

# MONTGOMERY NEWS



Montgomery Primary School | Friday 12th May 2017

*It goes without saying that we are always proud of our Monty children, but we wanted to share how **extremely** proud we are of our Year 6 children this week. They have hugely impressed us with their attitude towards their SATs. They have worked hard to be the best that they can be and used their green voice every single day. Well done Year 6!*

*Included with this edition of Monty News is a message from Martyn Boxall, Executive Head Teacher, regarding the school funding crisis.*

## New Play Equipment

Hopefully you have seen that the new play equipment is ready to play on. Some of you may even have had a go yourselves! Thanks again to FOMs for securing the grant to fund the new equipment.

We'd like to share a few rules to help keep everyone safe on the play equipment.

Before 8:45am and after 3:15pm, all children are the responsibility of their parent/guardian. This includes children who are not picked up by an adult after school. Please be careful in wet weather. Absolutely no scooters, bikes or skateboards to be used on the equipment.

Play safe everyone!

## Hello from Friends of Montgomery School!

**SAVE THE DATE** - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 3:30pm, Superhero Summer Fair!

We are well underway with planning this year's summer fair and would love a little bit of help from you. We are on the lookout for raffle prizes, mainly events and experiences, but also quality prizes - can you help, do you know anyone who'd like to support the school with this?

We would really appreciate a few extra pairs of hands on the day - if you're free and would like to help out with one of the games or stalls please contact Louise on [louiseslimming@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:louiseslimming@yahoo.co.uk)

Also needed for the Summer Fair are teddy donations for the Teddy Tom-bola - please hand them in to the office. We'll be running a stall where the children can create their own superhero capes - we'd love donations of any old t-shirts (all sizes, including adults) - again, please hand them into the office.

## NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

The new play area is now open! We hope your children enjoy using the new play equipment - on the first day of opening it was busy with excited children all trying to have a go! In case you missed it in



## Taking care of the future...

previous newsletters, this was funded by a grant from the Hele's Trust which was secured by the FOMs.

**NEXT MEETING DATE - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 7:30pm - in the school cafe. All welcome.**

Want to know more about what the FOMs do? Check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmontgomeryschool/>

## EYFS Parent/Guardian Reading and Writing Workshop

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, EYFS staff are running a Reading and Writing workshop for all EYFS parents/guardians. Come along to find out more about how we teach Reading and Writing in the Summer Term, plus information on how you can help at home. The workshop will start at 9:00am and be held in the school cafe.

## Monty Ultimate Reading Challenge

Well done to Dylan and Georgina in Year 2 who have completed the Monty Ultimate Reading Challenge. They both are very keen on books and shared their recommendations in Celebration Assembly.

## Reporting Pupil Absence

Please ring the school office as soon as possible if your child is unable to come to school.

The number to ring is 01392 285 240

## Games for Wet Playtimes

We would be very grateful for donations of board games for our wet play classroom boxes please. They can be dropped off at the school office.

## Lost Property

Please check the lost property cupboard at the front of the school. This cupboard will be cleared at the end of term and any clothes left will be donated to charity.

## Petrol Strimmer

Does anyone have a petrol garden strimmer we could borrow to tidy up the school wildlife area and garden please? Let us know in the office, thank you!

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## Pinces Garden Party

Montgomery children have been invited to perform at the Pinces Garden Party on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The children who are performing will bring home a letter today or early next week.

Pinces Gardens - our hidden gem in St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 21 May 2017, 1pm 'til 4pm**



Wisteria design by Mrs Andrew  
Come and help us celebrate the ancient and beautiful Wisteria  
The Gardens are on the original site of the historically important Lacombe & Pince Nursery

You can bring a picnic, or buy refreshments and cakes in the Gardens,  
or even enjoy a Pimms at the Croquet Club

Punch & Judy  
Montgomery Primary School Choir

St Thomas Local History Display

There will be fun interactive stalls set up by other community groups



## Age UK Enormous Sunflower Competition

Sunflower seeds are still available from the school office for £1.

## Key Stage One Open Learning Afternoons

Parents/Guardians of Year 1 and 2 children are invited to share their learning by taking part in an *Open Learning Afternoon*. **Year 1 Parents and Guardians are invited in on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1:30-2:45pm. Year 2 Parents and Guardians are invited in on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 1:30-2:45pm.** More details to follow.



## Dates and Reminders

**19/5/17** - Non Uniform Day. Wear dotty/spotty clothes to raise money for RNIB. Donation 50p - £1.

**8/6/17** - School closed due to being used as polling station for General Election (this is a decision that is made by Exeter City Council not the school)

**5/7/17** - Sports Day; EYFS & KS1 9:30-11:30am / KS2 1:00-3:00pm

**7/7/17** - Friends of Montgomery School Summer Fair starts at 3:30pm.

**12/7/17** - Open Evening 3:30-5:30pm. No appointment, come along to meet your child's new class teacher.

**14/7/17** Whole School Garden Party 1:30-3:00pm. All Monty families invited. Performances, workshops and exhibitions, plus a cream tea for everyone!

**21/7/17** - Year 6 Leavers Assembly for Year 6 children and families at 9:20am.

## e-Safety Survey

We would be really grateful if you could complete our e-safety survey.

e-Safety is about the protection of children whilst they are using the internet and digital technologies. This includes: risk-taking and inappropriate behaviour by children and young people; risks and inappropriate behaviour by others to children and young people; illegal activity.

