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Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy month here at Montem with every KS1 and KS2 class participating in either an educational trip or workshop.

Our Festive activities are well under way with some fantastic performances by our Early Years and KS1 children in their nativity productions.

On Monday Montem families from across all key stages joined the School Council who organised a coach trip to see the world famous Christmas lights. This is the second year that we have been able to offer this exciting trip with the added bonus, this year, of extra shopping time.

With still many festive events to look forward to - Christmas Jumper day; Christmas dinner; KS2

Carol Concert to name just a few - **I’m certain** the children will enjoy the remaining few days of the Autumn term here at Montem.

Can I remind you that the children should return to school at the normal time on Thursday 5th January.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Ms A. Probert
Principal



School Council Festive Lights & Christmas Shopping Trip

Thank you to all those families who joined us after school on Monday 12th December for a very exciting trip by coach to Trafalgar Square, London to see the world famous Christmas lights and to eat and shop along Regent Street and Oxford Street.

The trip was organised by Montem Academy’s School Council as the first of our termly family outings this academic year.

In total, 25 families from across all key stages enjoyed the world-famous displays on Oxford Street and Regent Street. Many also took the opportunity to explore the glittering shopping streets adorned with festive decorations and enjoyed the giant illuminated Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square.



It was lovely to see so many of you soaking in the atmosphere and ambience of our capital city at this special time of year. This is the second year that the School Council **have organised this trip; I’m certain** that many will remember the wonderful time that was had by all this time last year.

We do hope that many more families will join us on our next family picnic outing in the spring term.



to question is to grow

Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle

As an exciting finale to our study of Queen Elizabeth II and our history project about toys from the past, one hundred and twenty excited children were invited to visit Windsor Castle. (the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world) The royal standard was flying when we arrived which meant the queen was in residence.



During the day we visited Queen Mary's dolls house, toured the state apartments and then, dressed as royals, participated in a number of royal ceremonies including a coronation and dubbing ceremony. We watched a changing of the guard then had lunch. Later, we visited St George's chapel. Unfortunately we did not see the queen on this occasion but we all had a fabulous time.



Year 2 Trip to The London Museum

On Thursday 9th and Friday 10th December, the Year 2 pupils visited the London Museum, which tells the story of the capital from its first settlers to modern times. The museum receives over a million visitors each year and holds the largest archaeological archive in Europe; it cares for more than two million objects in its collections.

At this moment (and until 17th April 2017) there is a special exhibition about the Great Fire of London in 1666 which Year 2 pupils are currently studying in their history lessons. Therefore the visit to the museum gave the children the opportunity to explore the causes and significance of the Great Fire; they were amazed by the interactive exhibitions and the actual artefacts which survived the fire, from nearly 400 years ago!



Year 2 left the museum with a real understanding of the Fire and we look forward to displaying the amazing work they have produced as a result.



Year 3 Trip to Verulamium Museum

Verulamium was the third largest city of Roman Britain and the museum, in St Albans, stands on the site of the Roman town.

On Thursday 24th November 2016 Year 3 went to the Verulamium Museum in preparation for the Roman unit that the children will be learning in the Spring Term. This was a great learning opportunity for the children as well as a highly enjoyable experience. They were able to see:

- The recreated Roman rooms and hands-on discovery areas
- The "Sandridge Hoard" - a collection of 159 roman gold coins
- Some of the finest Roman mosaics and wall plasters outside the Mediterranean



Year 3 children attended a workshop in which they learnt all about Roman markets, medicines and clothing. This was highly engaging as the children were able to dress up and have a look at the artefacts closely. Furthermore, the children were mesmerised by the stunning mosaics that they got to see as well as the Roman armour.

Emaan in 3 Olive quoted that her favourite thing was "The Roman skeletons!"



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Year 4 - Viking Workshop

On Tuesday 13th December Year 4 children were visited by "Portals to the Past", an experienced historical re-enactment group that specialise in providing a real hands-on experience of the past – and in this case what it would have been like to be a Viking.

Their workshop covered a wide spectrum of Viking life and times – home-life to navigation, gods to battles and having Viking fun. From invaders to settlers, the workshop gave a rounded overview of the period.

The day started with a short talk, followed by activities for the rest of the morning, such as "Fox and Geese" (a Viking board game) and a Viking Quiz.

"Portal of the Past" demonstrated their vast array of reproduction home life artefacts from cooking pots and utensils to an ironing board and combs.



The group then demonstrated "Minting in the Woods" – how the Vikings and Saxons made their coins and associated stories.

