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Newsletter



February 2017

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It really has been an exciting term here at Montem. We had a fabulous Mosaic Artist (David Bowers) visit the school to help our Year 5 children create a stunning 6 panelled mosaic, which will be displayed in our library garden. Our school choir sang with over 6,000 other children at the world renowned O2 Arena in London. And we officially opened the "exclusive to Year 6" dining room to provide Year 6 with a fantastic "just like high school" eating experience.

We held a number of information sessions and workshops this term for parents to learn about Phonics and Maths teaching methods. And we also introduced "Welcome Wednesday" - the chance for parents to visit (and sit with) their child during an entire Maths lesson. Feedback has

been positive from all of the many parents who attended throughout the term.

The "icing on the cake" has really been the letter and certificate (printed below) that we received from Ofsted last week which officially recognises the considerable hard work, expertise and commitment it takes to achieve outstanding provider status.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Half-Term; we look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 20th February.

Yours sincerely

Ms A. Probert
Principal

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January 2017

Ms Ann Probert
Montem Academy
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Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Ms Probert

Outstanding providers 2016-2017

One of my most enjoyable duties as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector is to celebrate the success of those judged to be outstanding when they were inspected. Please accept my warmest congratulations on achieving this very high standard of practice.

The judgement of outstanding means that you are exceptional and significant elements of your work are exemplary. I do not underestimate the considerable hard work, expertise and commitment it takes to achieve outstanding provider status.

The full list of outstanding providers will be published on Ofsted's website in November 2016 to coincide with the launch of my Annual Report.

To help you share and promote your success, I enclose a certificate in recognition of your outstanding achievement, as well as a CD-ROM with the official Ofsted 'outstanding' logo for use on your stationery and other publicity materials.

Finally, in addition to my congratulations, my thanks for all you are doing to raise standards and improve lives.

Yours sincerely

Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Outstanding education, care and skills 2016|2017

This is to recognise that

Montem Academy

was identified as an outstanding school
following an inspection during 2016|2017

Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector



to question is to grow

Year 5 - Mosaic Madness

At the end of January Year 5 children were fortunate enough to work with renowned Mosaic artist David Bowers from Mosaic



Madness. David, who travelled up from Bristol to work with our children, has been working with mosaics since 2002 and has completed hundreds of projects and gained a vast range of experience within schools.

A school mosaic project is fun, inclusive and develops skills for all involved. And, unlike some other art forms, a mosaic project produces a lasting end result; a mural or sign that enhances the school and gets the message across in a beautiful way. David himself is passionate about enabling and inspiring the creative process for any age and ability and says:

“the mosaics are never “mine” and the outcomes of pride and ownership are cornerstones of my work.”

Before David joined us, for three fantastic days of mosaic fun, Year 5 held a competition for the best abstract design – one that would be used to create our mosaic art piece. A massive well done to Tayiba Hassan and Aizah Afzah who produced the winning design (pictured above) together.



Across three days, all of the children took it in turns to lay down hundreds of tiny tiles before revealing a stunning 6 panelled mosaic. Tayiba and Aizah said it was like making a jigsaw puzzle and they really enjoyed watching David snip the coloured tiles into pieces that would fit perfectly on the work board.

With the mosaic now finished we are all really looking forward to the day it will take pride of place in our new library garden - especially knowing that every mosaic piece was glued in place by a Montem child!

Montem Choir at the O2

On Tuesday 17th January the Montem Choir travelled to London to take part in a “Young Voices” production at the world renowned O2 Arena. Joining thousands of other children our choir, accompanied by a wide range of musicians, created an amazing musical performance.



The entire event was organised by the “Young Voices” Foundation which provides children

with the opportunity to perform in some of the world’s greatest arenas - something which has a massive impact on the children involved. Furthermore, to achieve this with all their school friends around them for support, helps their self-belief, confidence and ability to communicate as part of a team, which is invaluable.



One of the highlights of the event was to see the pride that our children had in their own performance, and this was further amplified when their parents arrived in the audience.

