

The Beacon

Academic Year 2019/20

Issue No: 13

Date 13th Dec 2019

Hello from Mrs Hunter

Welcome to our last Beacon of 2019. The year has gone by in a bit of a blur! While I am not sure where the time has gone I do know that I continue to enjoy every day in our school. We are starting to look ahead to the new year and I am excited for all it holds in store. This includes the introduction of a new residential trip to London for Year 4 pupils! When we return in January we will also be meeting with the other schools in the Inspiring Schools Partnership to map out the dates for the 2020/21 academic year and will be sharing those with you once they have been approved by governors. The speed of travel never slows down!

I hope that you are enjoying all that is Christmassy at Montpelier Primary School – it is such a special time of the year. Perhaps you were moved at the Carol Service on Monday or are looking forward to carolling with us this coming Monday. Perhaps you are waiting for the peace of our Wishes Round the Tree or maybe it will be the hustle and bustle of today's Christmas Fair that will make you happy. Whatever it is that makes your heart sing, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and hope this is a special time for you and your nearest and dearest. We each have so much to be grateful for and it is also important to remember that those things don't come wrapped up under the Christmas Tree. We very much look forward to welcoming you back in 2020.

Mrs Hunter ☺



School Term Dates for 2019/2020

Mon 16th Dec – 6:30pm Carols around the tree - KS2 Hall

Mon 16th Dec Foundation Class Christmas Parties

Tues 17th Dec – Foundation Christmas sing-a-long 2pm KS2 Hall

Wed 18th Dec – Wishes around the tree

- Years 1 and 2 at 1:10pm,
- Foundation at 2.00pm

Thurs 19th Dec - Wishes around the tree

- Years 3 and 4 at 1:20pm,
- Years 5 and 6 at 2:00pm

Fri 20th Dec – Fri 3rd Jan 2020 Inc. – Christmas Holidays

Mon 6th Jan – Non-Pupil Day

Tues 7th Jan – First day of term

Mon 17th – Fri 21st Feb Inc. - Half term

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



Dear parent/carer,

Keeping safe online at Christmas – Facebook Live with Roblox on 16 December

Many of your children will be spending time online this Christmas, and some will be fortunate enough to receive gifts of new devices or games. I encourage the positive use of technology and understand its role in fun and learning – at school and at home. But there are risks to all online activity, so I would like to tell you about an opportunity to find out more.

On 16th December at 7.30pm there will be a free Facebook Live session that will cover what to watch out for, top tips for staying safe, parental controls you can set and forget, and the opportunity to ask questions.

The Facebook live session can be found using this link [safechristmas.lgfl.net](https://www.facebook.com/LGfL.DigiSafe).

The event will be run by experts in the DigiSafe team at LGfL and will also feature a special guest from the game Roblox which many of our pupils play.

I encourage you to attend this event from the comfort of your home before you wrap up those shiny new devices or games – it's a lot less stressful to change settings before Christmas morning – or before your children start the holidays and want to spend time online.

Please also remember before buying Christmas presents that games have age ratings linked to their content, not their difficulty (games are rated 18 for the same reasons as films - inappropriate language, sex and violence).

There are plenty of great reasons to make technology part of your Christmas, so remember to talk about positives with your child – one great way to find out what they do online and also have fun together is to ask them to show you what they do and to teach you to play their games.

Finally, if you need general help and support over the holidays:

- Call the NSPCC / O2 parent online-safety helpline on 0808 800 5002 for general advice or help with parental control settings for your home internet or devices
- There is an excellent tablet app from Internet Matters built to help parents have a conversation about online safety with their children. Just search Internet Matters on the app store
- Search NSPCC NetAware for an excellent guide to apps your children may ask for

Have a fab and e-safe Christmas everyone,



Monty

*Christmas Bonanza/Party on Monday 16th December from 10:30am - 5pm
at Manadon Sports and Community Hub (PL5 3FD).*

As a thank you for being one of Argyle's school partners, children from Foundation/Reception to Year 3 are invited to attend a Christmas Party on Monday 16th December from 3 - 5pm at Manadon Sports and Community Hub (PL5 3FD). Places are limited - first-come-first-served basis. Please contact Stewart.Walbridge@paafc.co.uk

School Challenge

A polite reminder that those children involved with Running Club or Cross Country after school and wish to participate in the School Challenge on the 17th May, the £5 deposit needs to be paid by Monday 16th December.

