

1. Professional Development Days to be allocated by each school from within the specified term dates.
2. Occasional Days to be allocated by each school from within the specified term dates: an allocation as suggested would support the equal distribution of term lengths.