

The Beacon

Academic Year 2020/21

Issue No: 04

Date 9th October 2020

Hello from Mr West

As we approach the penultimate week of the first autumn term I took a little time to reflect on what we have, as a school community, achieved so far this academic year. I have to say I felt immense pride when looking back as we have come so far in a short space of time. We have returned safely, the place is full of smiling faces, attendance is showing a positive trend and your children are re-establishing their stamina for learning.

As parents and carers you will be aware of all the adjustments that have been made to our school provision to allow us to welcome back all of our children and fulfil our duty to provide an education to the children in our care.

We are all too aware that exposure to COVID-19 is an inherent risk in any public location where people are present and have established practices to put limitations on the risk of transmission. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we are and will continue to operate within these COVID-19 procedures for the foreseeable.

It has been noticed that as the weeks roll by, a sense of security is beginning to show itself. With that in mind I will ask that we all pause and look again at the expectations when attending school.

The staggered start and finish is in place to limit the numbers on the school site at any one time - please respect this and arrive and pick up at the allocated times. The school day for every child is the same length and our team has planned curriculum focused learning tasks throughout the staggered times, so no matter what time the children arrive or leave site there is equality in the time they are afforded to complete the tasks. For your information the timings are detailed below.

A-G Surname	8:30 start	15:00 finish
H-Q Surname	8:40 start	15:10 finish
R-Z Surname	8:50 start	15:20 finish

Take care, stay safe and have a relaxing weekend.

School Term Dates for 2020/2021

(In light of the current situation dates might be subject to change)

Mon 26th Oct - Non-Pupil Day

Thurs 22nd Oct – KS1 individual photos (Foundation to Yr2 Inc.) – no family groups at this time

Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct - Half term

Mon 2nd Nov– KS2 individual photos (Yr3 to Yr6 Inc.) – no family groups at this time

Fri 27th Nov - Non-Pupil Day

Fri 18th Dec – last day of term

Mon 21st Dec – Thurs 31st Dec – Christmas Holidays

Fri 1st Jan 2020 – Bank holiday

Mon 4th Jan – Non-pupil day

Mon 15 – Fri 19th Feb Inc. – Half term

Fri 2nd Apr – Bank holiday

Mon 5th Apr – Bank holiday

Tues 6th – Fri 16th Apr – Easter holidays

Mon 3rd May – Bank holiday

Fri 31st May – Bank holiday

Tues 1st – Fri 4th June Inc. – Half term

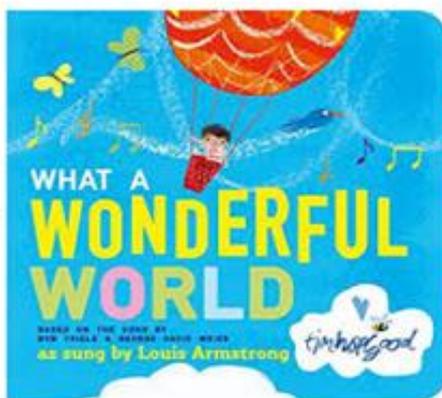
Fri 25th June – non-pupil day

Fri 23rd July – Last day of term (**1:30pm finish for Year 6 / 2:15pm finish for Foundation through to Year 5**)

Mon 26th July – start of the summer holidays

Book of the week

BOOK
OF
THE
WEEK



This book has always been special to me. What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong was the song I walked down the aisle to!

I not only love his lyrics but the pictures are amazing. The double spread page, with the rainbow, is a particular highlight – especially with everything the rainbow has come to represent in recent times.

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

Free School Meal

If you receive certain benefits, you may be entitled to claim free school meals. Plymouth City Council is able to check your eligibility online, therefore minimising the need to provide proof of your entitlement.

It is of great benefit for our school if you are entitled to free school meals as we could receive extra school funding for all children who qualify.

Even if your child is aged 4 to 7, and would qualify for Universal Free School Meals, we would encourage you to register for free-school-meals, if you think that you may be entitled under any of the benefits.

Registering for Pupil Premium funding could raise an extra £1,345 for your child's primary school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

Year 6 Secondary School Admission September 2021

Reminder – parents need to submit their preference forms by the deadline of 31st October 2020. Please, wherever possible, apply online, it is quick and easy – all you need is an email address. If you are confused or concerned just get in touch with Plymouth Admission Team – they will do all they can to help.

Secondary Admissions, Plymouth City Council, Windsor House, Plymouth PL6 5UF Tel: 01752 307469

Email: secondary.admissions@plymouth.gov.uk Website: www.plymouth.gov.uk

Football trials

Good luck to Ewan L. in the next round of the schoolboy football trials on Monday 12th October.

Well done also to Fletcher, Blake, Harry, Jayden and Byron for being nominated and for being considered as one of the hot-100 players in Plymouth for their age-group.

Your School Chickens Need You!

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are probably aware we have chickens on site. We are recruiting for volunteers to help look after them at weekends and during school holidays. Training is provided.

If you would be interested in this please call the office on 216160 or email us on admin@mpsplymouth.net



Keep Your Distance

A huge thank you to **Alphabet Signs** for our new banners, one of which was kindly donated by the company.

They are a reminder to us all to social distance, as well as providing a visual guide of the 2 metre distance.



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www.alphabetsigns.org.uk

From Idea to Installation

At Alphabet Signs we have a wealth of experience and the ability to handle your signage package from idea to installation.