Many thanks, Mrs Pearce

Young Carer Group

What an amazing time we have had with our Young Carer group since we began in the spring. The group has grown to over 20 children who meet on a Monday lunchtime and share lunch together. During this time we have looked at our feelings and emotions, played games, toasted marshmallows and painted to name but a few. In the Summer some children had the opportunity to take a bus tour of the city which ended with ice cream for all. More recently some of the group have been to the donkey sanctuary at Ivybridge learning how to care for the animals- including the mucking out. Last week was our penultimate event when it was great to share an afternoon with the children and their families making Christmas crafts, including angels for the Christmas tree festival. This week to finish the term the children will be sharing a party lunch together.

We would like to say what a pleasure it has been getting to know these incredible children and their families who display resilience, compassion patience with each other and understanding in their caring role.

If you would like to find out more about our group do pop in and speak to either Jane Gilbert or Sarah Green.



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.

Staff Car Park

May we remind parents that the car park in North Down Road is for STAFF ONLY. As such the gate will be locked at 8:30am each morning. We would also like to remind parents that they should keep to the pedestrian areas around the carpark and not walk across the carpark itself.

Holiday Requests

In these first few weeks we have received an astonishing number of requests for holiday to be taken during term time. Whilst we appreciate and to some degree understand the reasons given, we have found it difficult signing the authorisations under the new criteria dictated by the authority. We can only authorise holidays where there are **exceptional** circumstances eg service families or for a religious celebration/occasion. If it is your employer's policy to only permit holidays at a specific time then please submit a supporting letter from them. We would strongly request that parents/carers seriously consider the implications before booking a holiday (holidays should not be booked until signed authorisation has been received back from school). Absence during term time does have a detrimental effect on the education of children. Schemes of work are rigorously planned by teachers to ensure appropriate development and continuity for the class. Breaks in the delivery of the teaching means children miss out on crucial elements of the curriculum and are at a disadvantage when compared to their peers.

Why is it important for children not to miss school?

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. And it's not only the academic work: missing out on the social side of school life – especially at primary school – 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. Employers want to recruit people who are reliable. So children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of getting a good job.

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. Children coming into school late need to sign in at the school office and indicate their lunch choice.

Timings

Foundation	KS1	KS2
8.40 – 8.50am Doors open, register	8.40 – 8.50am Doors open, register	8.35 – 8.45am Doors open, register
10.50 – 11.10am Break	10.50 – 11.10am Break	10.50 – 11.10am Break
12.00 – 1.00pm Lunch	12.10 – 1.10pm Lunch	12.15 – 1.15pm Lunch
3.10pm Finish	3.10pm Finish	3.15pm Finish

Some parents may find it hard to get their children to attend school – let the school know. As well as the Class Teacher, SENCO, Head Teacher etc we also have a Parent Support Adviser, Jane Gilbert (Telephone: 07894 [596204](tel:07894596204) or email janegilbert@montpelier.plymouth.sch.uk).

Research has shown that children who are not in school are most vulnerable and are easily drawn into crime. Those children who play truant are more likely to offend than those that do not. In primary schools less than 65% get good results in Maths and English in schools with an average of 15 days absence compared to around 90% in schools where the average is less than 8 days. Many parents are surprised how quickly their children accumulate 15 days absence. Every lesson in school matters - children who have time off find it difficult to catch up. The school must 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. If we do not receive notification from you then please expect a call from us sometime during that first day. Parents of children with persistent absence may also receive a letter requesting medical evidence for all future absence – i.e. a doctor's appointment card, prescribed medication or doctor's note/letter. Any absence without this proof will be recorded as unauthorised.

FOREST FORCE



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! CAN YOU HELP?

On the **Saturday 11th January**, we need a team of volunteers to help finish the improvements to our outdoor learning area- 'The Forest'.

With new equipment from a popcorn maker to whittling knives, we are desperate to get the children back out there and benefiting from outdoor learning.

We are looking for volunteers to join our 'Forest Force' team to help with various jobs including: spreading slate and wood chippings, building flat pack storage, pegging logs in place and other general maintenance jobs.

10:00-15:00

- Toilets available
- Refreshments provided
- Some tools provided (please bring your own gardening gloves, spade or secateurs if you have them).
- Meet by the gate on Parker Road.

Warm clothing and suitable footwear would be advisable.

Any amount of experience or time you can volunteer will be perfect, we just need many hands to make light work!

There will be **popcorn, s'mores and hot-drinks** to keep you warm and happy as you work!

