



Headteacher's Newsletter September (I) 2013

Issue 1

Welcome to the start of a new school year

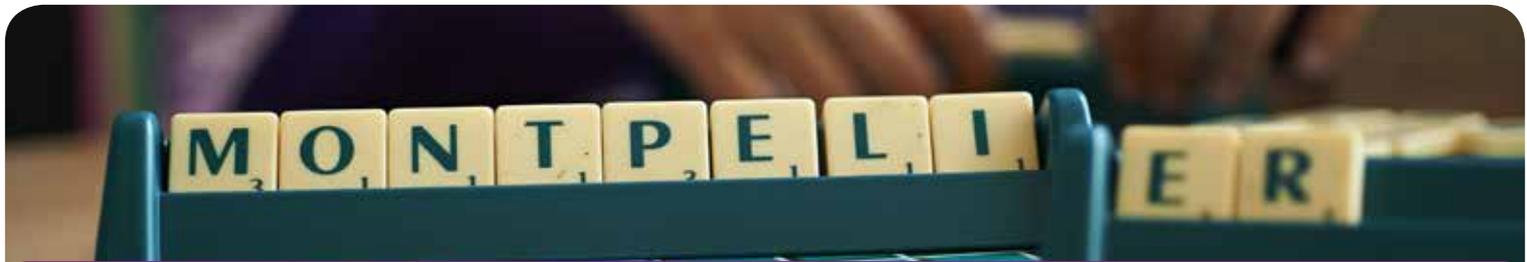
I do hope that all our families and staff had a restful and enjoyable summer break. At the end of last term we said farewell to an excellent year six cohort, all of whom achieved well both in school and, in many cases, in external examinations too. They left with their year book memories and well prepared for the next stage in their education. Next week we will start welcoming new children to the Early Years for the start of what promises to be a fun and purposeful year ahead.

During the summer break, a vast amount of work was completed in order to improve provision for children, parents and carers. By now, many of you will have seen the improvements to the banks in the junior playground and the excellent climbing and trail equipment that has been installed there. More information on improvements to the school to follow. We have also developed and launched a new school website that better reflects the quality of life at Montpelier School. Over the coming weeks we will continue to add information but will also use ParentMail for general communication. We will continue to use Twitter for live updates during the school day.

Please ensure that your email addresses and mobile telephone numbers are correct on your account, particularly if you have upgraded a device recently. Please also make sure we have your current address and mobile numbers.

At a personal level I am very excited about the year ahead and anticipate that that we will not only maintain an outstanding quality of education, but also develop positive strategies and opportunities for extending and challenging our children's learning. At the heart of all we do will be a drive to ensure our children benefit from Montpelier's BASICS - belonging, aspiration, safety, identity, challenge and success.

Welcome back!



Essential Improvements

I am pleased to confirm that our entire heating system - radiators, boilers and pipes - have been replaced in order to address issues we have faced over the years in our attempts to keep balanced temperatures throughout the building.

This was a substantial piece of work that was planned over many months by our business manager Neena Bahd who, alongside officers from the Ealing Local Authority, worked to ensure deadlines were met. Notably, our interim caretaker Mr Matty Wojtczak worked tirelessly throughout the summer to make sure the children returned to a safe and attractive school environment..

Nursery Entrance and Memorial Garden Area

Over the past few years, access to the banks in the junior playground has been limited because of heavy rainfall making the ground too wet for safe or active play.

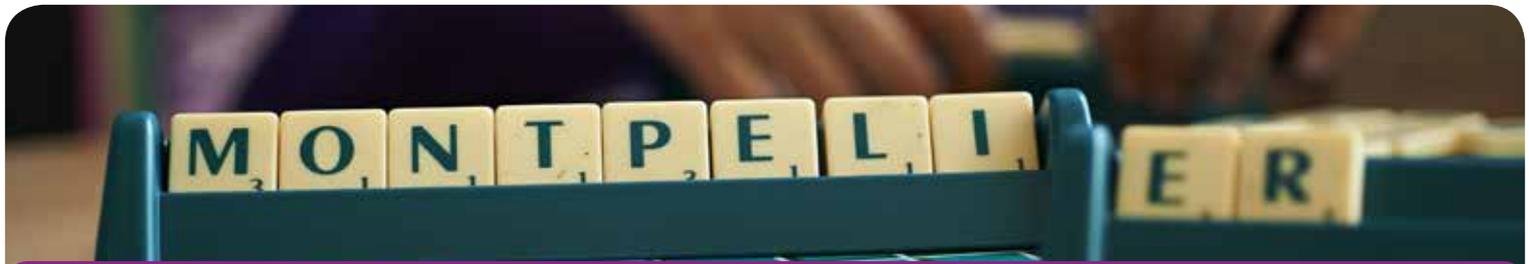
This caused the main playground to become crowded during breaktimes and reduced shaded areas under the trees that have traditionally been relied upon. The very damp weather over the past three years also prevented us from treating the wood which, consequently, became unusable after rainfall. The same problem applied to the decking outside the Year 2 classrooms. The new non slip paint will hopefully resolve these problems.

The artificial grass has opened up the playground for play. Moreover, we have created a space that can be used for outdoor teaching and learning to maximise usage of the school's facilities. The new climbing and trail equipment is already very popular with the children and their feedback has been exceptionally positive.

Better access for children, parents and carers

Recently fire drills drew attention to a slight but unwanted delay during evacuation. At the end of the school day there have always been access issues.

We have widened the steps leading from the Junior playground to the Reception classrooms. From a safety perspective this means we will be evacuate children at greater speed than previously. Whilst the evacuation times have been reasonable, we always strive to address any safety issues extremely thoroughly and feel far happier with the improvements. For parents and carers, the wider steps will hopefully make life a little easier at the end of the day - not to mention during the summer fete!



New Junior Banks & Improved Decking

The entrance to the Nursery has required improvement since the Mucadum Wing was built. In addition the memorial garden was never fully developed due to the expansion works.

We are delighted that the entrance has now been improved, with a new retaining wall having been built during the summer. The garden area has been cleared and the land will need to be developed over the next year, providing a wonderful extension to outdoor learning facilities for children in the Early Years and the Infants.