The whole day was absolutely amazing. To hear (and see) over 6,000 children singing together at the O2 Arena was incredible. It was a day that the children (and

Montem staff members) will never forget



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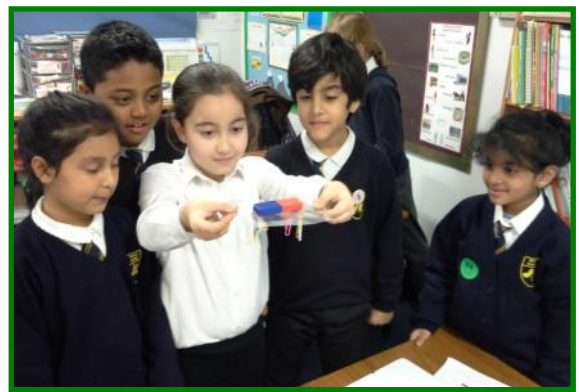
Year 3 - Science Topic

This term the children in year 3 have been learning all about forces and magnets in their science topic. They have been enjoying the topic thoroughly as each week they have been given the opportunity to explore and investigate the different uses of magnets and how they work.



The kinesthetic and group work within these lessons has helped enhance the children's speaking and listening skills. For example Oliwier in 3 Olive enjoyed learning about the different metals that are magnetic. Furthermore, some children in Willow class thought the lesson where they had to invent their own magnetic invention was most fun. This lesson not only gave the children vital writing opportunities and the chance to include key skills taught in Literacy, but it also gave them the chance to apply what they had learnt within science.

Well done Year 3 - you produced some fabulous work on this topic



Year 4 - "The Normans" History Topic

This term Year 4 have been finding out about the Normans who invaded England nearly one thousand years ago. Soon after the invasion a great battle took place near the small village of Hastings - the then king of England (Harold) was killed and the Norman, William "the conqueror," became king in his place.



The story of the Battle of Hastings, as depicted on the famous Bayeux Tapestry, inspired the children to write amazing reports about the Norman conquest.



The activities in each lesson were designed to offer a cross-curricular approach.

The children also learnt about Norman castles and what it would be like to live inside one. They worked collaboratively with their classmates to design a leaflet explaining that the first castles were built mainly of wood on mounds of earth but were later rebuilt out of large blocks of stone. As part of their "Passport Project" some of the children made fabulous Norman Castle models at home; we were all very excited when they brought them in to school to show us!

Year 4 also established the importance of feasting in Norman times and then compiled a report about the types of food that would be eaten. They also had lots of fun designing and making their own Norman shields.



What a brilliant time Year 4 had learning about the Normans!

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Year 3 and 4 Federation Dodgeball Tournament

On Thursday 26th February, Montem Academy hosted the annual Year 3 and 4 Federation Dodgeball Tournament.

Dodgeball is a game in which players on two teams try to throw balls at each other while avoiding being hit themselves. the main objective of each team is to eliminate all members of the opposing team by hitting them with thrown balls, catching a ball thrown by a member of the opposing team, or forcing them to move outside the court boundaries when a ball is thrown at them.

A record 12 teams battled it out during a gruelling afternoon's Dodgeball, with Wood End Park Academy emerging as the eventual Champions. Our Montem team were absolutely amazing and did fantastically well to secure joint Runners-Up position with Cranford Park. Not only was the Dodgeball that they played of the highest quality, more importantly, the sportsmanship shown by our players was exemplary. They did us proud and were a real credit to the school.

Well done to all 12 of the pupils who took part.



Montem Academy Gardening Club

Last term, members of Montem Academy Gardening Club planted 500 crocus bulbs at the entrance to the school main car park in Chalvey Grove.

The bulbs were given to us by the Rotary Club to raise awareness of "Purple 4 Polio" - an international vaccination campaign aiming to eradicate Polio across the world in as little as three years!



Each bulb will produce a beautiful purple flower in the Spring to represent the purple dye put on the finger of vaccinated children during polio immunisation days. The campaign hopes that planting the crocuses in local primary schools will symbolise a "splash of hope" given to children who get the polio vaccination.

The Gardening Club children really enjoyed

"getting their hands dirty" and are looking forward to seeing the purple crocuses in the Spring.



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Year 6 Dining Room

Many of you may remember the extensive building work that took place at Montem during the summer. As well as the fabulous extension we had built onto the back of our main hall we also extended our dining hall.