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Ministry
of Defence



Directorate Children & Young People

2021 Service Pupil Premium

Extra Funding for State Schools, Free Schools and Academies attended by Service Children in England

Service parents with children in State maintained schools, Free schools and Academies in England are encouraged to ensure that the Head Teacher of their child(ren)'s school is made aware of their Service status ahead of the Spring school census deadline of 21 January 2021.

The Service Pupil Premium is provided by the Department for Education to State maintained schools, Free schools and Academies in England who have children of Regular Armed Forces personnel among their pupil population to provide

additional (mainly pastoral) support. Pupils with a parent on full commitment as part of the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS FC) are also classed as Service children.

Service Pupil Premium is currently £310.00 per Service pupil and is paid directly to schools.

Schools with Service children in Reception to Year 11 classes are eligible to receive the funding, but only if the child(ren)'s name appears on the school's roll as being a Service child.

The information recorded by schools regarding Service status is protected and data regarding individual children is not shared outside the school.

For more information on eligibility, please visit:
www.gov.uk/service-premium-information-for-schools

Service Pupil Premium DIN refers and can be accessed via defnet.

For general queries, please email the Directorate Children and Young People: DCYP-DCYP-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk



Department
for Education



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

MKC Heroes' Newsletter

2020 has brought challenges for many people, and we appreciate all you have been doing to support children and young people in your schools. We hope the new year is going well and you're enjoying being back in the classroom. Here at The Royal British Legion several things have also changed for us since the last Newsletter back in March.

Thank you for your patience during this unusual time. Now things are up and running again, albeit slightly differently for the time being, we aim to bring you regular news and information, as well as continuing to grow and develop the MKC Heroes network.

Covid Survey

We're aware circumstances have dramatically changed for schools, so we've compiled a short survey to gain further information about your MKC Heroes clubs and feedback regarding how we can support you during times like these. Please help us to understand your needs and to shape our support and services going forward. [Survey Link](#).

Positive News and Stories

MKC Heroes do amazing work all year round and here at TRBL we'd love to hear your positive stories as we believe promoting them is really important. If you have something you'd like to share with us, big or small, please get in touch. Things may look very different and many clubs will be working in extremely altered conditions, but we know your passion and support remains as strong as ever, and that's why it's so important we acknowledge just how amazing the MKC Heroes community is!

MKCHeroes@britishlegion.org.uk

Remembrance Tributes

We'd also like to extend a massive thank you to everyone for supporting MKC Heroes Remembrance Tributes. This year we've had the biggest response for Little Crosses ever, which is amazing, particularly in these unprecedented circumstances. Despite many groups being unable to run as they normally would, it's great to see so many wanting to continue treasured Remembrance traditions.

Unfortunately, the Remembrance Ceremony at Lydiard Park's Field of Remembrance is not open to the public as it usually would be, although, the Tributes will still be planted. The site opens to the public at 1pm on Friday 30th October until Sunday 22nd November. Covid restrictions will be in place, but anyone wishing to visit the Field is able to do so during this period.

When completed, please do send us images of your Tributes, and any positive stories or quotes you have about Remembrance to

MKCHeroes@britishlegion.org.uk

so we can showcase the wonderful work MKC Heroes does across our ever growing network.

LIVE ON

Remembrance Resources

The Royal British Legion have produced a variety of Remembrance resources suitable for KS1 through to KS4. All teaching elements are in line with the National Curriculum and have been created in partnership with the National Literacy Trust. These include: downloadable resources for in class and at home, ready-for-use lessons, book clubs, assemblies and art projects.

www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance



If you are interested in something specific not found here, or have a suggestion regarding useful topics and resources for your MKC Heroes during Remembrance and beyond, please feel free to drop us an email

MKCHeroes@britishlegion.org.uk

Social Media

We'd love if you followed us and shared news and updates about your MKC Heroes on our socials. Tag us in your Twitter posts at [@MKCHeroes](https://twitter.com/MKCHeroes) and like our Community page on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MKCHeroes) where we can share positive stories, news, and information to the MKC Heroes national schools' network.



Never Such Innocence

Never Such Innocence have just launched their 2020/21 creative arts competition! This year's competition theme is 'The Unheard Voices of Conflict: Stories from Around the World'. NSI wants young people to share their reflections on conflict or give a voice to those who may not have one. Some examples of an 'unheard voice' could include: a personal family story relating to conflict, the feelings of a service child who has a parent deployed or refugees fleeing from their homes.

The international competition features four categories: Poetry, Art, Speech and Song and is open to young people aged 9-18. Winners in the four categories will be invited to participate in unique experiences and will receive a special personalised certificate of commendation for their work.

Entering the competition is simple. All that is required is a digital entry form and picture / file upload of their work. Full competition details can be found on the NSI website. The deadline to enter is Friday 19th March 2021.

www.neversuchinnocence.com/2020-21-competition

Entries into the competition may also be submitted into their 'Voices of Armed Forces Children' project. This project gives service children and families the opportunity to share and reflect on what it means to be a member of the Armed Forces. Visit the NSI website to learn more about how to participate.

www.neversuchinnocence.com/voices-of-armed-forces-children



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OPEN DAYS:

VIRTUAL (ONLINE)

THURSDAY 8TH 16.30-17.30 & 18.00 - 19.00

UTC (ON SITE)

SATURDAY 10TH 10.00-14.00

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