We look forward to seeing you there! Any help would make a real difference and be very gratefully received.

Please note that due to the nature of the work, unfortunately children will not be able to attend on this occasion. We hope to have future events when the area is back up and running for families to attend so watch this space!

If you wish to sign up or have any further questions please contact reception or Miss Nicholls (class2m@mpsplymouth.net)

PAVING SLABS NEEDED!

We need paving slabs to place our log store and outdoor storage box onto.
If you can help please let reception know!



Parent Cafe

Hosted by Jane Gilbert (Parent Support Advisor)

Pop in to meet other parents in your school community...

When:

Monday – Thursday 8:30-9:30am

Tuesday-Thursday 3:15-4:00pm

Where:

School Café

Who:

All welcome!

An opportunity to socialise,
get information and find out
about different support
networks in your community.



Get in Touch

Contact Name: Jane Gilbert

Contact Tel: 01752 216160

Email: janegilbert@mpsplymouth.net



visit [twinkl.com](https://www.twinkl.com)

Christmas
Price Cuts!



ARGYLE
COMMUNITY
TRUST

BOOK 5
COURSES IN
PLYMOUTH
FOR £40!

*per person
*sibling discount doesn't apply
*online discounts don't apply

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2019

Book our courses online

www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk



	NO.	VENUE	DATE	COST	ONLINE	THEME	
PLYMOUTH	P1	Manadon Sports and Community Hub	19 December 4.30pm-7pm	£25	£21	Christmas Cracker	*Limited spaces available
	P2	Manadon Sports and Community Hub	23 December	£12	£8	Festive Football	
	P3	Manadon Sports and Community Hub	27 December	£12	£8	Festive Football	
	P4	Manadon Sports and Community Hub	30 December	£12	£8	Festive Football	
	P5	Manadon Sports and Community Hub	3 January	£12	£8	Back to School Special	
EAST CORNWALL	EC1	Lanivet Community Centre	23 December	£12	£8	Festive Football	
	EC2	Lanivet Community Centre	27 December	£12	£8	Festive Football	
	EC3	Lux Park Leisure Centre (Indoor)	3 January	£12	£8	Back to School Special	
NORTH DEVON & CORNWALL	ND1	Wadebridge Primary School	23 December	£12	£8	Festive Football	
	ND2	Bude Town Football Club	30 December	£12	£8	Festive Football	
	ND3	St Joseph's School, Launceston	3 January	£12	£8	Back to School Special	
	ND4	St Teath FC	3 January	£12	£8	Back to School Special	
MID & WEST CORNWALL	C1	Falmouth School	23 December	£12	£8	Festive Football	
	C2	Helston Football Club	30 December	£12	£8	Back to School Special	
	C3	Newquay Treviglas School	3 January	£12	£8	Back to School Special	
	C4	Carn Brea Leisure Centre, Pool	3 January	£12	£8	Festive Football	
DISABILITY	D1	Manadon Sports and Community Hub	19 December 4.30pm-7pm	£25	£21	Christmas Cracker	*Limited spaces available
	D2	Manadon Sports and Community Hub	3 January	£12	£8	Disability Soccer Roadshow	

Prices from £8 - £25

Registration opens at 9.40am

All courses for boys and girls of all abilities aged 5 - 15 years

Courses run from 10am to 3pm with exception of Christmas Cracker 4.30pm-7pm

Additional activities are available

LEARN.
PLAY.
SUCCEED.

T 01752 562561 ext 4 www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk

CHRISTMAS CRACKER

The course will give all young people who attend the opportunity to undertake a training session at Manadon with Plymouth Argyle FC first team squad in the evening. This will be followed by a meet and greet with the team where young people can collect autographs, photos and chat to the team. Pilgrim Pete and Father Christmas will also be in attendance and each person will receive a goody bag, a Christmas card and the chance to win lots of prizes.

FESTIVE FOOTBALL

Join us for an action packed day of football activities; from shooting sessions to World Cup tournaments and each participant will receive a goody bag, which includes an Argyle medal.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Our 'Back to School' courses are age and football specific with the emphasis on fun, enjoyment and development. Sessions include skills, technique, competitions and small sided games - just what's needed before they return to school after the festive period.

PAN DISABILITY AGES 5 - 16

Football/Activity day: A fun-filled day packed with football games in an inclusive and comfortable environment. The day is tailored for children with a physical impairment, learning disability or mental health condition.

T 01752 562561 ext 4

www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk

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