A weapons and armour display started the afternoon off, followed by Viking Spear wrestling and the incredible finale - a Viking battle!

Overall Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot about the Vikings. What a success!



Year 5 - Trip to Hampton Court

Hampton Court Palace is a royal palace in Richmond upon Thames. Along with St James's Palace, it is one of only two surviving palaces out of the many owned by King Henry VIII.

Today, the palace is open to the public and is a major tourist attraction. Apart from the Palace itself and its gardens, other points of interest for visitors include the celebrated maze, the historic real tennis court and the huge grape vine, the largest in the world as of 2005.



Year 5 were extremely fortunate to have a tangible experience of what they had been learning about in the classroom at Hampton Court Palace. Children took part in workshops in which they learnt more about the Tudor customs, culture and the lavish life of King Henry VIII. Also, Year 5 saw Tudor kitchens which were built to feed the Court of Henry VIII; these kitchens were designed to feed at least 600 people twice a day.



The children were allowed to explore the whole of the palace including the guest rooms, gardens, kitchens and exhibitions in which they learnt about 'Young Henry'. It was a fantastic occasion and it was evident that all children were able to really appreciate the impact King Henry VIII had on Britain and the rest of the world. Children discovered the value of keeping good ties as they learnt of the benefit of King Henry's good relationships and unfavourable relationships with neighbouring countries that often led to war.



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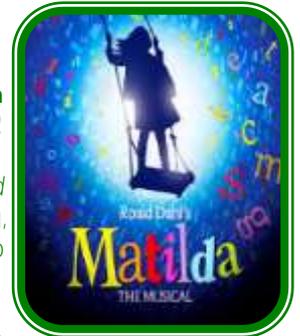


Year 6 - **West End Theatre Trip to see “Matilda”**

We believe that childhood is a very special gift that should be treated with the utmost care. **As key adults in a child’s life, we need to respect this unique gift and ensure that it is as perfect as possible for each boy and girl.** We think that every child, without exception, is entitled to a set of experiences that they can deposit in a bank of childhood memories to remember and savour for a lifetime.

Experiences like ... a walk in the woods ... a paddle in the sea ... a picnic in the countryside... an outing to the theatre ... a river boat journey ... a trip on a train ... a sightseeing tour of London!

On Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th December, as part of the Park Federation’s *Childhood Promise* initiative, children in Year 6 at Montem were treated to a wonderful display of acting, dancing and singing at the Cambridge Theatre, in London’s world-famous West End, by going to see an adaptation of Roald Dahl’s *Matilda*.



From the minute the curtain rose, the children were **enthralled by Matilda’s story: a bright little girl who is very eager to learn.** Eventually, her insensitive parents send her to a school run by Miss (The) Trunchbull; she is a cruel authoritarian who loathes children. Matilda befriends her school teacher, Miss Honey, who soon realizes Matilda’s talents, and is later amazed to see the full extent of the little girl’s powers.

The children and teachers alike were mesmerised by such an enchanting evening and will remember it for years to come.

By Mr Ruane

Friends of Montem Festive Fair

Sleigh bells could be heard jingling over Montem on Friday 9th December when Santa came to visit the children at the Friends of Montem Festive Fair.

With his sacks overflowing with presents, Santa spent several hours in his sparkling grotto handing out gifts to all of the very excited girls and boys.

Those waiting to meet him tucked into the delicious food, much of which was kindly donated by local businesses and Friends of Montem members.

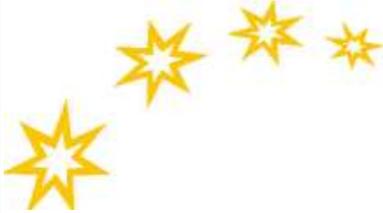
Other festive treats included candy floss; face painting; Christmas card making and a present Hoopla.

It really was a fun filled occasion enjoyed by all who attended!

Many thanks to the Friends of Montem for organising the event which raised well over £800 for our school.



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Early Years Christmas Production - "The Little Red Robin"

This year all of the Nursery and Reception children have really enjoyed dressing up and taking part in our Christmas nativity "The Little Red Robin".

Based on the traditional tale, our story features the adventures of a little red robin who needs help preparing for Christmas.

Our children helped her to cut down a Christmas tree; deliver cards; decorate the tree and find the brightest star in the sky. Finally, with the help of three forest friends, the Nursery and Reception children help the robin to open his presents.

