



## Headteacher's News February 2018



Montpelier  
Primary School



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*As we reach the end of the first spring half-term, staff have worked hard to ensure our children have been able to secure a good level of progress. The commitment of teaching, support and administrative staff, combined with the enthusiasm and resilience of our children, means that Montpelier continues to thrive throughout the year. At this mid-point of the academic year we begin a re-energised and sustained effort to meet the high expectations we have for all aspects of school life.*

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### Parent Consultation Meetings

It was a pleasure to see so many parents in school this evening and we look forward to seeing more of you tomorrow. Two recurring themes that we have noted are around reading and the use of technology at home. In regards to reading, parents of infant children should be spending 10 minutes a day reading at home as a minimum. For older children, this should be longer and there is no good reason why even the eldest children can't read aloud at least twice a week. **We strongly advise** that children should not be looking at tablets / iPad / laptops / tv screens before bedtime. This particularly applies to junior children, notably those in years 5 and 6, many whom frequently arrive at school looking tired. There is plenty of information now that suggests looking at screens before bedtime causes disturbed sleep patterns. Adults will make their own choices in this regard but, for primary aged children firmer guidance appears to be necessary in some cases.

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### Forthcoming Book Week



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Next half term, we will be enjoying our Annual Book Week and World Book Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March. During World Book Day all children are invited to dress up as a book or story character and take part in interesting activities during the day. This year, we have increased the range of activities and, consequently, we will no longer be holding the parades for parents and carers to attend. Last year – and the year before – we were unable to satisfactorily manage security and safeguarding arrangements during the parades, with visitors leaving early throughout the morning, despite being asked not to. We have explored alternative arrangements but this has not proved to be easy. However, parents are welcome to join classes in the playgrounds in the morning and as this will be classified as an event, it will be permitted for photographs to be taken with friends.

### Visiting Author – Nathaniel Tomlinson

Nathaniel Tomlinson regularly runs a writing club after school and this year he will be joining us during our Annual Book Week to introduce pupils to his much-loved series of novels, 'Bike Shed Bully Hunters'. On Tuesday, 27th February, there will also be an opportunity for families to purchase a signed copy of one of his novels .

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### PTA Meeting Thursday, 8th March 7.45 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at this important meeting after the half term break. It is vital that attendance is high because key decisions will need to be made regarding the 2018 Summer Fete which has been scheduled for Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Following my meeting with the Chair of the PTA this week, it is unclear what parents and carers will be committing to or whether a summer fete is even possible. Please do mark this date in your diaries – an agenda for the meeting will be emailed to parents before the half term break.

At this meeting, the school makes requests for funding to support activities such as the reception dance teacher, Enabling Enterprise, curriculum trips and workshops and so forth. Currently, there is some concern about whether these activities can run next year.

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### Reminder - School office closes on Thursday at 3.45 p.m.

As stated in the January newsletter, the main office will close on the day BEFORE the end of each half term, in order to enable the school to better prepare for the next half term. Lost property items will also be taken to the junior playground on THURSDAY rather than Friday. Telephone lines will remain open for emergency calls only on Friday. Any other non-urgent messages can be sent to the school by email.

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### Safety when walking home

During the past few weeks we have been alerted to a number of incidents of children from other local schools being approached whilst waiting at bus stops (or on a bus journey) by men in cars. Children have been asked to get into the cars and whilst none have, it is important to remind your children regularly about how to react in such circumstances. We do not wish to instil fear into our children but it is important they have a clear idea of how to react if they ever are approached.

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