What once was a barely used outdoor courtyard is now providing our Year 6 students with a fabulous "just like high school" eating experience (to make the transition from primary school to high school that much easier).

Not only do Year 6 have their own exclusive eating area but they also have

an exclusive (not available to children from other year groups) menu.

With options ranging from homemade beef and onion pasty to a chicken korma "naanwich" there's plenty to choose from and its all served in an



environmentally friendly lunch box.

The dining room is full of brightly coloured furniture and the tables are decorated with pretty flowers, which makes the area feel really "grown up."

We do hope you'll agree that the new Year 6 dining room and menu will make a fantastic addition to our Year 6 provision.

If you would like to come in to see it please feel free to book an appointment.

6 Aspen Break Montem Academy Attendance Record

This term 6 Aspen entered the Montem Academy "Guinness Book of Records" having **smashed** the record for the class with the most consecutive weeks of "100% attendance." That means every single child attended school every single day for four whole weeks (and four days) in a row.

The whole class, including Mr Ruane and Miss Morgan, are all very proud of their achievement, especially when they were all awarded a special attendance medal in assembly. Other classes are now "hot on their heels" in an attempt to equal (or better) this amazing achievement.

A massive well done to 6 Aspen!



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School Council News

School Council’s planned activities for this term include planning a Family Picnic Trip in the Spring to a nearby suitable venue. It is hoped many Montem families will participate as they did with last term’s exciting trip to Trafalgar Square, London to see the Christmas lights. A letter will be sent out soon inviting all families to join us and further strengthen the sense of family and community we already enjoy at Montem.



Last term, School Council helped to organise the hugely successful Marks and Spencer’s/Oxfam “Shwopping for Schools” Pilot Programme which raised £100 for the school. We are still discussing how this money can be spent. Suggestions have included purchasing a piece of artwork such as a wall hanging to celebrate our recent outstanding judgement by OFSTED and to plant an “Outstanding Tree” in school grounds.

School Council are also in the process of inviting representatives of School Councils from other Park Federation Academies in order to present and share agendas in our respective schools.

All classes have recently balloted and elected two new class representatives for the coming year. They will be inducted and guided by outgoing class representatives at the next two School Council meetings which are held fortnightly, during Monday’s assembly time.

We are also delighted to offer School Council representatives the fantastic opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament on 3rd July. The trip will involve “The Story of Parliament Tour” which will take School Councillors through key events in the changing history of UK Parliament. We hope to end the tour by meeting up with our local MP, Fiona Mactaggart.



Last Year’s School Council trip to the Houses of Parliament

Eco Council News

This term, the Eco Council are continuing to strive towards ensuring that Montem and the wider community are working towards making the environment better.



Currently, the Eco council are continuing to raise awareness of their shoe recycling campaign to ensure that shoes are not being discharged into land fills as the materials can easily be recycled. Also, the Eco Council are monitoring the usage of water in Montem and are research-

ing projects and strategies to ensure that water wastage is at a minimum.

Due to the success of last terms Eco Council projects; the team has expanded and we are looking forward to maximising our resources to deliver more to Montem Academy!



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KSI Phonics Workshop



On the 3rd February 2017 parents were invited to a Phonics information session to find out all about our new Read, Write, Inc programme which we are using to teach Phonics at Montem. Useful strategies and tips were shared with parents to support their children in gaining the knowledge and skills needed to successfully prepare for the Phonics Screening Check which will take place in the week commencing the 12th June. Parents gained greater insight into what the test entails, viewed sample materials and found out about how the check is scored and most importantly how parents can help to support their children in developing their Phonics skills further.

The session was well attended and we had lovely feedback from parents who attended who found it both informative as well as beneficial in supporting the work they are doing at home with their children.

Here's what some of our parents had to say about the presentation:

"Found it very informative and helpful. The examples of things we can do at home will help me to encourage my kids to practice their phonics."

"It was helpful for a parent to know how to help a child at home and how to prepare for the phonics test."

"Thank you teachers! Personally I've learnt a lot and I'm sure my child will definitely be helped. Excellent presentation."

"Great session - very informative, looking forward to practising with my son."