Whilst our school strives to empower your children with the knowledge to stay safe, it is important that you have a good awareness of the risks and dangers yourself.

There are 20 questions that should take you no longer than fifteen minutes to complete. The results of this survey will give us a better understanding of any risks or knowledge gaps so that we can help you.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. The data from this will be available in due course.

**Scan the QR code or type in the link below to access the online survey**

Web link: [bit.ly/2qzXaUb](http://bit.ly/2qzXaUb)



## Contact Us

Telephone: 01392 285 240

Email: [admin@montgomery.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@montgomery.devon.sch.uk)

*Thank you for your continuing support.  
The Montgomery Team*

*Dear Parent/Guardian,*

I am sure you will have heard a lot about the concerns regarding school funding in the press. I am writing to you to explain this further and to share with you the difficult situation we find ourselves in.

Across the country every single Local Authority is given different amounts of money to educate it's children. Devon's schools are currently funded at £290 less per pupil than the national average and things are about to get much worse.

Up to now, every local authority has been able to decide how to distribute its allocated budget to individual schools. This meant that local issues could be managed and money could be distributed fairly. Schools have been asking the government to address this inequality for many years and give all local authorities the same amount per pupil to educate our pupils.

The government have not put any additional funding in to even out the national inequality. To make things worse the government are now planning to take away the ability for Local Authorities to decide how to distribute their funds to schools. This is called the National Funding Formula.

The Department for Education regularly says that funding is at record levels but the report from the Public Accounts Committee says, "funding per pupil is reducing in real terms" and will mean schools cutting spending by £3bn by 2019-20.

A cross-party Public Accounts Committee of MP's criticised "delusions" in government over the current and future education budget situation.

The highly critical report says the Department for Education must not be "deaf to the experiences of head teachers" who have been complaining of cuts to staff and services. The report warns of a "collective delusion" that spending cuts could be achieved through efficiency savings - and raises concerns that the Department for Education does not seem to have a plan to monitor the impact.

The School Cuts website, which analyses data provided by the Department for Education, shows how our schools will be effected by this. As you can see we have a real headache to manage!

### Montgomery

#### IMPACT

 **-£231,495**  
Budget change by 2019 <sup>(1)</sup>

 **-£576**  
Per pupil <sup>(1)</sup>

 **-6**  
Teachers <sup>(1)</sup>

### Wynstream

#### IMPACT

 **-£282,989**  
Budget change by 2019 <sup>(1)</sup>

 **-£732**  
Per pupil <sup>(1)</sup>

 **-8**  
Teachers <sup>(1)</sup>

Since the announcement of the National Funding Formula we have been working to create a solid budget for the schools in our Federation. We have renegotiated all the contracts we can to save money, reduced spending on everything from pencils to paper towels and not appointed new staff where possible, when someone leaves. We are now in the position where we can no longer continue to operate as we do.

Governors have been working with the school to try and plan ahead to reduce costs further while keeping our curriculum vibrant and meeting the needs of pupils. Governors will be working to identify what the schools staffing structures will look like into the future as well as looking to further reduce spending while investing in items, which will enhance learning further.

## Taking care of the future...

The cuts outlined on the last page will take full effect in our schools by 2020. To 'help' schools manage these cuts we are seeing a stepped reduction each year. The schools in our Federation have been able to manage the cuts this year and set budgets this year from savings. We are currently looking at making savings by next April of £60 000 at Montgomery and £112 000 at Wynstream.

The cross party committee said financial pressures are "likely to increase teachers' workload, with implications for recruitment and retention, and put at risk the quality of education". We are now experiencing this in our schools. Teachers are paid for 39 weeks work each year for 33 hour each week. The reality of the job expectations means that our average teacher works for 60 hours per week with no opportunity for additional pay. We are seeing a significant rise in teachers leaving the profession and teachers moving abroad to teach. Teachers report higher pay, realistic working hours, workload and valued professional status as key factors for this. We are not ruling out options for the future such as increased class sizes, or reducing number of support staff, which will add further to our recruitment and retention problems.

You can help us to challenge this by talking to your parliamentary candidates about the following two issues. We have provided some suggested questions to support you.

### 1. ENSURING OUR SCHOOLS ARE PROPERLY FUNDED

- "How are you going to make teaching more attractive to our best graduates if, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, you are cutting school budgets by 8% by 2020?"
- "Spending on school may be at record levels, but that is because we have more children of school age than ever before and costs are rising. How will you ensure that school budgets in their ENTIRETY are protected in REAL terms for the duration of the next parliament?"
- "Many schools now are looking to create super classes of 60-100 children in the school hall because they cannot afford enough teachers due to budget cuts. What are you planning to do to prevent that? What is your maximum class size?"

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- "The nation's children should be provided with a broad curriculum, great support and enriching activities. Is your party willing to fund schools properly so our children have the same opportunities as previous generations?"

### 2. ENSURING THE SUPPLY OF GREAT TEACHERS TO OUR SCHOOLS

Questions to ask our prospective Members of Parliament/Local Election Candidates

- "Great teachers are at the heart of a great school. What is your party going to do to make teaching a more attractive career to our best graduates?"
- "Some of our teachers are working over 60 hours a week. How is your party going to help reduce teacher workload?"
- "The current government has missed the targets for teacher recruitment for the past four years. What are you going to do to ensure your party would hit the teacher recruitment targets in the future?"

Thank you for your support.

*Martyn Boxall*