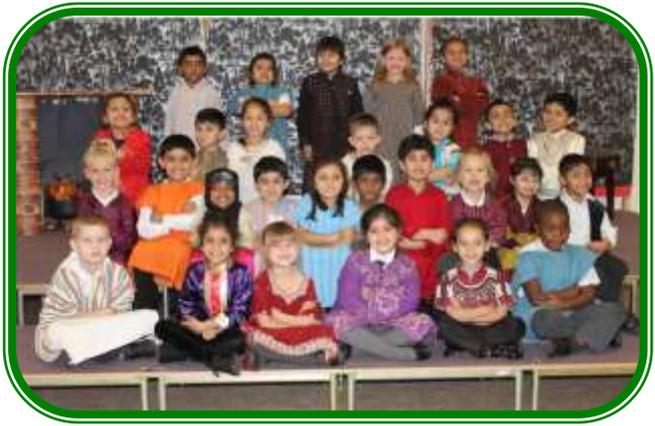


Well done to everyone who took part in this very festive production; your teachers are very proud of you!



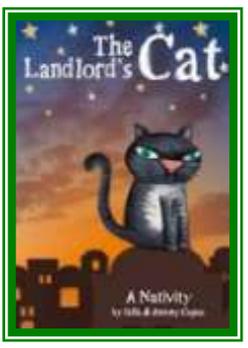
KS1 Christmas Production - "The Landlord's Cat"

The pupils of Year 1 and Year 2 have been working hard on their Christmas production, "The Landlord's Cat" which is a tale about a Bethlehem cat who becomes curious about Mary and Joseph's arrival at the inn. At a certain Bethlehem inn, the landlord's cat is so fed up with the hectic atmosphere and being ignored by his owner, that he is on the verge of leaving town. However, with the arrival of Mary and Joseph, the cat (being a wily and intuitive creature), senses that something very special is about to happen. Naturally he is determined to find out just what it is...



The pupils have thrown themselves enthusiastically into their rehearsals. I'm sure they will make us all proud on production day! The main parts have been played by Zainab in 1 Clementine who is the cat and May Carpenter in 1 Orange who is The Smallest Sheep.

A very big well done to all KS1 children - you are ALL stars!



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Dates for Your Diary:

Date	Event
Wednesday 21 st December to Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	CHRISTMAS BREAK
Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Inset Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 5 th January	School Re-opens normal time
Monday 13 th February to Friday 17 th February	HALF TERM
Monday 20 th February	School Re-opens normal time
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Monday 13 th March	World Maths Day
Tuesday 14 th March	Year 2 Trip to Wooley Firs (details to follow)
Wednesday 15 th March	Year 2 Trip to Wooley Firs (details to follow)
Friday 17 th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 28 th March	Parent Meetings – Years 1, 3 and 4
Wednesday 29 th March	Parent Meetings – Years 2, 5 and 6
Monday 3 rd April to Friday 14 th April	SPRING BREAK
Monday 17 th April	Bank Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 18 th April	School Re-opens normal time

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News and Notices

Pupil Premium Grant

Pupil Premium Grant is funding directly from central government specifically to support some groups of children in school. These groups are:- military families, Free School Meals, Adopted children, Special Guardianship Orders, Child Arrangement Orders and Residence Orders.

The school completes information on how many children are in these categories for a census in January. It is your right not to let us know, but the school and your child will miss out on funds, specifically to support them, if we do not have the information of this status. (Data is only about the status and is not shared anywhere other than the Department for Education School Census.)

If you are willing to share the information, please can you let us know if you are in one of these categories.

Attendance

As you are aware we are continually working to improve on our school attendance because as we know the more a child attends school, the more they will learn. Our attendance levels have started to drop over the last couple of weeks, due to illness and parents taking their children out of school for holidays in term time. Please remember that term time holidays cannot be authorised and in many cases, lead to a fine from the Local Authorities. To avoid any involvement with the Local Authorities can we please ask that you provide evidence of any absences that are unavoidable. Absences of three days or more will also require evidence, otherwise any additional days will be marked as unauthorised.

Ofsted have now set our attendance target to 97%. We are currently on just over 95%, so have quite a way to achieve this. The only way we can do this is with the support of all families, this way we can ensure all our children have the best possible chance of progress and academic success.

Number of fines issued to parent/guardians from Slough Borough Council for November Absences = 4
Number of pupils put on a Fixed Penalty Warning Notice from Slough Borough Council for November = 3



Thank you for your continued support.

Ann Probert
Principal Montem Academy