"Excellent presentation has helped me to help my child practise at home."



Reception Parents Workshops

In Reception, parents were invited to attend workshops to inform them of how Maths through play can help their child, and how we teach phonics in Reception.



The workshops took place on Friday 20th January and 27th January and were very well attended by Reception parents.

It was lovely to see some of the same parents attending both workshops and to have feedback that they all felt the sessions had been extremely useful, As a result the parents who attended are now able to use some of the strategies and ideas from school at home, in order to help their children make further progress.

If you would like any further information please contact Ms Barry.

Year 6 - SATs

Earlier this half term, the Year 6 Team and Mr Stewart held a meeting with Year 6 pupils and their parents regarding the format of this year's test. For those parents who were unable to make it, there will be a reading test; a spelling punctuation and grammar test; and three maths tests.



In order for the children to be as well-prepared as possible, we recommended that parents listen to their child read for 15 minutes an evening and to question them on what they have read to ensure they have understood it,. The children also need to know their times tables up to 12 x 12 as many of the questions in the maths tests rely on a sound knowledge of multiplication.

Please speak to a member of the Year 6 Team or Mr Stewart if you have any queries or questions about how best to support your child

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Thank you for your
continued support.

Ann Probert
Principal Montem
Academy

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Dates for Your Diary:

Date	Event
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
Thursday 2 nd March	Year 1 Trip to the Nature Discovery Centre (details to follow)
Friday 3 rd March	Year 1 Trip to the Nature Discovery Centre (details to follow)
Thursday 9 th March	Year 5 Trip to The Living Rainforest (details to follow)
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
Thursday 22 nd March	Year 5 Trip to The Living Rainforest (details to follow)
Monday 27 th March	Year 4 Trip to Warwick Castle
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
Monday 18 th April	School Re-opens normal time
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED

News and Notices

Montem School Uniform

We're pleased to advise that we have just received an additional supply of the new sky blue PE t-shirts, available to buy from the office for £6.50..

As a reminder the Montem PE kit is as follows:

Sky blue t-shirt with Montem logo
Navy Blue tracksuit bottoms/PE shorts
Black plimsolls / plain black or white (non-designer/added colour) trainers.

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE uniform when we return from the half-term break.

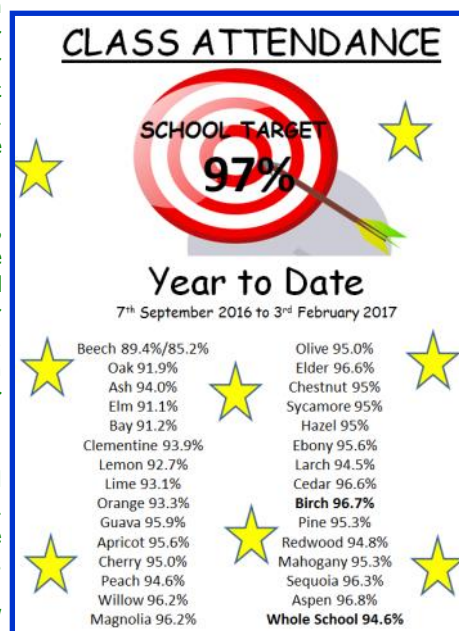


Attendance

Yet again our whole school attendance has been affected by families attaching holidays or ringing their child in 'sick' either side of a school holiday. Our year to date attendance is only 95.2% and as Ofsted has set us a target of 97%, we are a long way off meeting this. We can only achieve this by all families making sure their child attends school regularly.

Please do not book holidays during term time, these will not be authorised. As parents you have a legal duty to ensure your child/children attend school. I cannot stress how important it is that your children have excellent attendance and we will always act if we have concerns. If you do need to go away in an emergency, please remember we need to see your tickets and proof of purchase.

We will also be taking new actions to families who call their child in 'sick' before or after a school holiday. We will now carry out home visits if we see a whole family is off without permission. If we find no one is at home we will inform the Local Authority who will then issue a fine for non-attendance. If your child/children are off for a genuine illness, please provide the evidence to support this, so their absence can be authorised.



Number of pupils placed on an FPN warning by Slough Borough Council for January: 9
Number of fines issued by Slough Borough Council for January: 5